



National Best Seller
**CONSERVATIVE
COMEBACKS**
TO
**LIBERAL
LIES**

“...political and media spin are shot to pieces by hard facts.”

—Thomas Sowell, *New York Times* bestselling author of
“Applied Economics” and “Black Rednecks And White Liberals”

Issue by Issue Responses to the Most
Common Claims of the Left from A to Z

GREGG JACKSON

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Chapter 3

C is for Church and State:

What Our Constitution Says About Religion

Claims:

1. "The Constitution mandates the separation of church and state."
2. "America is a secular nation, not a Judeo-Christian one, whose founding documents- the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution- were based on secular principles."
3. "Republicans and conservatives are fascists and Nazis who are always imposing their Christian moral values on others."
4. "Separation of Church and State prohibits any mention of God in public places."
5. "Prayer in schools is unconstitutional."
6. "Government has a responsibility to create and sustain an environment of neutrality so that no citizen is offended by the religious speech of another."

The liberal left has repeated the phrase "separation of church and state" so often the majority of the American public believe the words actually appear in our Constitution.

They don't. That phrase doesn't exist in our Constitution, Bill of Rights or Declaration of Independence. Rather, the phrase appeared in a private letter Thomas Jefferson wrote on January 1, 1802—eleven years after the First Amendment was ratified.

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By improperly attributing Jefferson's private words to the Constitution, the left has attempted to revise history and the true meaning of the First Amendment. Their hope, it would seem, is to dismantle the religious underpinnings of America by distorting and manipulating the First Amendment to justify their staunch opposition to conservative federal court nominees, school choice, faith-based initiatives, traditional marriage, voluntary school prayer, recitation of the pledge of allegiance, the flying of the American flag and the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools and courthouses.

Here's what the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution actually says:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

A more thorough examination of the First Amendment and those who authored and debated it reveals the Founders never intended there be a wall between church and state. The intent was for individual American citizens to be assured of uninhibited freedom to practice their religion, unencumbered by the constraints of the federal government.

CLAIM #1: "The Constitution mandates the separation of church and state."

RESPONSE: The First Amendment ensures freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.

The First Amendment clearly spells out that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion; or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The First Amendment was written with the intent of preventing the United States from establishing a national religion, to give American citizens total religious freedom without the fear of being coerced to show devotion to any particular national religion.

"Free exercise" means Americans can profess their religious beliefs—whatever they may or may not be—in any manner, any time and in any place without prohibition from the government and the courts.

The complete discussions of the Founding Fathers vis-a-vis the First Amendment is contained in the Congressional Records from June 7 to September 25, 1789. Nowhere in these discussions is the term "separation of church and state" ever mentioned.¹

The term "separation of church and state" originated primarily from two different sources—the Danbury Letter and the Supreme Court case of *Everson v. Board of Education*.

The Danbury Letter is a private letter Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Association of Danbury Baptists, eleven years after the ratification of the First Amendment. He used the term "a wall of separation between church and state" to assure the Baptists the federal government would not establish a federally recognized "state" religion.

In *Everson v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court ruled in 1947 that a New Jersey law which reimbursed parents for the cost of bus transportation to public and religious schools did not violate the First Amendment. Chief Justice Hugo Black, however, in his majority opinion wrote inaccurately that the First Amendment created a "complete separation between the state and religion." He cited Jefferson's wording from the private Danbury Letter rather than the actual text of the First Amendment which clearly bars Congress from prohibiting the free exercise of religion.²

CLAIM #2: "America is a secular nation, not a Judeo-Christian one, whose founding documents—the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—were based on secular principles."

RESPONSE: America was founded on Judeo-Christian principles by those with the intent of securing religious liberty and who fled from England to escape religious persecution.

The signing of the Mayflower Compact on Nov 11, 1620, marked the first time in recorded history a free community of equal men created a new civil government by means of a social contract. Governmental authority was derived from the consent of the people with equal treatment under the law. The principles in the Mayflower Compact were later incorporated into the Constitution.

Writes historian Paul Johnson: “What was remarkable about this particular contract was that it was not between a servant and a master, or a people and a king, but between a group of like-minded individuals and each other, with God as a witness and symbolic co-signatory.”³

All the early settlements from Massachusetts to Georgia consisted of Christians of all denominations and all the early American colonies were established on Christian principles.⁴

The Puritans established the concept of biblically based governments modeled on church covenants which served as the foundation for our constitutional form of government.⁵

And that continues today. According to Gallup polls, about eighty-five percent of Americans profess to being Christians. Only a small minority—about three or four percent claim to be secular atheists. America is mainly comprised of self-described Christians—not secular atheists.⁶

Greek and Roman ideas of rights didn’t form the foundation of our American system, according to secular humanists Michael Villey and Richard Tuck of England. Their studies concluded these concepts originated from the Bible.⁷

The concept of “inalienable rights,” concludes author Gary Amos, is traceable to the Scriptures, not the ideas of the Greeks and Romans. Only in the Bible exists the notion of “all men being created equal” and being “endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights.” The Book of Genesis states God created man in His image and likeness—an idea foreign to the Greeks and Romans who practiced polytheism—a belief in many gods.^{8,9}

CLAIM #3: “Republicans and conservatives are fascists and Nazis who are always imposing their Christian moral values on others.”

RESPONSE: Nazis were not Christians.

Nor did Nazis resemble modern day American conservatives. Their beliefs were the exact opposite. They didn’t believe in God and they didn’t respect individual life or the rule of law and free market capitalism.

Most Nazis were atheists who esteemed anti-theist nihilists such

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as Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, who had little regard for equality under the law or any form of free trade.

The Nazi Party was called the National Socialist German Workers' Party (*Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*) under Adolf Hitler. It adopted a pagan ideology which rejected the church. Members were "baptized," but not in Christian churches, becoming instead members of the "Church of Germany"—atheist pagans, like many of America's liberals.

Since most on the far left are self-admitted secularists (as opposed to Judeo-Christian monotheists) they actually have more in common with Nazis (from a religious perspective) than the Republicans do. Liberals are famous for claiming their opponents are what they themselves are guilty of being.

Polls show Democrats tend to be less likely to believe in God and attend church regularly than Republicans who have a more theistic world view.

Nazism was a pagan ideology which resulted in the murder of 13 million people, including 6 million Christians and 6 million Jews. As American author and journalist William L. Shirer wrote in his book *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, the Nazis sought to "exterminate irrevocably... the strange and foreign Christian faiths imported into Germany in the ill-omened year 800."¹⁰ Shirer told how the Nazis planned to replace denominations with the "National Church" whose symbol would be a swastika and copy of Adolf Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*.

Most liberal Democrats have attempted to replace our Judeo-Christian heritage with their own religion—Secular Humanism. Both Nazism and Secular Humanism are derived from the same basic assumptions—namely that man is perfectible, there is no divine higher authority or creator (God) and all truth and morals are "relative."

Conservatives tend to be more theistic and believe their rights are unalienable—that they are derived from our Creator and not—as secular humanist Nazis thought—from the state.

Liberal Democrats leverage the mainstream media, courts, public schools, entertainment industry and unions to disseminate their leftist propaganda which closely resembles the Nazis' Ministry of Propaganda run by Joseph Goebbels. The left-wing liberal slant in

the mainstream media has been well documented, as has the abundance of movies with a left-of-center tilt put out by Hollywood.

The liberal Democrat's divisive class warfare and race-baiting rhetoric ("tax cuts for the rich," "disenfranchised minorities," "two-Americas") closely resembles the Nazis' use of similar sloganism and demagoguery to incite racial hatred toward the Jews and other "sub-human" groups.

The liberal left's support for abortion-on-demand without restrictions, "therapeutic" genetic cloning, evolution, embryonic stem cell research and assisted suicide is frighteningly reminiscent of the human "experimentation" routinely practiced by the Nazis.

The liberal left's support for race-based preferences ("Affirmative Action") is quite similar to the Nazi belief that the "Aryan master race" was superior to all others and that some races are inferior.

The assault by the liberal left on Christians in the U.S. (Waco, Ruby Ridge, the demonizing of the Catholic church in the mainstream media, the Ninth Circuit Court's removing God from the Pledge of Allegiance and removal of the Ten Commandments from public court houses) is quite similar to the anti-Christian sentiment in Nazi Germany which was a precursor to the millions of Christians the Nazis exterminated.

CLAIM #4: "Separation of Church and State prohibits any mention of God in public places."

RESPONSE: The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and many of the Founders' public speeches all refer to God, as do many of our public government buildings.

About twenty-five percent of the U.S. Capitol's statuary incorporates a religious message, including a statue of Father Junipero Serra ("The Apostle of California") holding a cross in his hands, as well as Marcus Witman, a missionary, carrying a Bible in his hand.

A 14-by-20-foot painting of the baptism of Pocahontas is located in the Capitol Rotunda, as well as *Pilgrims at Prayer* and Christopher Columbus holding a cross while praying with his crew.

A stained-glass window showing Washington seeking Divine

guidance is in the Congressional chapel. A line from Psalm 16:1 is etched into the stained glass.

"In God We Trust" is engraved in the Speaker's rostrum.

Moses is depicted in the House of Representatives.

Our currency is engraved with the words "In God we trust."

If the Founders put religious statues, symbols and paintings in our most sacred places of government, how could anybody reasonably conclude they would advocate God's removal from our classrooms, courthouses and other public places?

CLAIM #5: "Prayer in schools is unconstitutional."

RESPONSE: For 185 years, prayer was allowed in public schools.

It wasn't until 1961 that prayer was removed from the public schools, after the Supreme Court ruled in *Engel v. Vitale* that the Constitution prohibits an establishment of religion, and that school officials may not compose any public prayer even if the prayer itself is denominationally neutral.

However, the court, when making its decision, failed to acknowledge an earlier case from 1844—*Vidal v. Girard's Executors*. In that case, the court ruled "there is an obligation to teach what alone the Bible can teach, viz. a pure system of morality."

The 1961 *Engel v. Vitale* decision which removed God from the classroom has had disastrous social consequences. Since then: birth rates for unwed girls age 15 to 19 have increased; sexually transmitted diseases among 10 to 14-year-olds have increased; premarital sex has increased; violent crime has increased; adolescent homicides have increased significantly; test scores and achievement scores have plummeted.

CLAIM #6: "Government has a responsibility to create and sustain an environment of neutrality so no citizen is offended by the religious speech of another."

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**RESPONSE: The government can't be "neutral"
and has no constitutional responsibility to do
so.**

When the government prohibits the child who believes in God from expressing himself so as not to offend the atheists, the child who believes in God is offended.

If discussions about sex are not only allowed in public schools, but are, in fact, encouraged, then discussions about God should enjoy the same, considering its relevance and historical significance as the foundation for almost 200 years in American public education.

Since a *Newsweek* poll conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates found that ninety-four percent of Americans believe in God versus four percent who are self-described atheists, why should the small minority of atheists have a right to inhibit voluntary school prayer? Why should a small minority take precedence over the vast majority of Americans' belief in God and their constitutional right to freely express themselves without government interference or prohibition?

The responsibility of the government is to ensure the Constitution is being faithfully abided by and executed. The government can't trample on each citizen's First Amendment right to freely exercise his or her religion.

Furthermore, the government has an obligation to ensure the prevention of a self-imposed national state sponsored religion (i.e. secular humanism).

Finally, government must allow the states, unimpeded, to deal with religious establishments and aid religious institutions as they see fit.

The government does not have the constitutional authority to prohibit the "Free exercise of religion." There is no constitutional guarantee that protects citizens from being "offended." Government's only duty is to ensure the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion.

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