

Political Sermons of the American Founding Era: Unearthing the Roots of American Democracy

Step into the captivating realm of "Political Sermons of the American Founding Era" and embark on an illuminating journey that unravels the profound influence of religion on the birth of the United States. This remarkable anthology brings together a captivating collection of sermons delivered from the pulpits of churches during a pivotal epoch in American history.

A Reflection of the Times

As the colonies stirred with the fervor of revolution, sermons played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, galvanizing resistance to British rule, and laying the groundwork for a new nation. These sermons were not merely religious discourses but potent expressions of political sentiment, reflecting the hopes, fears, and aspirations of the American people.



Political Sermons of the American Founding Era: 1730–1805: In Two Volumes by Marta Merajver-Kurlat

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 7412 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 2132 pages



Through these sermons, we encounter the diverse voices of the Founding Era, spanning from the fervor of Puritan preachers to the Enlightenment-inspired rationalism of Deist thinkers, and the rising tide of Evangelicalism. Each sermon offers a unique lens through which to examine the complex interplay between religion and politics.

The Puritan Ethos

The Puritan legacy looms large in the political sermons of this era. Puritan preachers, imbued with a deep sense of divine providence, saw the American Revolution as a manifestation of God's favor upon a chosen people.

Sermons like Jonathan Mayhew's "Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers" (1750) eloquently defended the right to resist tyranny, invoking biblical injunctions to uphold justice and oppose oppression.

The Enlightenment's Influence

As the Enlightenment spread its wings across the colonies, it brought with it a new emphasis on reason and natural law. Deist thinkers like Ethan Allen challenged traditional religious beliefs and emphasized the importance of individual liberty and self-governance.

Allen's sermon "Reason the Only Oracle of Man" (1784) resonated with many Americans, providing a secular rationale for the revolution and the

establishment of a republic based on the principles of equality and natural rights.

The Rise of Evangelicalism

In the decades leading up to the Revolution, Evangelicalism emerged as a powerful force, emphasizing personal conversion, emotional revivalism, and a belief in the imminent Second Coming of Christ.

Preachers like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards captivated audiences with their fiery sermons, calling for spiritual renewal and a return to fundamental Christian values. Their influence extended beyond the realm of religion, shaping political discourse and contributing to the revolutionary fervor.

A Tapestry of Voices

"Political Sermons of the American Founding Era" presents a diverse tapestry of voices, reflecting the multifaceted nature of religious and political thought in the era.

- Samuel Davies' "The Curse of Cowardice" (1755) implores colonists to confront tyranny and fight for their freedom.
- John Witherspoon's "The Dominion of Providence Over the Passions of Man" (1776) emphasizes the importance of virtue and self-control in maintaining a stable and just society.
- Benjamin Rush's "A Sermon on the Duties of a Citizen of the United States" (1788) outlines the responsibilities of citizens in a democratic republic.

Historical Significance

These sermons provide invaluable insights into the intellectual and spiritual landscape of the American Founding Era. They not only chronicle the events and debates of the time but also reveal the deep-seated beliefs and values that shaped the American character and the nation's founding principles.

By studying these sermons, we can better understand the religious roots of American democracy, the complex relationship between church and state, and the enduring legacy of faith in shaping the course of American history.

"Political Sermons of the American Founding Era" is an indispensable resource for scholars, historians, and anyone interested in the intersection of religion and politics. It illuminates the profound role that sermons played in galvanizing the American Revolution and laying the foundation for a nation built on the principles of liberty, equality, and self-governance.

Through these captivating sermons, we can trace the evolution of American thought, embrace the diversity of perspectives, and gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring legacy of faith in shaping the United States.



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