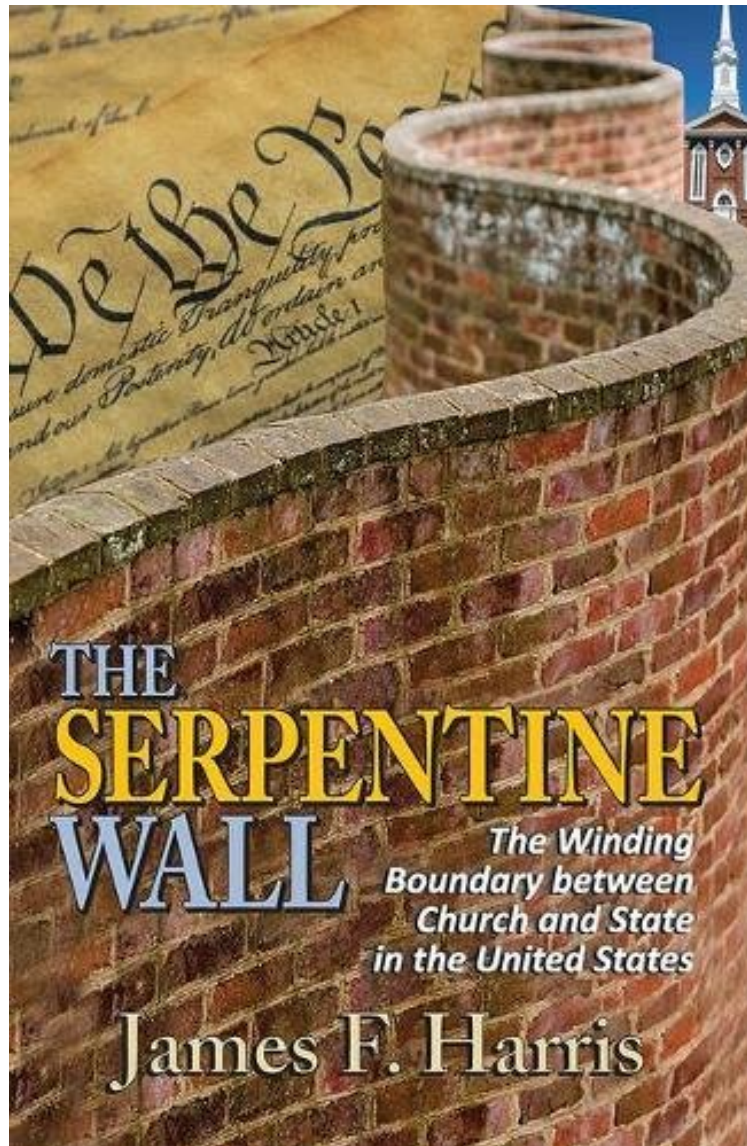


(Library ebook) The Serpentine Wall: The Winding Boundary Between Church and State in the United States

The Serpentine Wall: The Winding Boundary Between Church and State in the United States

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From Routledge : The Serpentine Wall: The Winding Boundary Between Church and State in the United States before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Serpentine Wall: The Winding Boundary Between Church and State in the United States:

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. disappointedBy victorI bought this book based on a review I read. I

was very disappointed in the content. The author approaches the subject matter with a bias in favor of separation of church and state and against the Christian heritage of this nation's founding and founders. The author's research seemed to totally ignore the faith and beliefs of so many of the founding fathers and his conclusions on the causes of wars from ages ago are mere speculation. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Based on the Sample Pages, I Plan to Read this Book By Phillip R. Beaver As an earnest student of the period 1765 until 1865 and beyond, and advocate for "We the People of the United States" as defined by the preamble to the United States Constitution, I look forward to the ideas and research in this book. Like the author, I appreciate the realities that the signers of the 1787 document faced and the challenge the ratifiers faced. See my blog, promotethepreamble.blogspot.com for an explanation that a path of super-majorities, about 70 % of voters along the way, organized a people wherein only 6 % could vote in 1790, but in 2014, every non-criminal citizen may vote. The will of the people has brought America a long way. Yet, instead of accommodating each other using the preamble to mediate compromise, most people today follow the power, hoping to be among the 130 million voters with 50% plus one vote, who can lord it over the other 50% for an election cycle. Association based on the preamble could create a 70 % majority that brings America to domestic justice and peace at last. Freedom was won in 1781 at Yorktown, and the era when being a citizen required a person to be a theist has passed, as of 2014. Americans need to turn their attention to domestic justice, and I'm hoping--expecting--that Dr. Harris's book will help the people understand that our future is in their hands, not under "god," whatever that is. I write this at this time to encourage readers who may have been discouraged by the only review I found when I logged in.

The Serpentine Wall is chronologically structured, befitting a history of church-state separation in the United States. It begins with a history of ideas approach to the European backgrounds and colonial American experiments in theocracy and freedom of religion. It covers pre-modern American debates about religious freedom among the founding generation right up through the nineteenth century. The final section of the book focuses on the separation of church and state and how this has become a matter determined by the Supreme Court. The resolution of the proper interpretation of the religious clauses of the First Amendment and the course of the boundary between church and state has been slow. Many changes that took place throughout the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century have influenced the increasingly circuitous route taken by the Serpentine Wall between the two. The result has been an increased focus on social issues involving questions of interpretation of the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment. The founding of the United States was a unique event in human history and the result of factors that are unlikely to be repeated. To understand the founding of a democratic country with a unique arrangement between church and state, it is important to view that development as both a product of and a departure from what had come before. Harris' interesting, unique, philosophical viewpoint will be important to those interested in how the roles of church versus state have evolved in the United States.

[A] superb introduction to the topic. Harris gives readers new insights into issues that remain politically potent today. He carefully traces the historic developments from Colonial establishments to disestablishment at the federal level and the gradual decline of state establishments under the influence of Enlightenment thought in the late 18th century. Every American with interest in the topic should read this volume. . . . Highly Recommended. S. C. Pearson, Choice

THE SERPENTINE WALL: THE WINDING BOUNDARY BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE IN THE UNITED STATES provides a fine, scholarly examination of the relationship between Church and State in the U.S., and offers key readings and scholarly contributions examining the legal, religious and political separation of church and state in this country. Recommended for college-level political science, social studies and spirituality holdings alike, **THE SERPENTINE WALL** is packed with many key, important observations that will appeal to any considering historic and contemporary changing religious relationships. California Bookwatch "This well-written, deeply researched inquiry into the relationship between Church and State in the United States could not be more timely. It is packed with information and everyone interested in the questions can learn much from it. The Serpentine Wall is an important contribution to scholarship and deserves to be widely read." Michael Ruse, Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy, director of the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, Florida State University

About the Author James F. Harris is Francis S. Haserot Professor Emeritus in the department of philosophy at the College of William and Mary. He is the author of several books, including *Against Relativism: A Philosophical Defense of Method*, *Analytic Philosophy of Religion*, and *The Ascent of Man: A Philosophy of Human Nature* (Transaction).