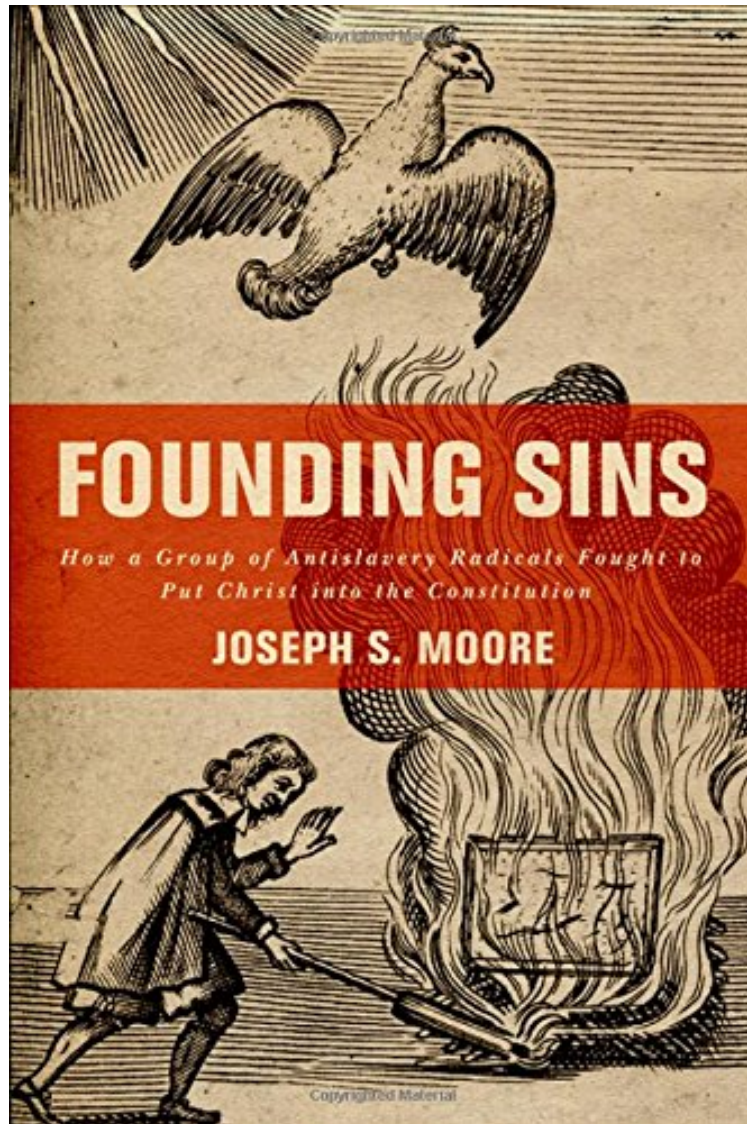


(Free) Founding Sins: How a Group of Antislavery Radicals Fought to Put Christ into the Constitution

Founding Sins: How a Group of Antislavery Radicals Fought to Put Christ into the Constitution

Joseph S. Moore

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Joseph S. Moore : Founding Sins: How a Group of Antislavery Radicals Fought to Put Christ into the Constitution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Founding Sins: How a Group of Antislavery Radicals Fought to Put Christ into the Constitution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy JPerezExcellen book on the Covenanters and their interactions with American Politics in Scotland all the way to America.0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. Exploring the Scottish sources of church-state unity in America, and anti-slavery sentiment. The first failed; the 2nd succeeded. By Margaret Sanford Excellent research, but needs listed bibliography and index. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in religions ... By rper Despite what many modern Evangelical Christians claim, America was NOT established explicitly as a Christian nation. The Reformed Presbyterians (Covenanters), from our nations very establishment, decried this notion based on two highly significant defects in our Constitution: 1) it refused to acknowledge the Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ; 2) it allowed for the godless institution of slavery. The RPs stood as virtually a lone voice of dissent on both these issues at our country's founding. This very well written and researched tome, seen from an outsiders perspective, clearly establishes the Reformed Presbyterian argument. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in religions influence in our countrys history and concerned for why things wound up the way they are today, regardless of what you believe should be the case.

The Covenanters, now mostly forgotten, were America's first Christian nationalists. For two centuries they decried the fact that, in their view, the United States was not a Christian nation because slavery was in the Constitution but Jesus was not. Having once ruled Scotland as a part of a Presbyterian coalition, they longed to convert America to a holy Calvinist vision in which church and state united to form a godly body politic. Their unique story has largely been submerged beneath the histories of the events in which they participated and the famous figures with whom they interacted, making them the most important religious movement in American history that no one remembers. Despite being one of North America's smallest religious sects, the Covenanters found their way into every major revolt. They were God's rebels--just as likely to be Patriots against Britain as they were to be Whiskey Rebels against the federal government. As the nation's earliest and most avowed abolitionists, they had a significant influence on the fight for emancipation. In *Founding Sins*, Joseph S. Moore examines this forgotten history, and explores how Covenanters profoundly shaped American's understandings of the separation of church and state. While modern arguments about America's Christian founding usually come from the right, the Covenanters have a more complicated legacy. They fought for an explicitly Christian America in the midst of what they saw as a secular state that failed the test of Christian nationhood. But they did so on behalf of a cause--abolition--that is traditionally associated with the left. Though their attempts to insert God into the Constitution ultimately failed, Covenanters set the acceptable limits for religion in politics for generations to come.

"Joseph S. Moore contributes to this scholarly moment with a fresh study of an overlooked group within the Scottish Presbyterian Atlantic world: the Covenanters."--*The Journal of Southern History* "An engaging, well-researched, and ambitious book." --*Journal of Religion* "Slim but punches well above its weight a product of Moore s prodigious research. One comes away nodding in agreement when Moore calls his subjects 'the most important religious sect in American history that no one remembers today.'"--*The North Carolina Historical* "An exemplary history book. Thoroughly researched and skillfully crafted."--*Journal of Southern Religion* "[An] engaging book, one of value at all levels for persons interested in church-state relations and US religious history. Highly recommended."--CHOICE "Joseph Moore's comprehensive treatment of the Covenanting tradition explains why it arose in seventeenth-century Scotland, how it survived internal schisms and perilous migrations, and what large influence (as a small group) it exerted on American history in the era of the Civil War. The book offers particularly cogent explanations for how southern Covenanters could oppose slavery and why their understanding of 'Christian America' differed so dramatically from modern notions of that ideal. It is a fine book." --Mark Noll, author of *In the Beginning Was the Word: The Bible and American Public Life, 1492-1783* (2015) "The Covenanters are the most important forgotten religious sect in United States history. Long before political conservatives complained that the nation was not a Christian one, Covenanters did so. Long before many white Christians denounced slavery and racism, Covenanters did so. *Founding Sins* is a story that needs to be remembered: how these Scotch-Irish Presbyterians challenged every facet of the nation's religion and politics, its system of slavery, and its failures of freedom. This is an extraordinary book." --Edward J. Blum, co-author of *The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America* "How can the United States have been founded as a 'Christian nation' when Jesus was not mentioned in the Constitution and the Founding Fathers owned slaves? Joseph Moore's readers will be surprised to learn that this argument did not come from twenty-first century secularists, but from the Covenanters, a group of conservative Calvinists in early America. Moore tells their story with erudition and insight." --John Fea, author of *Was America Founded as a Christian Nation?: A Historical Introduction* "[A] deftly focused, often-witty account of the Scottish Covenanters Pithy and stylish."--*Journal of American History* About the Author Joseph S. Moore is Assistant Professor of History at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina. His work has appeared in *The New York Times* and various scholarly journals.