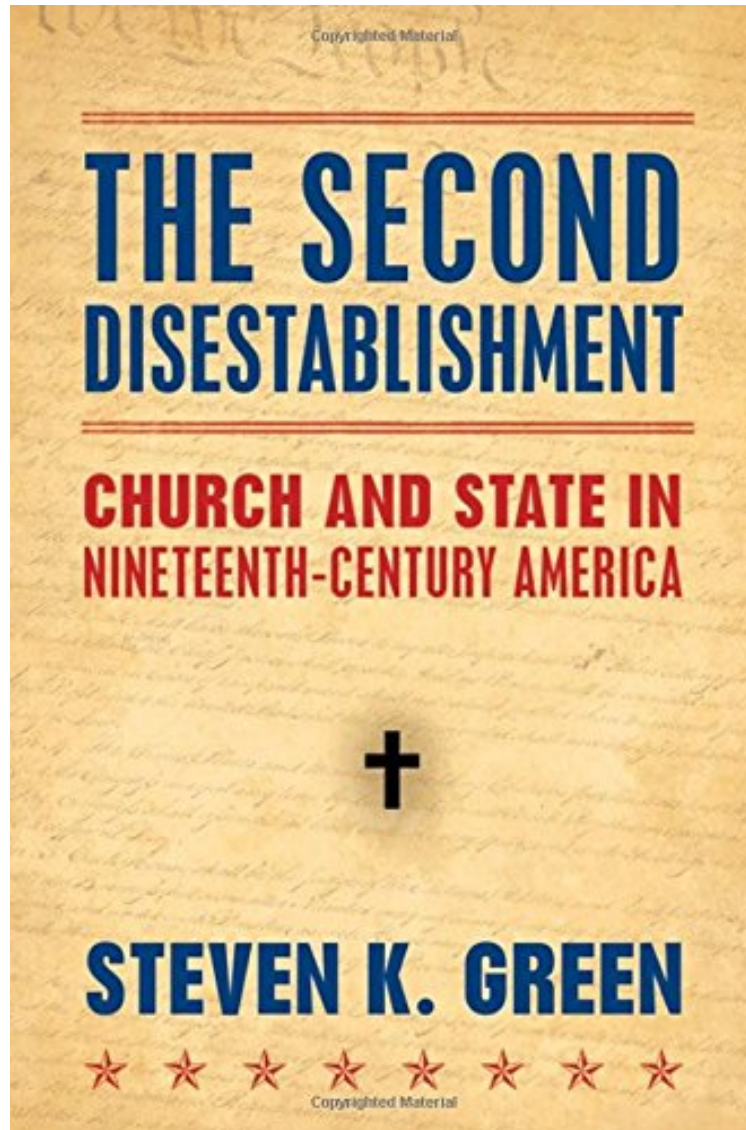


The Second Disestablishment: Church and State in Nineteenth-Century America

Steven Green

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Steven Green : The Second Disestablishment: Church and State in Nineteenth-Century America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Second Disestablishment: Church and State in Nineteenth-Century America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Enlightening!By K. JohnsonThis is a great book! It fills the

huge gap between the Founding in the form of the Constitution, especially the 1st amendment of the Bill of Rights, and the Supreme Court decisions of the 1940's and beyond, regarding church-state issues. Even though the Supreme Court was little involved with that issue in the 19th Century other courts were, including many state Supreme Courts. The U.S. Supreme Court referenced some of these decisions in their later 20th Century decisions. So, even though there was about a 40 year gap in important church-state decisions, the movement toward disestablishment was a powerful undercurrent from the Founding on and not some new idea, as some in the mid 20th Century tried to argue. After all, our country had a few other things on its mind during the first part of the 20th Century---WWI, the Great Depression and WWII. I'm anxiously looking forward to the author's book about disestablishment in the 20th Century

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent scholarship
By George Harris
This is scholarship at its best. Professor Green traces the evolution of establishment clause issues throughout the 19th century and shows that the conflicts among Protestants, Catholics, and secularists during the first century of American democracy presaged the conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries. This book is an important contribution that debunks the historical accounts now favored in conservative circles both on and off the Court.

Debates over the proper relationship between church and state in America tend to focus either on the founding period or the twentieth century. Left undiscussed is the long period between the ratification of the Constitution and the 1947 Supreme Court ruling in *Everson v. Board of Education*, which mandated that the Establishment Clause applied to state and local governments. Steven Green illuminates this neglected period, arguing that during the 19th century there was a "second disestablishment." By the early 1800s, formal political disestablishment was the rule at the national level, and almost universal among the states. Yet the United States remained a Christian nation, and Protestant beliefs and values dominated American culture and institutions. Evangelical Protestantism rose to cultural dominance through moral reform societies and behavioral laws that were undergirded by a maxim that Christianity formed part of the law. Simultaneously, law became secularized, religious pluralism increased, and the Protestant-oriented public education system was transformed. This latter impulse set the stage for the constitutional disestablishment of the twentieth century. *The Second Disestablishment* examines competing ideologies: of evangelical Protestants who sought to create a "Christian nation," and of those who advocated broader notions of separation of church and state. Green shows that the second disestablishment is the missing link between the Establishment Clause and the modern Supreme Court's church-state decisions.

"The Second Disestablishment illuminates much that has gone unexplained about the progressive separation of church and state, not only from American politics, but also from law itself.... The author has brought the nineteenth century into a historiography that has largely ignored it."--Church History
"In this important book Green centers the debate about American church-state relations in the neglected but crucial arena of nineteenth-century state judiciary actions. States by 1900 generally endorsed Jefferson's principle of church-state separation, but only after a long series of legal disputes about a purported religious basis of the common law. Blasphemy and Sabbath statutes, religious oath requirements and a Protestant public school system all have a place in Green's fascinating account." --R. Laurence Moore, co-author of *The Godless Constitution*
"The Second Disestablishment is one of the most penetrating books to have been written in recent years on the American ideal of the separation of church and state. Those who have argued that the 'Christian Nation' rhetoric of the nineteenth century contravenes and even trumps the separationist ideals of the Founding Era and modern Supreme Court jurisprudence will hereafter have to deal with Green's powerful counterargument." -- Derek H. Davis, author of *Religion and the Continental Congress*
"Antidisestablishmentarianism is long, awful word. Steven Green has given us a long, wonderful look at the 100 year wilderness in which our nation wandered around that concept. Warring camps, nearly everyone, fights for secularization or sacralization of society. 'Separation of church and state' is up for grabs. It is not complete, not neat, yet, not obsolete. Green offers fresh thinking on a perennial topic." --James M. Dunn, Professor of Christianity and Public Policy, The Divinity School at Wake Forest University
About the Author
Steven K. Green is a Professor of Law and Adjunct Professor of History at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon., where he directs the interdisciplinary Center for Religion, Law and Democracy. Green is the co-author of *Religious Freedom and the Supreme Court*, a case-book on church and state, and the author of more than two dozen scholarly articles on religion, law and history. He received a law degree from the University of Texas and a masters and PhD in constitutional history from the University of North Carolina.