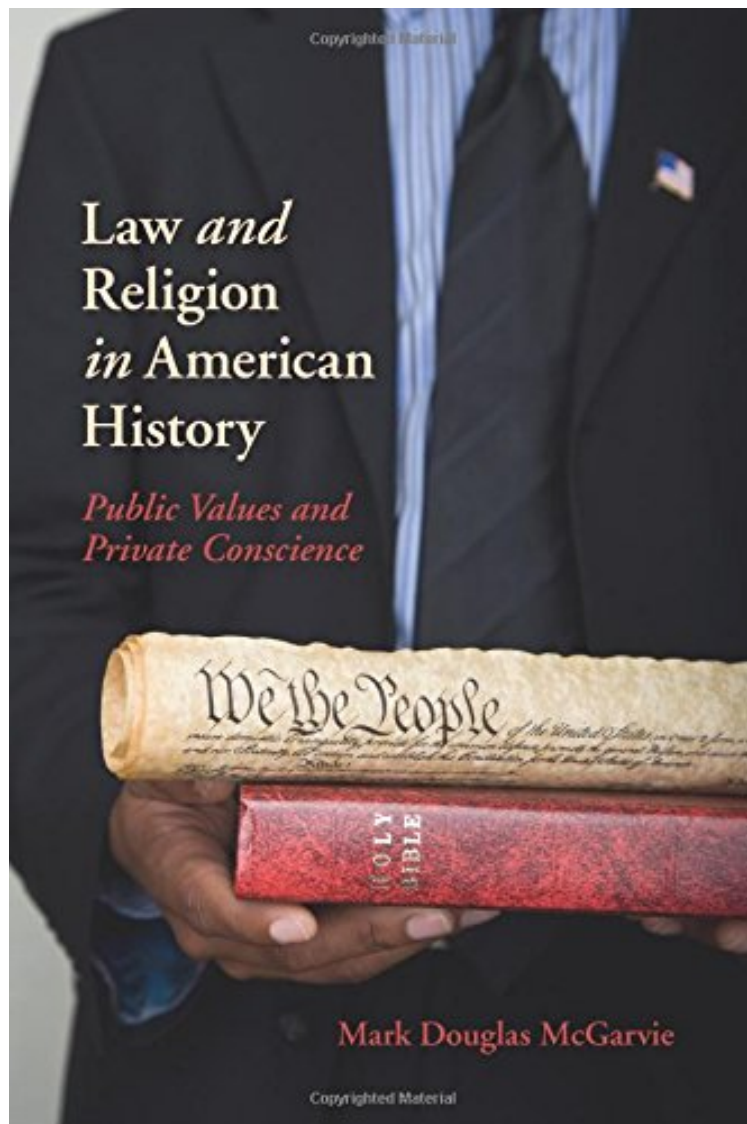


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## Law and Religion in American History: Public Values and Private Conscience (New Histories of American Law)

Mark Douglas McGarvie

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**Mark Douglas McGarvie : Law and Religion in American History: Public Values and Private Conscience (New Histories of American Law)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Law and Religion in American History: Public Values and Private Conscience (New Histories of American Law):

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Insightful, timely treatment of one of today's most important issues--the intersection of law and religion in our politics. Thoroughly researched, this book is a must read for those who want to know how we got where we are.

This book furthers dialogue on the separation of church and state with an approach that emphasizes intellectual history and the constitutional theory that underlies American society. Mark Douglas McGarvie explains that the founding fathers of America considered the right of conscience to be an individual right, to be protected against governmental interference. While the religion clauses enunciated this right, its true protection occurred in the creation of separate public and private spheres. Religion and the churches were placed in the private sector. Yet, politically active Christians have intermittently mounted challenges to this bifurcation in calling for a greater public role for Christian faith and morality in American society. Both students and scholars will learn much from this intellectual history of law and religion that contextualizes a four-hundred-year-old ideological struggle.

"In *Law and Religion in American History*, Mark McGarvie makes a persuasive case for his arresting argument that the ongoing effort to Christianize America by government fiat has never been very American, nor even very Christian." Woody Holton, Bancroft Prize-winning author of *Abigail Adams*"Mark McGarvie's book is a splendidly illuminating historical synthesis of Americans' struggle to reconcile two of the most powerful and compelling ideological forces in their history. It is a major achievement, simultaneously expansive in its conceptual reach and sharply focused in its method." David Konig, Washington University, St Louis"McGarvie deftly documents how Americans have and have not learned to reconcile the contradictions between their practices and ideals. With *Law and Religion in American History*, he clearly establishes himself as one of the preeminent scholars on the intersections of American law and religion." J. D. Bowers, Director, Honors College, University of Missouri"It is high time for a broad, historically informed reconsideration of law and religion in American history, and Mark McGarvie has given us just that. This book will enlighten its readers and provoke further conversation about social responsibility and individual liberty in American life." Mark Valeri, Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University, St Louis" In a tale full of irony and strange bedfellows, McGarvie gracefully guides us through the law's efforts to limit or to expand religion's public role as Americans struggled - and still struggle - to define their civil religion in an increasingly diverse society. A must-read." Johann N. Neem, author of *Creating a Nation of Joiners*About the AuthorMark Douglas McGarvie, JD, PhD is a Research Scholar at the Institute of Bill of Rights Law at Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. For the 2015-16 school year, he taught at the University of Zagreb Law School in Croatia as a Fulbright Scholar. His publications include *One Nation Under Law: America's Early National Struggles to Separate Church and State* (2004), and contributions to *The Cambridge History of Law in America* (Cambridge, 2011), and *No Establishment of Religion: America's Contribution to Religious Liberty* (2012) and various law reviews and history journals.