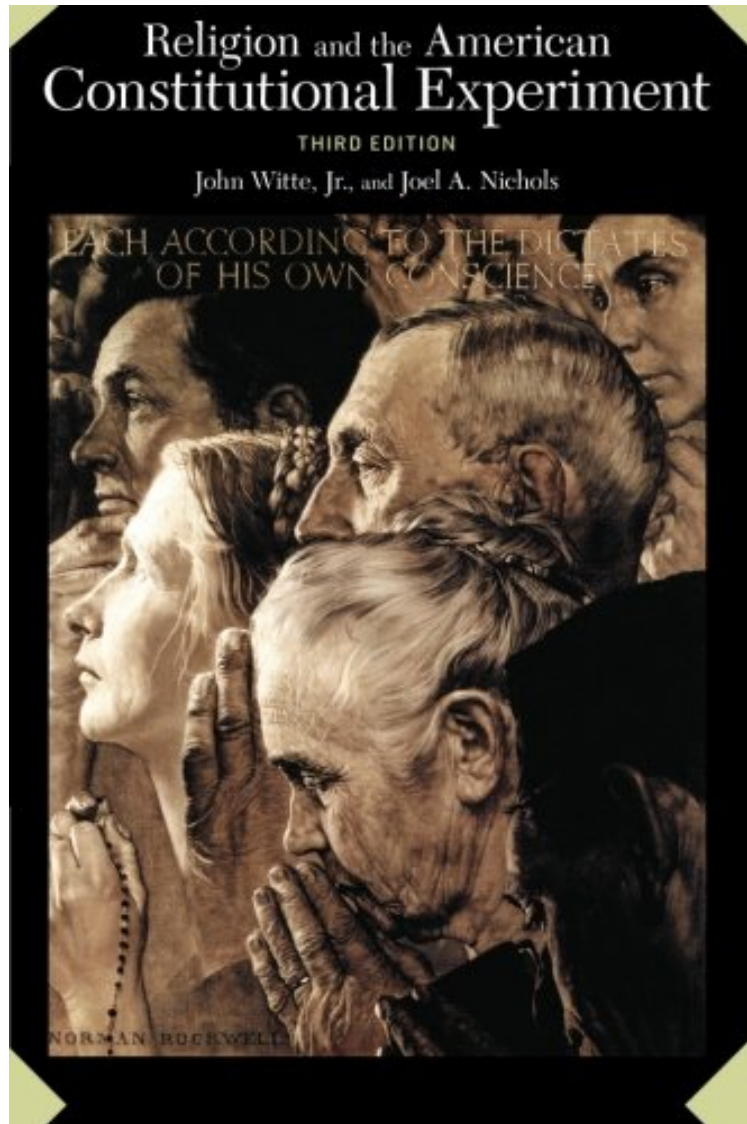


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The third edition of this classic book provides a comprehensive, multidisciplinary overview of the history, theory, law, and comparative analysis of American religious liberty from the earliest colonial period through the most recent Supreme Court cases. The authors present balanced, accessible discussions of controversial issues, such as funding religious schools and charities and displaying religious symbols on government property. Three chapters new to this edition cover the free exercise of religion, religion and public life, and religious organizations and the law. In addition, an expanded concluding chapter places the American experience in global context by comparing contemporary American religious liberty law with international human rights standards.

This new edition of John Witte's indispensable volume, done in collaboration with Joel Nichols, lives up to the standards of the previous volumes. Anyone interested in religious liberty and freedom, besieged in so many parts of the world, will find their narrative of the struggle for religious rights and liberties in American history illuminating. It is impossible to recommend this book too highly. Jean Bethke Elshtain, Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics, The University of Chicago, author most recently of *Sovereignty: God, State and Self*, her Gifford lectures. This book is an extremely valuable, easily readable, history of understandings of free exercise and nonestablishment. In a field in which that history is often portrayed to support one modern outlook or another, the account the authors provide is lucid, full, balanced, and highly persuasive. Kent Greenawalt, Columbia Law School