

REDISCOVERING AMERICA'S SACRED GROUND

*Public Religion and Pursuit
of the Good in a Pluralistic America*



BARBARA A. MCGRAW

Rediscovering Americas Sacred Ground

Derek Davis



Rediscovering Americas Sacred Ground:

Rediscovering America's Sacred Ground Barbara A. McGraw, 2012-02-01 Returning to the ideas of John Locke and the Founders themselves Barbara A McGraw examines the debate about the role of religion in American public life and unravels the confounded rhetoric on all sides She reveals that no group has been standing on proper ground and that all sides have misused terminology religion secular dichotomies public private and concepts separation of church and state in ways that have little relevance to the original intentions of the Founders She rediscovers a theology underlying the founding documents of the nation that is neither anyone s particular religion nor one requiring religion Instead it justifies freedom of conscience for all and provides a two tiered public forum a civic public forum and a conscientious public forum for the debate itself and the actions that debate inspires America s Sacred Ground this theology and its public forum determines the meaning of freedom and the ways in which Americans can pursue the good good government good communities good families good relations between individuals and good individuals from a plurality of perspectives By exploring our past McGraw answers the critical question Who are we as a people and what do we stand for Rediscovering America's Sacred Ground Barbara

A. McGraw, 1999 **First Pure, Then Peaceable** Margaret Aymer, Margaret P. Aymer, 2008-05-06 An examination of Frederick Douglass use of the epistle of James to support his nineteenth century abolitionist speeches **Church-State Issues in America Today** Ann W. Duncan, Steven L. Jones, 2007-12-30 Church and state issues are in the news now more than ever before Political and religious leaders alike are negotiating shaky ground as they balance their religious moral and political perspectives with their roles as leaders New technologies push the boundaries of moral consensus by creating new controversies such as those involving stem cell research and medical measures to sustain or end the lives of the terminally ill The Supreme Court continues to work to clarify the fuzzy line between religion and politics as it addresses cases regarding abortion school prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance among other issues Further controversies only lead to further divisions among Americans Church and state issues are in the news now more than ever before Political and religious leaders alike are negotiating on shaky ground as they balance their religious moral and political perspectives with their roles as leaders New technologies push the boundaries of moral consensus by creating new controversies such as those involving stem cell research and medical measures to sustain or end the lives of the terminally ill The Supreme Court continues to work to clarify the fuzzy line between religion and politics as it addresses cases regarding abortion school prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance among other issues Further controversies only lead to further divisions among Americans At the beginning of the 21st century there are as many interpretations of this separation as there are interpretations of particular issues such as abortion or school vouchers This three volume collection summarizes the history and current status of issues involving the separation of church and state through chapters examining the backgrounds relevant constitutional concerns and variety of perspectives on specific controversies Framed by a general discussion of the history of the separation between church and

state and through careful attention to subjects such as capital punishment gay marriage and clergy support of political leaders there emerges an incredibly complex enlightening and provocative picture for anyone with an interest in the unique nature of religion in the United States of America *America and the Political Philosophy of Common Sense* Scott Philip Segrest,2009-12-01 From Aristotle to Thomas Jefferson seminal thinkers have declared common sense essential for moral discernment and civilized living Yet the story of commonsense philosophy is not well known today In *America and the Political Philosophy of Common Sense* Scott Segrest traces the history and explores the personal and social meaning of common sense as understood especially in American thought and as reflected specifically in the writings of three paradigmatic thinkers John Witherspoon James McCosh and William James The first two represent Scottish Common Sense and the third Pragmatism the schools that together dominated American higher thought for nearly two centuries Educated Americans of the founding period warmly received Scottish Common Sense Segrest writes because it reflected so well what they already thought and he uncovers the basic elements of American common sense in examining the thought of Witherspoon who introduced that philosophy to them With McCosh he shows the furthest development and limits of the philosophy and with it of American common sense in its Scottish realist phase With James he shows other dimensions of common sense that Americans had long embraced but that had never been examined philosophically Clearly Segrest's work is much more than an intellectual history It is a study of the American mind and of common sense itself its essential character and its human significance both moral and political It was common sense he affirms that underlay the Declaration of Independence and the founders ideas of right and obligation that are still with us today Segrest suggests that understanding this foundation and James's refreshing of it could be the key to maintaining America's vital moral core against a growing alienation from common sense across the Western world Stressing the urgency of understanding and preserving common sense Segrest's work sheds new light on an undervalued aspect of American thought and experience helping us to perceive the ramifications of commonsense philosophy for dignified living **George G. Higgins and the Quest for**

Worker Justice John J. O'Brien,2005 *George G Higgins and the Quest for Worker Justice* The Evolution of Catholic Social Thought in America is a comprehensive and fascinating examination of the Catholic Church's involvement in social issues from the late 19th to the end of the 20th century through the lens of the life career writings and ministry of the legendary Monsignor Higgins Inspiring to both the clergy and laity Msgr George G Higgins put a human face on the institutional commitments of the Church advocated the role of the laity remained loyal to the vision of the Second Vatican Council and took the side of the working poor in his movement with organized labor Much more than a limited biography author John O'Brien offers a sweeping history of the social questions facing America over the past 100 years the thought behind one of the leading figures in the worker justice movement and a moving application of the rich heritage of Catholic Social Thought

The Oxford Handbook of Church and State in the United States Derek Davis,2010-11-18 21 essays present a

scholarly look at the intricacies and past and current debates that frame the American system of church and state within 5 main areas history politics sociology theology philosophy and law *Religion, Science, and Democracy* Lisa L.

Stenmark,2013-03-08 Despite the increasing popularity of religion and science as an academic discourse the intersection of science and religion remains a front line in an ongoing culture war The reasons for this lie in an approach to discourse that closely resembles the model of discourse promoted by John Rawls in which plural discourse such as between religion and science is based on a foundation of shared beliefs and established facts This leads to a doctrines and discoveries approach to the relationship of religion and science which focuses on their respective truth claims in an attempt to find areas of agreement This framework inherently privileges scientific perspectives which actually increases conflict between religion and science and undermines public discourse by inserting absolutes into it To the extent that the science and religion discourse adopts this approach it inadvertently increases the conflict between religion and science and limits our ability to address matters of public concern This book suggests an alternative model for discourse a disputational friendship based on the work of Hannah Arendt This approach recognizes the role that authorities and thus religion and science play in public life but undermines any attempt to privilege a particular authority because it promotes the position of the storyteller who never settles on a single story but always seeks to incorporate many particular stories into her account A disputational friendship promotes storytelling not by seeking agreement but by exploring areas of disagreement in order to create the space for more conversations and to generate more stories and additional interpretations Successful discourse between religion and science is not measured by its ability to determine truth or fact but by its ability to continually expand the discourse and promote public life and public judgment Secularization, Desecularization, and Toleration Vyacheslav Karpov,Manfred

Svensson,2020-10-22 This book challenges the modern myth that tolerance grows as societies become less religious The myth inseparably links the progress of toleration to the secularization of modern society This volume scrutinizes this grand narrative theoretically and empirically and proposes alternative accounts of the varied relationships between diverse interpretations of religion and secularity and multiple secularizations desecularizations and forms of toleration The authors show how both secular and religious orthodoxies inform toleration and persecution and how secularizations and desecularizations engender repressive or pluralistic regimes Ultimately the book offers an agency focused perspective which links the variation in toleration and persecution to the actors of secularization and desecularization and their cultural programs **With God on All Sides** Douglas A. Hicks,2010-12-15 Perhaps no other nation is or has ever been as religiously

diverse as the United States For elected officials school principals corporate leaders and many others this diversity poses unique challenges Leaders bring their own faiths to public life and they daily encounter followers of similar and different faiths Good leadership must draw together people from varied backgrounds in order to achieve something in common This is no simple task How should leaders deal with menorahs and crosses veils and turbans prayers and holidays How do they and

their followers turn the cacophony of beliefs and practices into a kind of citizenship worthy of the American tradition of religious freedom How can they honor the religious convictions of all Americans In *With God on All Sides* Douglas A Hicks provides a roadmap for leaders as they traverse the post 9 11 landscape Although the devout possess moral and spiritual resources that can enrich civic life leaders must also be prepared to cope with nearly inevitable conflicts between people of different faiths Yet wise leaders can find ways to transform the problem of diversity into an opportunity Drawing on their moral and spiritual resources Americans of all creeds have the capacity to enhance the quality of our civic debate Their faith based practices create occasions for mutual learning Hicks tells the stories of how diverse Americans have transformed public controversies into cases of cooperation The key to good leadership Hicks writes is to engage one another across lines of difference with a spirit of humility build communication and trust and offer an inclusive vision that is true to America s principles Based on years of research and practical experience *With God on All Sides* provides an invaluable and thought provoking guide to leadership and citizenship in our devout and diverse nation

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