

God's Hand in the Origin and Destiny of America



Patriotism



Religion



Source: WSJ/NORC poll of 1,019 adults conducted

“What’s so great
about America?
Ask an Immigrant.”



Were the Pilgrims Inspired to Come to
America?



“the scattering of the seed
of a great people which
God with His own hands is
planting on a predestined
shore.”

- Alexis de Tocqueville

Was God's Hand in the Revolutionary War?



“My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you to do, and more than could be reasonably expected, but your country is at stake, your wives, your houses, and all that you hold dear. You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you will consent to stay one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you can probably never do under any other circumstance.”

-George Washington

“Again the drums rolled. This time the men began stepping forward. Now that is an amazing scene, to say the least, and it’s real. This wasn’t some contrivance of a screenwriter.”

-David McCullough

“God Almighty inclined their hearts to listen to the proposal and they engaged anew.”

-Nathanael Greene

“The disadvantageous circumstances on our part under which the war was undertaken, can never be forgotten. *The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condition were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving; while the unparalleled perseverance of the Armies...was little short of a standing miracle.*”

-George Washington

“The man must be bad indeed who can look upon the events of the American Revolution without feeling the warmest gratitude towards the great Author of the Universe whose divine interposition was so frequently manifested in our behalf.”

-George Washington

Was the Constitution a Secular or Inspired Work?



“Because we have intended the book to reach a general audience, and also because the material we have cited is for the most part familiar to historians and political scientists, we have dispensed with the usual scholarly apparatus of footnotes.”

The Godless Constitution

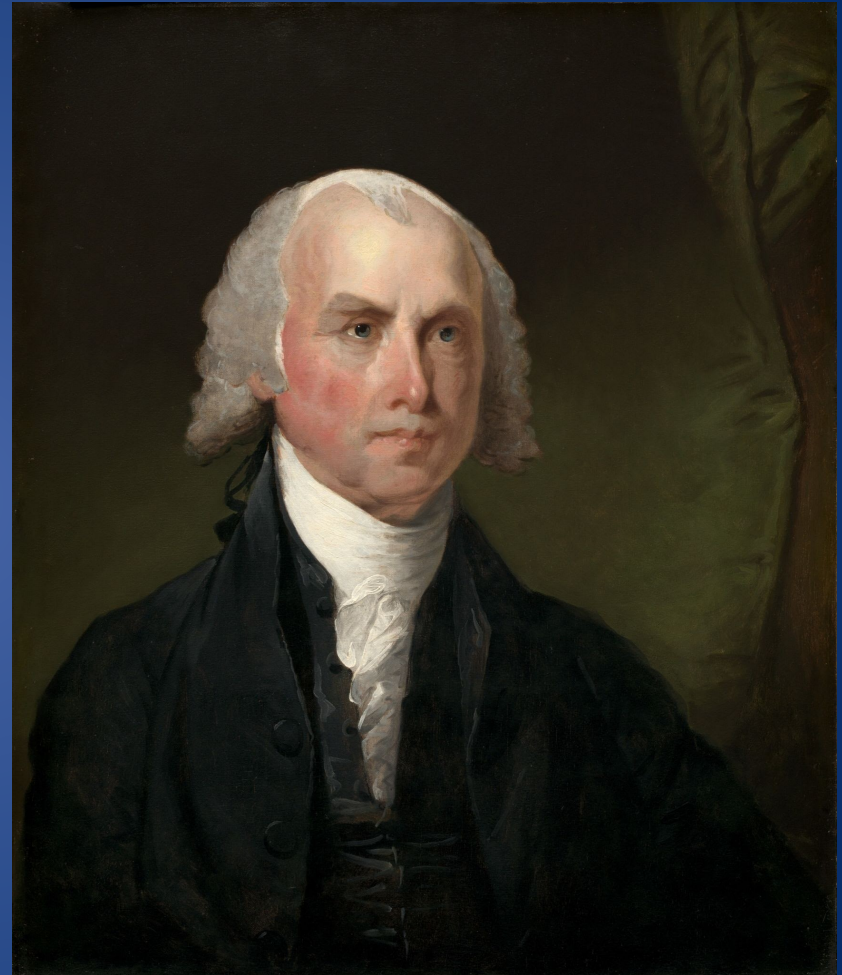
Quotes by Founding Fathers 1760-1805
(Prepared by Donald S. Gull, for the course in political science at University
of Houston)

References to:
Madison 34
Hamilton 217

34
217

“It is impossible for the man of pious reflection not to perceive in it a finger of that Almighty hand which has been so frequently and signally extended to our relief in the critical stages of the revolution.”

- James Madison





“[The adoption of the Constitution] will demonstrate as visibly the finger of Providence, as any possible event in the course of human affairs can ever designate it.”

- George Washington

Inspired Principles of the Constitution

First: Separation of powers

Second: A written bill of rights

Third: Division of powers between the nation and the states

“The particular powers that are reserved to the states are part of the inspiration. For example, the power to make laws on personal relationships is reserved to the states. Thus, laws of marriage and family rights and duties are state laws.”

– President Dallin H. Oaks

“No state shall ... deprive any person of life, *liberty*, or property, without due process of law.”

- 14th Amendment

“deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and traditions.”

Washington vs. Glucksberg (1997)

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution ... are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

- Amendment X to the Constitution

“The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including ... the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. ... Until the latter part of the 20th century, such a right was entirely unknown in American Law. ... *Roe* was egregiously wrong from the start. Its reasoning was exceptionally weak. ... It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people’s elected representatives.

Fourth: Popular sovereignty

Fifth: The rule of law and not of men

The Constitution—A Unique Document in History



“We have gone back to ancient history for models of Government, and examined the different forms of those Republics, which, having been originally formed with the seeds of their own dissolution, now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, *but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances.*”

- Benjamin Franklin

“Happily for America, happily, we trust, for the whole human race, [the founders of the nation] ... accomplished a revolution which has no parallel in the annals of human society. *They reared the fabrics of governments which have no model on the face of the globe.*”

- James Madison

“Never, *never anywhere*, had there been a government instituted on the consent of the governed.”

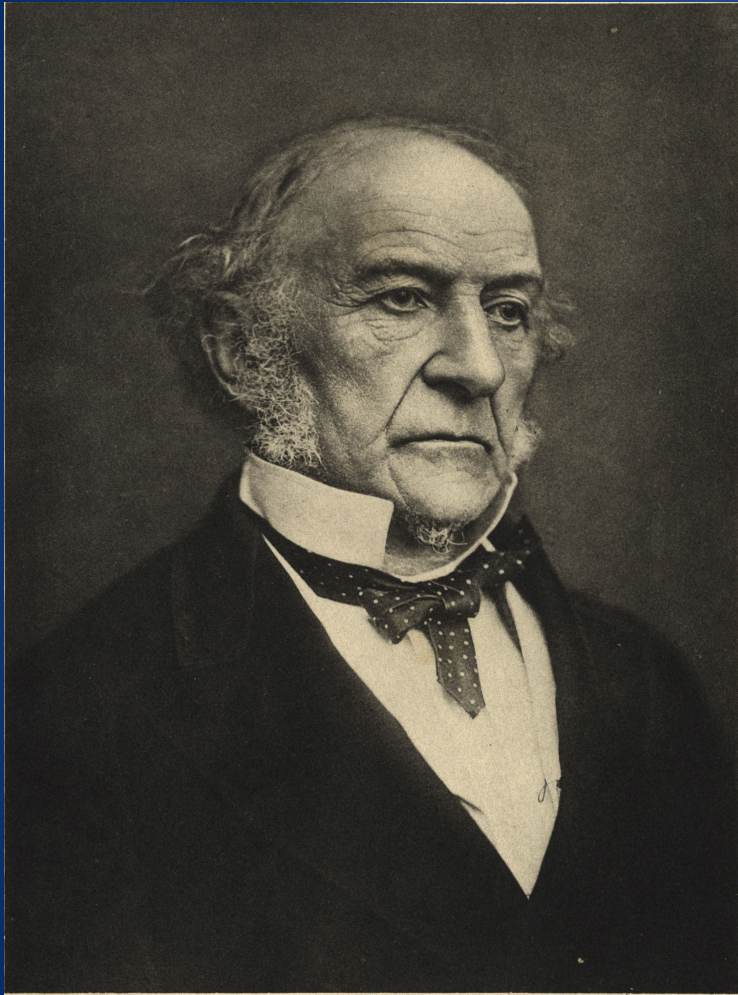
-David McCullough

“In the year 1787 the Convention’s proposals were essentially new, untried.”

- Catherine Bowen

“[The American Constitution] will be the wonder and admiration of all future generations and the model of all future constitutions.”

-William Pitt (British Prime Minister)



“The American Constitution is, so far as I can see, the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.”

-William Gladstone
(British Prime Minister)

**If the Constitution Is Inspired,
Why Doesn't It Explicitly Prohibit
Slavery?**

*“Our original Constitution codified slavery—it took a civil war and three critical amendments to *begin* to address that terrible (evil) wrong. Why not say so?”*
(emphasis added)

- Law Professor

“The first step to be taken to put a stop to slavery in this country is to leave off importing slaves.” Later he added: “In the year one thousand eight hundred and eight there will be an end to the African trade in America.”

-Benjamin Rush

“There shall be neither slavery nor
involuntary servitude in the said territory.”

The Northwest Ordinance—1787

“They [the Founding Fathers] defined with tolerable distinctness in what respects they did consider all men created equal—equal with ‘certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ *This they said, and this [they] meant.* They did not mean to assert the obvious untruth, that all were then actually enjoying that equality, nor yet, that they were about to confer it immediately upon them. *They meant simply to declare the right, so that the enforcement of it might follow as fast as*

“It is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another.” The Lord then immediately states: “And for this purpose [to eliminate bondage or slavery] have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose.”

-Doctrine &Covenants 101:79-80

How Could Imperfect Men Produce an Inspired Constitution?

“[In 1809] men were following, with bated breath, the march of Napoleon, and waiting with feverish impatience for latest news of the wars. And all the while in their own homes, babies were being born. But who could think about *babies*?

Everybody was thinking about *battles*. ... In one year, lying midway between Trafalgar and Waterloo, there stole into the world a host of heroes! During that one year, 1809, Mr. [William] Gladstone was born in Liverpool; Alfred Tennyson at the Somersby rectory; and Oliver Wendell Holmes made his first appearance in Massachusetts. Abraham Lincoln

drew his first breath at Old Kentucky. Music was enriched by the advent of Felix Mendelssohn in Hamburg. But nobody thought of babies. Everybody was thinking of battles. Yet...which of the battles of 1809 mattered more than the babies of 1809?

We fancy that God can only manage His world by big battalions abroad, when all the while He is doing it by beautiful babies at home. When a wrong wants righting, or a work wants doing, or a truth wants preaching, *or a continent wants opening*, God sends a baby into the world to do it.”

- F. W. Boreham (Baptist minister)

“the most remarkable generation of public men in the history of the United States or perhaps of any other nation.” He then added, “An explanation of the phenomenon lies beyond the wit of the historian.”

-Arthur Schlesinger

“It would be invaluable if we could know what produced this burst of talent from a base of only two and a half million inhabitants.”

-Barbara W. Tuchman

[God] “hath determined the times before appointed [meaning when we would come to the earth] and the bounds of their habitation [meaning where we would be born]”

-Acts 17:26

The Founding Fathers—Heroes or Villains?

“Today, it is common to criticize the founders of America. Judging them by today’s standards of equality and justice they do fail. Some owned slaves, none fought to give women equal rights. Most were wealthy white men. Yes, judging the founders by today’s standards of equality and justice they fail. But there is just one problem with judging them by today’s standards and it is this: but for those imperfect founders and the sacrifices that they made and the instruments of government which they created, there would *be* no current, enlightened standards of equality and justice by which to judge them.”

- Ted Stewart, Federal Judge

“A good tree cannot
bring forth evil fruit,
neither can a corrupt
tree bring forth good
fruit.”

- Matthew 7:18



**What price did our Founding
Fathers and spouses pay for our
liberties?**

“Give me liberty, or
give me death!”



“You wanted me to
change the world; did
you think there
would be no cost?”

- Martin Luther



“Of those 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence, nine died of wounds or hardships during the war. Five were captured and imprisoned, in each case with brutal treatment. Several lost wives, sons or entire families. ... Two wives were brutally treated. All were, at one time or another, the victims of manhunts and driven from their homes. Twelve signers had their homes completely burned. Seventeen lost everything they owned. Yet not one defected or went back on his pledged word.”

- Earl Taylor Jr.

“I wonder if future generations will ever know what we have suffered in their behalf.” - Abigail Adams



“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”

- Psalm 33: 12

“Where the spirit of
the Lord is, there is
liberty.”

2

Corinthians 3:17

