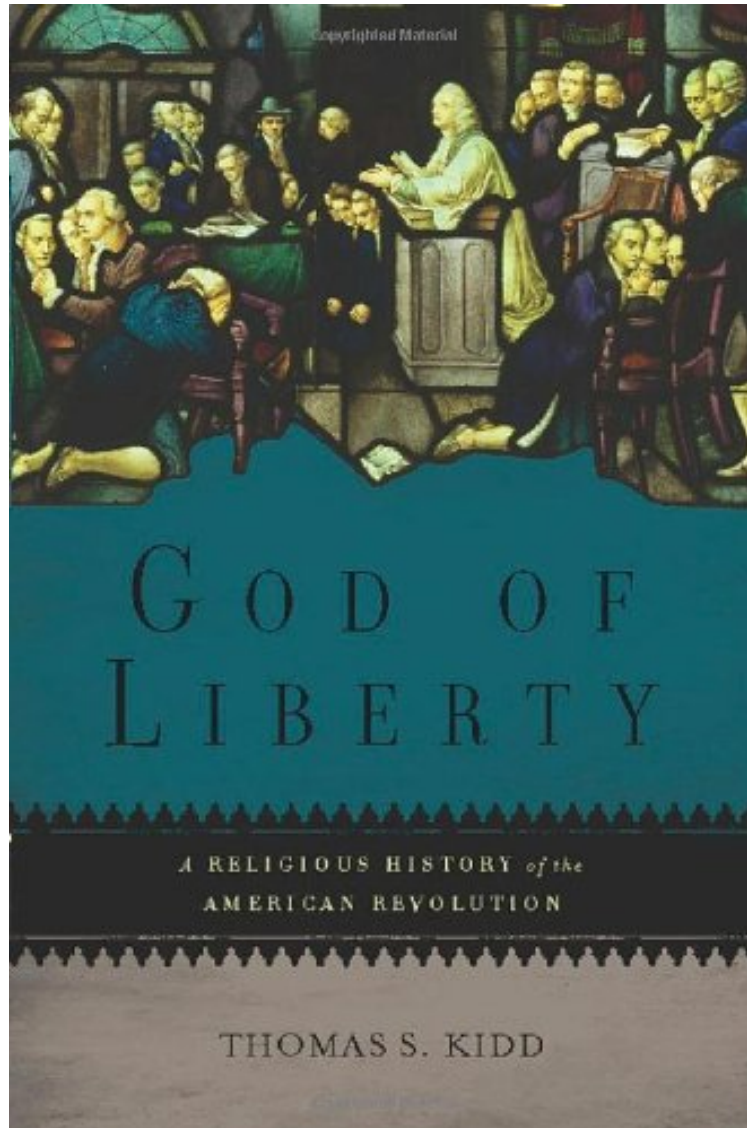


[DOWNLOAD] God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution

# God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution

*Thomas S. Kidd*

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**Thomas S. Kidd : God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Informative Account Of Religon And The American RevolutionBy the1911patriotI am a Christian, American Patriot, self-published author, and amateur student of the American Revolution. I purchased this book to further my understanding of the faith of America's founders. This book

was packed full of information. The author covers all denominations in Colonial America. Readers will learn of Calvinism, the Puritans, the established churches of many of the 13 colonies, the Great Awakening, persecution of religious dissenters, and evangelical Christianity during the American evolution. I am an conservative, historic Baptist personally and I had previously read the late Baptist pastor James Beller's "America in Crimson Red" which has a few chapters on Baptists and the American Revolution; I purchased "God of Liberty" to read an entire book on the religious climate of the American Revolution. I especially enjoyed the material on Jefferson and religious liberty/civil liberty/the election of 1800. There are also some humorous stories-including one early 1800s pastor (Elias Smith) who proclaimed Thomas Jefferson to be the "sixth angel of the apocalypse" prophesied of in the book of Revelation! Overall, this is a very good book for individuals interested in the subject matter. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Valuable Insights By Greg God of Liberty provides a valuable perspective on important historical concepts. Kidd is perhaps at his best in discussing equality by creation and the various ways in which the idea played out in the American Revolutionary period and thereafter. Also, Kidd is able to show the historical importance of the belief that just as all are created equal, all are equally fallen and in need of God's grace. While he may be fairly said to write from an evangelical perspective, Kidd is also able to provide ample evidence of our fallen humanity in the unjust actions of the faithful, such as using providential rhetoric to justify torching the property of Indians. While God of Liberty has many valuable insights, my sense is that it could benefit from being narrower in scope. Given its scope, it's not quite comprehensive enough in some areas. To point out an example, missing from the discussion of Puritan conversion theology is the perspective of Edmund S. Morgan's study Visible Saints. A dominant belief within Puritanism was that saving faith was experienced, but it was less a transaction than something received, and its reception had to follow a clear progression that one could give a verbal narrative of at times as a condition for either joining the church, being baptized, or being able to receive the Lord's Supper. Further, the process of receiving saving faith could take years and one could desire to receive it, and not receive it. All told though, God of Liberty provides many valuable historical insights and is written in a clear and accessible style. It's a worthwhile read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is helpful to get a popular scholarly book on ... By Ferrell Foster It is helpful to get a popular scholarly book on religion's role in the U.S. revolutionary period (and some beyond). It can help correct both secular fear of talking about the role of religion in the shaping of our nation and right-wing hyperbole about the U.S. being a "Christian nation." Dr. Kidd makes clear the importance of evangelical Christianity in shaping our nation, but he also makes clear that some Christians and others worked together to make this a non-sectarian nation.

Before the Revolutionary War, America was a nation divided by different faiths. But when the war for independence sparked in 1776, colonists united under the banner of religious freedom. Evangelical frontiersmen and Deist intellectuals set aside their differences to defend a belief they shared, the right to worship freely. Inspiring an unlikely but powerful alliance, it was the idea of religious liberty that brought the colonists together in the battle against British tyranny. In God of Liberty, historian Thomas S. Kidd argues that the improbable partnership of evangelicals and Deists saw America through the Revolutionary War, the ratification of the Constitution, and the election of Thomas Jefferson in 1800. A thought-provoking reminder of the crucial role religion played in the Revolutionary era, God of Liberty represents both a timely appeal for spiritual diversity and a groundbreaking excavation of how faith powered the American Revolution.

From Booklist Kidd directs his magnifying glass on a rare slice of the American Revolution: its religious aspects. The organization of the work is more topical than chronological, giving a chapters worth of attention to matters of racial equality, slavery, revivalism, chaplains, the Constitution, and the 1800 election of Jefferson as president. If there are common threads running throughout, they are the questions: How was the Revolution influenced by religion, and how was religion affected by the Revolution? Kidd is quite adept at providing answers while explaining the complicated connections between religion, politics, freedom, and patriotism that make up the Revolutionary period. After reading this, some may wonder why religion is so shortchanged in other Revolutionary treatments. In his epilogue, the author also has something to say about the notion of a Christian America, a topic that is particularly relevant today. --Wade Osburn Mark Noll, author of Americas God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln This deeply researched, clearly organized, and well written book illuminates a complex and often controversial history. The Revolutionary and Constitutional periods were neither Christian nor godless as these terms are used in modern polemics. Instead, patriots and leaders of the early United States united to support disestablishment and common principles about the need for virtue to insure republican freedoms, despite holding different personal beliefs. Thomas Kidd is a remarkably sure-footed guide through this treacherous historical terrain.