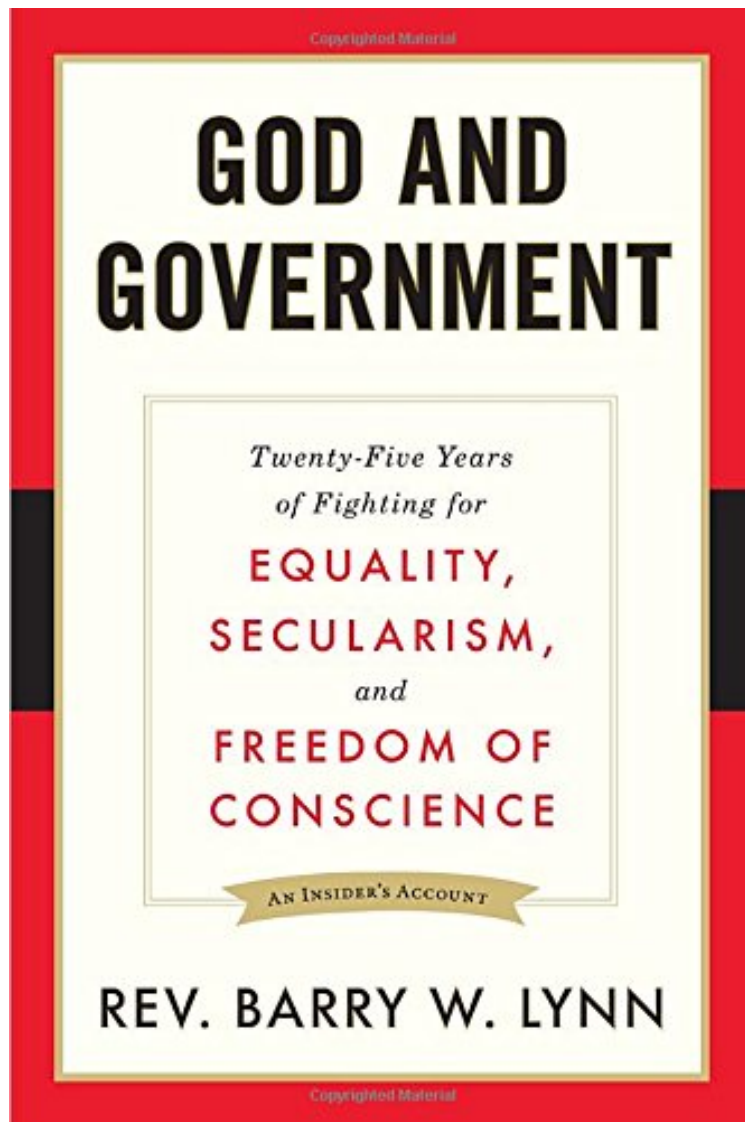


(Download) God and Government: Twenty-Five Years of Fighting for Equality, Secularism, and Freedom Of Conscience

# God and Government: Twenty-Five Years of Fighting for Equality, Secularism, and Freedom Of Conscience

Rev. Barry Lynn

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**Rev. Barry Lynn : God and Government: Twenty-Five Years of Fighting for Equality, Secularism, and Freedom Of Conscience** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God and Government: Twenty-Five Years of Fighting for Equality, Secularism, and Freedom Of Conscience:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Dispatches from the Front LinesBy California FreethinkerIf you

think only atheists and humanists care about the separation of church and state, think again. Rev. Barry Lynn (yes, he is an ordained minister) is as passionate a defender of keeping religion out of government as Annie Laurie Gaylor or Roy Speckhardt. He is also a lawyer certified to argue cases before the US Supreme Court. Finally, he has served as executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State since 1992. This is a book from the front lines of one of the most important ongoing battles in America. The book has previously published material on a variety of issues in the religious conservatives' campaign to rule our country--to make it truly "one nation under God": school prayer, reproductive rights, marriage equality, and school vouchers. Lynn weaves essays on these topics with later developments and afterthoughts on what has happened in the interim. The use of two typefaces for reprints and new material is helpful in following the narrative. His style is easy and graceful, and he has a wry sense of humor. Lynn brings readers into the center of the controversies and introduces us to many of the people we've only seen in clips on the evening news. I highly recommend this book. Full disclosure: I am a member of Americans United. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Crazy times in America... By Skeezek Timely and great interview with author on CSPAN Washington Journal on 8/24/2015. Look it up in the library on Cspan. The best part of it was the callers from the south.....scary, very scary... Be sure to say your prayers at night that the religious crazies will run themselves into a ditch, and not the Whitehouse. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. This collection of speeches, testimony, and correspondence in ... By Terry L. Miller This collection of speeches, testimony, and correspondence in Rev. Barry Lynn's (and thereby Americans United for Separation of Church and State) long-fought defense of secular government is a fascinating and troubling book. When someone still so connected to his religious roots can see so clearly the dangers we face from those wanting to tear down that wall of separation it is difficult to understand why we still allow it to go on. Lynn understands the need to defend religious freedom and the need to defend secular government. This is a just treatment of the subject.

A central player in every major church-state-separation battle for decades, the Rev. Barry W. Lynn understands the complexities of this divisive issue like few others. As a long-time activist, a civil rights lawyer, and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he offers a unique perspective and a wealth of experience on church-state controversies. In this lively book, he has compiled his writings from various sources to explore in depth the many ways religious extremists have attempted to erode individual liberties. The topics range from publicly-promoted prayer to efforts to undermine public education and replace it with taxpayer-subsidized vouchers for religious schools, interfering with end-of-life and reproductive rights, censorship, and belligerence directed against nonbelievers and minorities. Lynn concludes that the ultimate goal of these extremist forces consisting mainly of the Protestant Religious Right and the Roman Catholic hierarchy is the creation of a corporate theocracy, a decidedly undemocratic system of government in which nonconservative Christians, along with humanist, feminists, and the LGBTQ community, are relegated to second-class status in America.

No one is more on top of the challenges facing the first amendment than Barry Lynn. We are lucky he is paying attention, for no one sees more clearly how important it is that our government and whatever religion you choose to practice remain separated. By doing so, he is one of those who are keeping the lamp of liberty lit. With intelligence, wisdom, humanity, and a devilish wit, Lynn makes the issues come alive, and thereby we all become wiser. It is a book you should grab and read. You won't regret it. LEWIS BLACK, comedian This book is a must-read for feminists and for all Americans who support women's rights especially reproductive rights. Increasingly religious liberty is being used to block women's access to abortion and birth control. That is religious liberty for everyone employers, right-wing politicians, bishops except women who need access. Barry Lynn knows all the tricks, twists, and turns of those who want to turn the clock back several centuries. When he speaks, I take notes. His insights from twenty-five years on the front lines are extremely valuable. ELEANOR SMEAL, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation Before I fled the religious right Barry Lynn would have been a deadly enemy. I'd have seen him as someone standing between us and the theocracy we were trying to turn America into. This book is literally a defense of freedom against the theocratic illness. As Lynn writes *From cradle to grave*, the Religious Right is concerned about every choice you make. It is up to us to stop them from dominating every aspect of American life too. This book is a good place to start. FRANK SCHAEFFER, author of *Crazy for God* About the Author The Rev. Barry W. Lynn has been the executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State since 1992. He is the author of *Piety and Politics*, *The Right to Religious Liberty*, and, most recently, *First Freedom First* (coauthored with C. Welton Gaddy). An accomplished speaker and lecturer, Lynn has appeared frequently in the media. News programs on which Lynn has appeared include PBS's *NewsHour*, NBC's *Today Show*, Fox News Channel's *O'Reilly Factor*, ABC's *Nightline*, CNN's *Crossfire*, CNN's *Anderson Cooper 360*, CBS's *60 Minutes*, MSN's *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*, Fox News Channel's *Hannity Colmes*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, CNN's *Larry King Live*, and the national nightly news on NBC, ABC, and CBS. On the radio, Lynn was the host of *Culture Shocks*, a daily look at various issues affecting society and the culture. He writes frequently on religious liberty issues, and has had essays published in

outlets such as USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Nation.