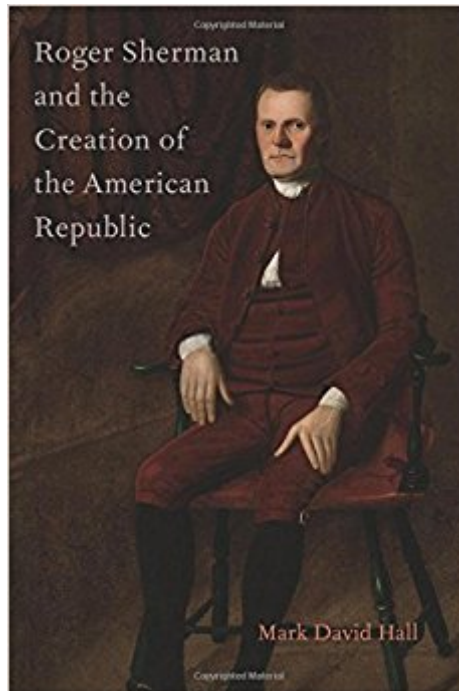




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Roger Sherman And The Creation Of The American Republic



Synopsis

One of leading figures of his day, Roger Sherman was a member of the five-man committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence and an influential delegate at the Constitutional Convention. As a Representative and Senator in the new republic, he had a hand in determining the proper scope of the national government's power as well as drafting the Bill of Rights. In *Roger Sherman and the Creation of the American Republic*, Mark David Hall explores Sherman's political theory and shows how it informed his many contributions to America's founding. A close examination of Sherman's religious beliefs provides insight into how those beliefs informed his political actions. Hall shows that Sherman, like many founders, was influenced by Calvinist political thought, a tradition that played a role in the founding generation's opposition to Great Britain, and led them to develop political institutions designed to prevent corruption, promote virtue, and protect rights. Contrary to oft-repeated assertions that the founders advocated a strictly secular policy, Hall argues persuasively that most founders believed Christianity should play an important role in the new American republic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Professor Mark David Hall offers a look at one of the most important of the least known Founders and Framers of the Constitution. The author's approach is NOT biographic (by his own assertion, loc. 230) but rather a careful examination of the influence of Sherman's religion (New Light Congregational) on his political acts. Roger Sherman's resumé is one of the most impressive of

the founders. He was the ONLY Founder to sign all four of the Great State Papers of the United States (Continental Association, 1774; Declaration of Independence, 1776; Articles of Confederation, 1777; & U.S. Constitution, 1787). He addressed the Constitutional Convention more times (138) than any but three of the other Delegates (Gouverneur Morris & James Wilson of PA and James Madison of VA) and served on five of its committees, an honor equalled only by Hugh Williamson of NC and exceeded only by Rufus King (6) of MA. Professor Hall's work impressively examines Sherman's religion and its influence on him. The book also explores Sherman's political contributions. Where the book falls short (for this reader at least) is the promised connection, i.e. a clear illustration of HOW (and where) Mr. Sherman's particular brand of religious belief made its way into the Founding Documents. For the purpose of the author's thesis, one could (carefully) stipulate that religion influenced the Founders, or even influenced the drafting of the Great Papers. Notably, Professor Hall's book promised much more: "In this book I contend that the political ideas of many leaders in the founding era are best understood in light of a long tradition of CALVINIST reflection on politics" - but in the end, concludes without living up to the contention.

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