

founding fathers christianity

founding fathers christianity played a significant role in shaping the religious and moral framework of the United States. The influence of Christianity on the founding fathers is a subject of extensive historical analysis, as these pivotal figures integrated their faith with Enlightenment principles to establish a nation grounded in liberty and justice.

Understanding the religious beliefs and motivations of the founding fathers provides insight into the development of American political thought and constitutional values. This article explores the various aspects of Christianity among the founding fathers, examining their personal faith, the role of religion in governance, and the broader impact of Christian ethics on the formation of the nation. Through an analysis of key individuals and foundational documents, the connection between founding fathers and Christianity reveals a complex and nuanced relationship that continues to influence American society today. The following sections will delve into the religious beliefs of prominent founders, the constitutional implications of their faith, and the enduring legacy of Christianity in early American history.

- The Religious Beliefs of Key Founding Fathers
- Christianity and the American Constitution
- The Role of Christian Ethics in Early American Governance
- Religious Freedom and the Founding Fathers
- Legacy of Christianity in American Political Thought

The Religious Beliefs of Key Founding Fathers

The religious convictions of the founding fathers varied widely, reflecting a spectrum from orthodox Christianity to Deism. While many identified as Christians, their interpretations of faith influenced their political philosophies and actions in distinct ways.

George Washington

George Washington, often regarded as the father of the nation, was a devout Christian who regularly attended Anglican services. His writings and speeches reveal a deep respect for Providence and a belief in divine guidance. Washington's faith was characterized by a commitment to moral virtue and public duty, which he saw as intertwined with Christian principles.

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson is known for his more unorthodox approach to Christianity. Although he identified with Christian values, Jefferson was a Deist who rejected traditional doctrines such as the divinity of Christ and the concept of miracles. He famously created the Jefferson Bible, which emphasized Jesus's moral teachings while excluding supernatural elements.

John Adams

John Adams maintained a strong Christian faith throughout his life, adhering to a form of Protestant Christianity that emphasized reason and morality. Adams believed that religion was essential to the maintenance of public virtue and social order, viewing Christianity as a foundation for republican government.

Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin's religious views were pragmatic and inclusive. He valued Christian ethics, particularly the emphasis on personal morality and social responsibility, but he was skeptical of organized religion's dogma. Franklin advocated for religious tolerance and believed in the utility of Christian principles for civic life.

James Madison

James Madison, often called the "Father of the Constitution," supported religious liberty and was influenced by Enlightenment ideals. Madison's faith was private, and he championed the separation of church and state, ensuring that government did not favor any particular religion while protecting the free exercise of faith.

Christianity and the American Constitution

The American Constitution embodies a delicate balance between acknowledging the nation's Christian heritage and upholding religious freedom. The founding fathers' Christian beliefs influenced the moral underpinnings of the document, yet they consciously avoided establishing a national religion.

The Establishment Clause

The First Amendment's Establishment Clause prohibits Congress from making laws

“respecting an establishment of religion.” This clause reflects the founding fathers’ intent to prevent the government from endorsing or favoring any single faith, preserving religious pluralism in the new republic.

The Free Exercise Clause

Alongside the Establishment Clause, the Free Exercise Clause guarantees individuals the right to practice their religion freely. This provision demonstrates the founders’ commitment to protecting religious liberty, a principle deeply rooted in Christian teachings about conscience and individual dignity.

Influence of Christian Morality

While the Constitution does not explicitly reference Christianity, many of its principles are informed by Christian ethics, such as justice, equality, and the inherent worth of the individual. The founders believed that a moral citizenry, shaped by religious values, was essential for the success of the republic.

The Role of Christian Ethics in Early American Governance

Christian ethics played a pivotal role in shaping the laws and policies of the early United States. The founding fathers viewed moral responsibility and virtue as the foundation of good governance and civic engagement.

Virtue and Public Duty

The concept of civic virtue was closely tied to Christian morality. Founders like Washington and Adams emphasized the importance of selflessness, honesty, and integrity, qualities they believed were nurtured by religious faith and necessary for leaders and citizens alike.

Social Justice and Charity

Christian teachings on compassion and care for the vulnerable influenced early social policies. The founding fathers supported charitable institutions and efforts to alleviate poverty, reflecting the biblical mandate to serve one’s neighbor.

Education and Religion

The founders often advocated for education that included religious instruction, believing that knowledge of Christian principles would foster ethical behavior and civic responsibility. Many early American schools incorporated religious curricula to promote moral development.

Religious Freedom and the Founding Fathers

Religious freedom was a cornerstone of the American experiment, and the founding fathers were committed to protecting this right for all citizens. Their personal experiences with religious persecution in Europe informed their dedication to this principle.

Historical Context of Religious Persecution

Many colonists fled Europe to escape religious intolerance and persecution. This background influenced the founders' determination to create a government that respected diverse religious beliefs and protected individual conscience.

Balancing Religion and Government

The founding fathers sought to balance the positive role of religion in public life with the need to avoid sectarian conflict. This led to the principle of separation of church and state, ensuring that religion would not be used as a tool of political power.

Religious Pluralism in the Early Republic

The early United States was home to a variety of Christian denominations and other faith traditions. The founders embraced this pluralism as a strength, promoting tolerance and coexistence among different religious communities.

Legacy of Christianity in American Political Thought

The influence of founding fathers Christianity continues to shape American political thought and culture. Christian principles remain embedded in national identity and discourse, informing debates on morality, law, and governance.

Enduring Moral Framework

The moral values inspired by Christianity, such as justice, equality, and human dignity, persist as foundational concepts in American society. These values are reflected in ongoing efforts to promote civil rights and social justice.

Church and State Relations Today

Contemporary discussions about the role of religion in government frequently reference the founders' vision. The balance they struck between respecting faith and maintaining secular governance is a continuing source of legal and political debate.

Religious Influence on American Identity

Christianity's cultural and historical significance contributes to American national identity. The founding fathers' integration of faith and reason set a precedent for a society that values both religious belief and pluralism.

1. George Washington's devotion to Christian virtue
2. Thomas Jefferson's Deist perspective and the Jefferson Bible
3. John Adams' emphasis on religion and republicanism
4. Benjamin Franklin's advocacy for religious tolerance
5. James Madison's dedication to religious liberty and separation of church and state

Frequently Asked Questions

Did the Founding Fathers of the United States identify as Christians?

Many of the Founding Fathers identified as Christians, though their beliefs varied widely, ranging from orthodox Christianity to Deism. While some were devout Christians, others held more unorthodox or secular views.

How did Christianity influence the political ideas of the Founding Fathers?

Christianity influenced the moral and ethical framework of many Founding Fathers, shaping ideas about justice, rights, and governance. However, they also emphasized religious freedom and the separation of church and state to prevent any single denomination from dominating the government.

Were the Founding Fathers seeking to create a Christian nation?

Most Founding Fathers did not intend to create a Christian nation in a formal sense. They advocated for religious liberty and established a secular government to protect freedom of religion, ensuring that no religion would be officially endorsed by the government.

What role did Deism play among the Founding Fathers in relation to Christianity?

Deism, which emphasizes reason and the observation of nature rather than revelation or miracles, was influential among several Founding Fathers. Figures like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin identified with Deism, blending Enlightenment ideas with a belief in a creator but often rejecting traditional Christian doctrines.

How is the religious belief of the Founding Fathers reflected in the US Constitution?

The US Constitution reflects the Founding Fathers' commitment to religious freedom and the separation of church and state. It prohibits religious tests for public office and ensures that Congress cannot establish a national religion, embodying the principle that government should remain neutral in religious matters.

Additional Resources

1. God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution

This book explores the profound influence of Christianity on the American Revolution and the Founding Fathers. It delves into how religious beliefs shaped the political ideals of liberty and justice. The author provides insight into the faith-driven motivations behind the creation of the United States.

2. The Faiths of the Founding Fathers

This comprehensive work examines the personal religious convictions of key American founders such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. It discusses how their diverse beliefs influenced the framing of the Constitution and early American policies. The book also addresses common misconceptions about their faith.

3. Christianity and the American Founding: How Religion Shaped Our Nation

Focusing on the intersection of Christianity and early American politics, this book highlights

how biblical principles guided the Founding Fathers. It analyzes sermons, letters, and speeches to reveal their commitment to Christian ethics. The author argues that Christianity was integral to the founding vision of the United States.

4. Faith in the Founding Fathers: The Religious Beliefs That Shaped America

This volume provides an in-depth look at the religious lives of the founding generation. It explores their church affiliations, theological perspectives, and how these influenced their public and private decisions. The book offers a nuanced view of how faith interplayed with Enlightenment ideals.

5. Religion and the American Revolution: Faith in the Founding of the Republic

This title investigates the role of religious faith during the revolutionary period and its impact on the creation of the American republic. It describes how Christian rhetoric was used to inspire and justify the fight for independence. The author also discusses the ongoing influence of religion in the early government.

6. Founding Faith: Providence, Politics, and the Birth of Religious Freedom in America

This book examines the delicate balance the Founding Fathers sought between religious influence and freedom. It discusses the historical context of religious liberty in the 18th century and the constitutional protections established. The narrative highlights key debates and decisions about church and state.

7. The Bible and the Founding Fathers

This work explores the direct impact of the Bible on the political thought of America's founders. It reveals how scripture informed their views on law, morality, and governance. The author presents evidence from writings and speeches demonstrating the Bible's foundational role.

8. Christianity and the Constitution: How Faith Influenced America's Founding Document

This book analyzes the extent to which Christian principles influenced the drafting of the U.S. Constitution. It provides a detailed examination of the Founding Fathers' religious perspectives and the philosophical underpinnings of the document. The author argues for a significant, though nuanced, Christian impact.

9. The Religious Founders: How Christianity Shaped the American Republic

Focusing on the religious convictions of the Founding Fathers, this book discusses how Christianity shaped the moral and political foundations of the new nation. It traces the influence of Christian thought on key events and policies during the founding era. The author also considers how this legacy continues to affect American society today.

Founding Fathers Christianity

Find other PDF articles:

<http://www.speargrouppllc.com/business-suggest-001/Book?ID=Opg21-7986&title=2017-business-mileage-rate-irs.pdf>

founding fathers christianity: The Religion of the Founding Fathers David Lynn Holmes, 2003

founding fathers christianity: The Faiths of the Founding Fathers David L. Holmes, 2006-05-01 It is not uncommon to hear Christians argue that America was founded as a Christian nation. But how true is this claim? In this compact book, David L. Holmes offers a clear, concise and illuminating look at the spiritual beliefs of our founding fathers. He begins with an informative account of the religious culture of the late colonial era, surveying the religious groups in each colony. In particular, he sheds light on the various forms of Deism that flourished in America, highlighting the profound influence this intellectual movement had on the founding generation. Holmes then examines the individual beliefs of a variety of men and women who loom large in our national history. He finds that some, like Martha Washington, Samuel Adams, John Jay, Patrick Henry, and Thomas Jefferson's daughters, held orthodox Christian views. But many of the most influential figures, including Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John and Abigail Adams, Jefferson, James and Dolley Madison, and James Monroe, were believers of a different stripe. Respectful of Christianity, they admired the ethics of Jesus, and believed that religion could play a beneficial role in society. But they tended to deny the divinity of Christ, and a few seem to have been agnostic about the very existence of God. Although the founding fathers were religious men, Holmes shows that it was a faith quite unlike the Christianity of today's evangelicals. Holmes concludes by examining the role of religion in the lives of the presidents since World War II and by reflecting on the evangelical resurgence that helped fuel the reelection of George W. Bush. An intriguing look at a neglected aspect of our history, the book will appeal to American history buffs as well as to anyone concerned about the role of religion in American culture.

founding fathers christianity: The Founding Fathers and the Debate over Religion in Revolutionary America Matthew Harris, Thomas Kidd, 2011-11-11 Whether America was founded as a Christian nation or as a secular republic is one of the most fiercely debated questions in American history. Historians Matthew Harris and Thomas Kidd offer an authoritative examination of the essential documents needed to understand this debate. The texts included in this volume - writings and speeches from both well-known and obscure early American thinkers - show that religion played a prominent yet fractious role in the era of the American Revolution.

founding fathers christianity: Our Christian Founding Fathers William Beckman, 2015-06-26 The American public has been told what recent historians wanted them to believe: the United States is not a Christian nation. This is true in only one respect. You don't have to be a Christian following a specific denomination to be an American citizen. However, the ideological foundation this country is based on Christian principles, developed by Christian Founding Fathers. Modern historians have distorted these facts. To correct these distortions, the biographies of the Founding Fathers, their actual statements and Christian beliefs, are presented in this work. The catalyst for the birth of our nation was the moment when Benjamin Franklin, incorrectly considered a Deist by many, suggested that the quarrelsome Continental Convention recognize how the Creator had listened to and answered their prayers in the past. He suggested daily prayer be instituted, asking henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning. The quarreling continued, but the emphasis became how to successfully unite the newly independent colonies. The colonies united under Christian principles; however, over the years those principles and their original intent have been diluted. Recognizing the condition of the world today, isn't it a good time to renew those principles?

founding fathers christianity: *Faith and Freedom* Robert D. Gingrich, 2012-09-01 So, what did America's founders really believe about God, the Bible, and Christianity? Find out in *Faith and Freedom—The Founding Fathers in Their Own Words*. This brand-new survey of the founders' beliefs provides easy-to-read biographical and historical details along with relevant quotations from the speeches and writings of Patrick Henry, John Adams, George Washington, James Madison, Noah Webster, Benjamin Franklin, and a half-dozen others. Often portrayed as either hostile to faith or unbelieving in a personal God, the Founding Fathers of *Faith and Freedom* just might surprise you!

founding fathers christianity: *Inventing a Christian America* Steven K. Green, 2015-06-01 Steven K. Green explores the historical record that supports the popular belief about the nation's religious origins, seeking to explain how the ideas of America's religious founding and its status as a Christian nation became a leading narrative about the nation's collective identity.

founding fathers christianity: Our Christian Founding Fathers: . . . This Is a Christian Nation. William Beckman, 2015-06-25 The American public has been told what recent historians wanted them to believe: the United States is not a Christian nation. This is true in only one respect. You don't have to be a Christian following a specific denomination to be an American citizen. However, the ideological foundation this country is based on Christian principles, developed by Christian Founding Fathers. Modern historians have distorted these facts. To correct these distortions, the biographies of the Founding Fathers, their actual statements and Christian beliefs, are presented in this work. The catalyst for the birth of our nation was the moment when Benjamin Franklin, incorrectly considered a Deist by many, suggested that the quarrelsome Continental Convention recognize how the Creator had listened to and answered their prayers in the past. He suggested daily prayer be instituted, asking ... henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning ... The quarreling continued, but the emphasis became how to successfully unite the newly independent colonies. The colonies united under Christian principles; however, over the years those principles and their original intent have been diluted. Recognizing the condition of the world today, isn't it a good time to renew those principles?

founding fathers christianity: The Founders and the Bible Carl J. Richard, 2016-03-25 The religious beliefs of America's founding fathers have been a popular and contentious subject for recent generations of American readers. In *The Founders and the Bible*, historian Carl J. Richard carefully examines the framers' relationship with the Bible to assess the conflicting claims of those who argue that they were Christians founding a Christian nation against those who see them as Deists or modern secularists. Richard argues that it is impossible to understand the Founders without understanding the Biblically infused society that produced them. They were steeped in a biblical culture that pervaded their schools, homes, churches, and society. To show the fundamental role of religious beliefs during the Founding and early years of the republic, Richard carefully reconstructs the beliefs of 30 Founders; their lifelong engagements with Scripture; their biblically-infused political rhetoric; their powerful beliefs in a divine Providence that protected them and guided the young nation; their beliefs in the superiority of Christian ethics and in the necessity of religion to republican government; their beliefs in spiritual equality, free will, and the afterlife; their religious differences; the influence of their biblical conception of human nature on their formulation of state and federal constitutions; and their use of biblical precedent to advance religious freedom.

founding fathers christianity: America's Founding Fathers and the Bible Stephen A. Flick, Ph.D., 2017-01-04 Contrary to the contemporary mantra that America was birthed as a secular nation, the historical evidence demonstrates that America was founded by Christians who wished to enjoy the liberty to freely express their Christian faith. Lamentably, Christians have forgotten and neglected the Christian heritage bequeathed to them by America's Founding Fathers and have allowed secularists to disparage and deny what was given to them at such a great price. *America's Founding Fathers and the Bible* briefly describes a portion of America's Christian heritage, particularly during the rise of nationalism when America was shaping its national government. During this era, the Founding Fathers affirmed both the principles and practices of the Bible. By no means exhaustive, this work demonstrates that America's Founding Fathers clearly intended to perpetuate the Christian faith, in both private and public observances. The Founding Fathers left a legacy of publicly honoring the principles of Christianity and fully intended that succeeding generations of Americans should do the same.

founding fathers christianity: "In God We Trust" Norman Cousins, 1958 This text presents Important religious writings by Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, Thomas

Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Samuel Adams, John Jay, and Thomas Paine.

founding fathers christianity: Hidden Facts of the Founding Era Bill Fortenberry, 2013-07-06 Have you ever wondered how some authors can claim that the founding fathers of America were Christians while other authors claim that those very same founders were atheists, deists or even theistic rationalists? In this artfully written volume, Christian apologist Bill Fortenberry examines several of the quotes from our founding fathers that are frequently used to argue against the Christian heritage of America. In doing so, Mr. Fortenberry opens up to us a treasury of facts about our nation's founding that have been hidden by modern scholarship. Did you know that Benjamin Franklin only experimented with deism as a teenager and that he soon rejected it entirely? Did you know that at the age of twenty-nine he wrote three bold defenses of his Christian faith? Did you know that John Adams called the French Enlightenment thinkers cowards and atheists who were destitute of common sense? Did you know that he frequently referred to Jesus Christ as his Savior? Did you know that George Washington recorded a prayer expressing his acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for his sins? Did you know that he left the Masonic Lodge as a young man, that he denied being a member of any lodge during the founding era of our nation and that he referred to masonry as being mere child's play? With abundant references to the original writings of the founding era, Mr. Fortenberry provides American Christians with an invaluable defense of our nation's Christian heritage. Topics covered in *Hidden Facts of the Founding Era* include: - A detailed explanation of the importance of studying the founding fathers. - A chapter on the forgotten founder, Charles Thomson - An expose of the founding fathers' contempt for the writings of Thomas Paine - A study of the beliefs of Thomas Jefferson - A never before published analysis of Benjamin Franklin's conversion to Christianity - Documented proof of George Washington's prayer at Valley Forge - The most complete analysis of the Treaty of Tripoli ever written - A list of forty-nine correlations between the Bible and the Constitution - And much, much more...

founding fathers christianity: Faith of the Founders Edwin Scott Gaustad, 2004 Explores the religious beliefs of America's founding fathers and their influence on American history and politics. Specifically addresses the philosophies of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and John Adams.

founding fathers christianity: Faith of Our Founding Fathers Tim LaHaye, LaHaye Tim, 1996-06 Secular textbooks now fill our classrooms, while the Ten Commandments have been removed from their walls. Is this the vision held by those who worked to found this nation? What faith did our founding fathers truly believe and practice in their daily lives, and what does it really matter for us? Were they God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians or simply enlightened Deists, Transcendentalists, and Unitarians?

founding fathers christianity: Christianity and the Constitution John Eidsmoe, 1987 Eidsmoe deals with four major influences on the founding fathers: Calvinism, deism, freemasonry, and science. He then goes on to examine the religious beliefs of thirteen specific men: John Witherspoon, James Madison, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Gouverneur Morris, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Patrick Henry, Roger Sherman, and Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

founding fathers christianity: The Founders on God and Government Daniel L. Dreisbach, Mark D. Hall, Jeffry H. Morrison, 2004-10-08 In *God We Trust?* The separation of church and state is a widely contested topic in the American political arena. Whether for or against, debaters frequently base their arguments in the Constitution and the principles of the American founding. However, Americans' perception of the founding has narrowed greatly over the years, focusing on a handful of eminent statesmen. By exploring the work of nine founding fathers, including often overlooked figures like John Carroll and George Mason, *The Founders on God and Government* provides a more complete picture of America's origins. The contributors, all noted scholars, examine the lives of individual founders and investigate the relationship between their religious beliefs and political thought. Bringing together original documents and analytical essays, this book is an excellent addition to the library of literature on the founding, and sheds new light on religion's contributions

to American civic culture.

founding fathers christianity: *Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers* Daniel L. Dreisbach, 2016-11-01 No book was more accessible or familiar to the American founders than the Bible, and no book was more frequently alluded to or quoted from in the political discourse of the age. How and for what purposes did the founding generation use the Bible? How did the Bible influence their political culture? Shedding new light on some of the most familiar rhetoric of the founding era, Daniel Dreisbach analyzes the founders' diverse use of scripture, ranging from the literary to the theological. He shows that they looked to the Bible for insights on human nature, civic virtue, political authority, and the rights and duties of citizens, as well as for political and legal models to emulate. They quoted scripture to authorize civil resistance, to invoke divine blessings for righteous nations, and to provide the language of liberty that would be appropriated by patriotic Americans. *Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers* broaches the perennial question of whether the American founding was, to some extent, informed by religious--specifically Christian--ideas. In the sense that the founding generation were members of a biblically literate society that placed the Bible at the center of culture and discourse, the answer to that question is clearly yes. Ignoring the Bible's influence on the founders, Dreisbach warns, produces a distorted image of the American political experiment, and of the concept of self-government on which America is built.

founding fathers christianity: *The Founding Fathers and the Place of Religion in America* Frank Lambert, 2010-07-28 How did the United States, founded as colonies with explicitly religious aspirations, come to be the first modern state whose commitment to the separation of church and state was reflected in its constitution? Frank Lambert explains why this happened, offering in the process a synthesis of American history from the first British arrivals through Thomas Jefferson's controversial presidency. Lambert recognizes that two sets of spiritual fathers defined the place of religion in early America: what Lambert calls the Planting Fathers, who brought Old World ideas and dreams of building a City upon a Hill, and the Founding Fathers, who determined the constitutional arrangement of religion in the new republic. While the former proselytized the one true faith, the latter emphasized religious freedom over religious purity. Lambert locates this shift in the mid-eighteenth century. In the wake of evangelical revival, immigration by new dissenters, and population expansion, there emerged a marketplace of religion characterized by sectarian competition, pluralism, and widened choice. During the American Revolution, dissenters found sympathetic lawmakers who favored separating church and state, and the free marketplace of religion gained legal status as the Founders began the daunting task of uniting thirteen disparate colonies. To avoid discord in an increasingly pluralistic and contentious society, the Founders left the religious arena free of government intervention save for the guarantee of free exercise for all. Religious people and groups were also free to seek political influence, ensuring that religion's place in America would always be a contested one, but never a state-regulated one. An engaging and highly readable account of early American history, this book shows how religious freedom came to be recognized not merely as toleration of dissent but as a natural right to be enjoyed by all Americans.

founding fathers christianity: *Faith and the Founders of the American Republic* Daniel L. Dreisbach, Mark David Hall, 2014-03-18 The role of religion in the founding of America has long been a hotly debated question. Some historians have regarded the views of a few famous founders, such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Thomas Paine, as evidence that the founders were deists who advocated the strict separation of church and state. Popular Christian polemicists, on the other hand, have attempted to show that virtually all of the founders were pious Christians in favor of public support for religion. As the essays in this volume demonstrate, a diverse array of religious traditions informed the political culture of the American founding. *Faith and the Founders of the American Republic* includes studies both of minority faiths, such as Islam and Judaism, and of major traditions like Calvinism. It also includes nuanced analysis of specific founders-Quaker fellow-traveler John Dickinson, prominent Baptists Isaac Backus and John Leland, and Theistic Rationalist Gouverneur Morris, among others-with attention to their personal histories,

faiths, constitutional philosophies, and views on the relationship between religion and the state. This volume will be a crucial resource for anyone interested in the place of faith in the founding of the American constitutional republic, from political, religious, historical, and legal perspectives.

founding fathers christianity: Forged in Faith Rod Gragg, 2010-06-01 The true drama of how faith motivated America's Founding Fathers, influenced the Declaration of Independence and inspired the birth of the nation. This fascinating history, based on meticulous research into the correspondence and documentation of the founding fathers leading up to and encompassing the crafting of the Declaration of Independence, sheds light on how the Judeo-Christian worldview motivated America's founding fathers, influenced national independence, inspired our foundational documents, and established the American nation. Written with the pacing and drama of an enticing drama, *Forged in Faith* is crafted for popular appeal with a compelling mix of dramatized story and action-driven narrative, yet with the authenticity and academic verity of historian Rod Gragg.

founding fathers christianity: *Founding Faith* Steven Waldman, 2008-03-11 The culture wars have distorted the dramatic story of how Americans came to worship freely. Many activists on the right maintain that the United States was founded as a "Christian nation." Many on the left contend that the Founders were secular or Deist and that the First Amendment was designed to boldly separate church and state throughout the land. None of these claims are true, argues Beliefnet.com editor in chief Steven Waldman. With refreshing objectivity, Waldman narrates the real story of how our nation's Founders forged a new approach to religious liberty, a revolutionary formula that promoted faith . . . by leaving it alone. This fast-paced narrative begins with earlier settlers' stunningly unsuccessful efforts to create a Christian paradise, and concludes with the presidencies of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison, during which the men who had devised lofty principles regarding the proper relationship between church and state struggled to practice what they'd preached. We see how religion helped cause, and fuel, the Revolutionary War, and how the surprising alliance between Enlightenment philosophers such as Jefferson and Madison and evangelical Christians resulted in separation of church and state. As the drama unfolds, *Founding Faith* vividly describes the religious development of five Founders. Benjamin Franklin melded the morality-focused Puritan theology of his youth and the reason-based Enlightenment philosophy of his adulthood. John Adams's pungent views on religion-hatred of the Church of England and Roman Catholics-stoked his revolutionary fervor and shaped his political strategy. George Washington came to view religious tolerance as a military necessity. Thomas Jefferson pursued a dramatic quest to "rescue" Jesus, in part by editing the Bible. Finally, it was James Madison-the tactical leader of the battle for religious freedom-who crafted an integrated vision of how to prevent tyranny while encouraging religious vibrancy. The spiritual custody battle over the Founding Fathers and the role of religion in America continues today. Waldman provocatively argues that neither side in the culture war has accurately depicted the true origins of the First Amendment. He sets the record straight, revealing the real history of religious freedom to be dramatic, unexpected, paradoxical, and inspiring. An interactive library of the key writings by the Founding Father, on separation of church and state, personal faith, and religious liberty can be found at www.beliefnet.com/foundingfaith.

Related to founding fathers christianity

Founding Fathers were deists, not Christians (The Roanoke Times20y) Fuller is a retired theater director at Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke. Tom Taylor's commentary, "The 'religious right' began with the founders, (Dec. 7)," is quite well-written and very

Founding Fathers were deists, not Christians (The Roanoke Times20y) Fuller is a retired theater director at Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke. Tom Taylor's commentary, "The 'religious right' began with the founders, (Dec. 7)," is quite well-written and very

The Founding Fathers expressed their desire for a Christian nation [letter]

(LancasterOnline5mon) I believe our Founding Fathers wanted a Christian nation. Here are some examples: U.S. President John Quincy Adams: "Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is

The Founding Fathers expressed their desire for a Christian nation [letter]

(LancasterOnline5mon) I believe our Founding Fathers wanted a Christian nation. Here are some examples: U.S. President John Quincy Adams: "Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is

Letter: Founding fathers did not create "Christian nation" (Arizona Daily Star8mon) Christian nationalism has evolved into a politically entrenched and organized movement. Christian nationalists cherry-pick historical facts, writings, and events to argue that the United States was

Letter: Founding fathers did not create "Christian nation" (Arizona Daily Star8mon) Christian nationalism has evolved into a politically entrenched and organized movement. Christian nationalists cherry-pick historical facts, writings, and events to argue that the United States was

Was America Intended to Be Christian? (The Atlantic15y) In this week's New York Times Magazine, Russell Shorto examines a hotly debated question: "How Christian were the Founders?" Christian activists want the United States proclaimed a "Christian nation"

Was America Intended to Be Christian? (The Atlantic15y) In this week's New York Times Magazine, Russell Shorto examines a hotly debated question: "How Christian were the Founders?" Christian activists want the United States proclaimed a "Christian nation"

Back to Home: <http://www.speargroupllc.com>