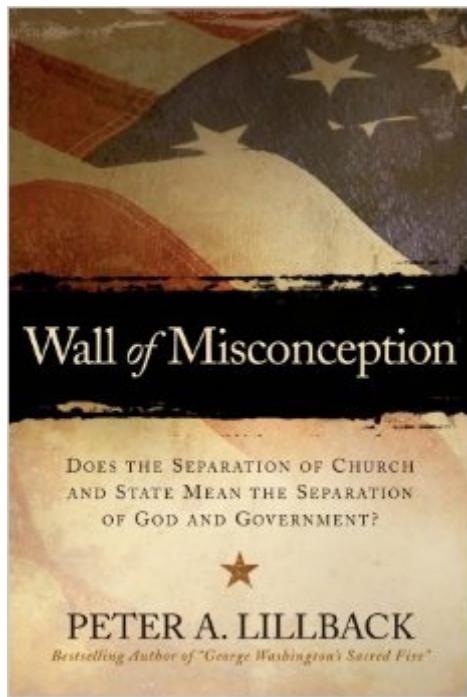


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Wall Of Misconception



Synopsis

How often have you heard it stated on TV, in the press, or by an acquaintance that the wall of separation between church and state are words taken right out of the US Constitution? In fact, the First Amendment to the Constitution - what is popularly referred to as the establishment clause, the only part of the US Constitution that even deals with religion and faith contains no reference whatsoever to a wall of separation, or, for that matter, any sort of wording including the phrase separation of church and state. The only words in the US Constitution concerning this topic are found in the First Amendment, where it is written: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof... That's it. Yet these sixteen words have been elaborately interpreted by some as having a meaning that has no basis in the founders intentions or historic record. Where then has this mountain of contention come from, resulting in a wall of misconception between church and state, and indeed between God and government? The phrase wall of separation was coined by Thomas Jefferson in his private 1802 letter of response to the Danbury Baptist Association, wherein he reaffirmed the federal government's intention to protect the public's rights of conscience to believe and practice their faith without fear of interference from government. Several prominent citizens rights organizations will contend that this purported wall is being routinely breached by people of faith, yet others will assert that any action by the government to impede an individual's right to pray in school or at a public event, to display a Christmas tree in public or to say one nation under God in the Pledge of Allegiance is itself a violation of the First Amendment. In *Wall of Misconception*, Dr. Peter Lillback examines our nation's historic understanding of and the founding fathers intention in the relationship of our Constitution to matters of faith, ethics, and morals, taking into account the historical and biblical context as well as the concept's relation to today's culture. This is both the layman's and professional's definitive guide to the separation of church and state and, indeed, the separation of God and government.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This goes in the "must read" section of every Patriot library. It is well written, uniquely and cogently laid out, and well supported contextually, and with myriad sources. Surely an under-rated and under-appreciated work, and a well kept secret. I highly recommend it. If you ever wanted a well stated argument about the "wall of separation" being there to protect the church from the government, instead of the other way around, this is it.

Lillback provides a good overview for those wanting to understand the historical context of the "wall of separation." It's a quick read with direct source material included to support his positions. I wouldn't expect a conversion for those who assume the contemporary understanding [of separation of church and state] is consistent with the original intent, but at least they might gain some insights into how us old dinosaurs came up with opinions so different than what is being taught in the schools. I have now ordered "Moral Minority: Our Skeptical Founding Fathers" to read a different point of view.

Best book I've read this year. Should be required reading in all high school Freshman classes. Dr. Lillback takes a misunderstood aspect of our First Amendment and lays it out so clearly that any thinking person can understand the true meaning of the metaphor, "Separation of Church and State".

Lillback provides a detailed account of the United States' Christian Heritage. His research effort is clearly evident and his compelling argument may be too deep for many readers, as he brings up the worldview and weaves it into his research. Outstanding job! Refreshing is a writer who is to the point while providing an arsenal of fact and history.

For decades now, activists have tried to rewrite the Constitution, and when that doesn't work, rewrite history to make the founders appear unreligious or anti-religious. The fact is that a few

minutes of research shows how futile and inane their attempts are. Lillback's guide shows how simple it is. Direct, clear and accessible, this book clearly shows how Christian thought permeated the founding of our nation and that the "separation of church and state" is a largely fanciful phrase used to suppress the freedoms of speech and religion. The war raged against all mentions of God in the public square are not about the law, the are contrary to it and waged by those who want to oppress opposing belief systems. See also Persecution: How Liberals Are Waging War Against Christianity, The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Founding Fathers and The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Constitution.

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