

TRUTH CAPSULE #3
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This is the third in a series of Truth Capsules which refute the Big Lie of the revisionists that this country was not founded with the understanding that this was a Christian nation, was not assumed to remain one to its great advantage, and that the term Separation of Church and State means that this government is intended to have no relationship to religion. Several capsules will address the important Separation Issue.

The Truth about The First Amendment

Revisionists are changing our laws and history books in an effort to have us believe this country was founded as "One Nation without God" rather than as "One Nation under God". A central feature of their strategy is to wrongly interpret the meaning of the first Amendment to the Constitution as if it rules out any reliance on, or connection to religion on the part of our government. The "Big Lie" starts there.

We will expose and refute the invalid deception employed by the revisionists in their effort to misrepresent the true meaning of the amendment and to misrepresent Jefferson's position on this overall subject.

A key deceptive ploy of the revisionists is their having invented a false name for the First Amendment to the Constitution. They named it the "Separation Clause". That reference is invalid and is the effort to plant the central seed of the Big Lie.

The Revisionist's basic strategy consists in implanting the false impression that our founding fathers, through the First Amendment, were establishing that our governmental system cared nothing about religion and that there would be a wall separating the two. Not only a lie, that impression is the opposite of the truth about the most important feature of the foundation of our government, the feature which is the secret of such success as we have achieved as a nation.

The actual words of the portion of the First Amendment that address the Church-State issue are these: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Those words are being misconstrued by the revisionists to insinuate that the Amendment's purpose justifies their calling it "The Separation Clause".

The actual meaning was clear to those who wrote it, clear to all Americans of that day and for generations following, who were aware of the Church-State discussions at the Constitutional Convention and in then current speeches and literature.

Those words, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," meant and mean one thing and one thing only: **that the Congress shall not pass a law making one Christian Denomination the official national religion of the United States.**

Our Founders did this deliberately because they wanted us to avoid the political animosities basically rooted in religious frictions, which were associated with the causes of civil wars, and wars between nations. For example, the Catholic French and Spanish, the Lutheran Germans, the Church of England English, the Catholic Irish, the Protestant Irish found themselves at war with each other frequently because of this; and there were many intra-national fights over inter-

denominational Protestant differences.

That the government was to follow common Christian principles was made manifestly clear in the context of the Declaration, and writings and speeches of the day such as the letter from George Washington quoted in Truth Capsule #1. The fact that we were founded as a Christian nation was the assumption of all in government at the time of founding and henceforth for many generations up to the advent of the Revisionists.

Prior to our founding, the U.S. had been confronting this Christian denominational issue for years. After much debate, the choice was made. The quoted words of the First Amendment simply reflected that decision, and the only wall they established was that the state could not interfere with the free exercise of religion among the citizenry.

The free exercise of religion would never have permitted the no-prayer-in-schools ruling, or the ban on Christmas decorations in government buildings or in the public square, etc. And much more important it would not have permitted the courts to drop The Ten Commandments as a basis of our Law, and a guide for our social behavior.

In other words the first Amendment does not support any aspect of the revisionists' goal of re-making us into One Nation without God, and did not detract from what the Founders had made abundantly clear from the outset: that belief in God among the citizenry was indispensable to our national success. (Since school history books have recently de-emphasized or omitted the Founder's and succeeding American Presidents' clear and repeated declarations of intent on this subject, at least one later Truth Capsule will present a convincing sample of quotations).

The First Amendment is not the Separation Clause, but is the Establishment Clause as defined by the Truth Capsules--let's not let them continue to use the wrong name in the media, in books, and in speeches without correcting them.

Legislating from the bench by liberal judges that our duly established national foundation is null and void is not due process of law, is erroneous, and is invalid. Those rulings must be over-turned; in spite of the support they have from revisionists in such fields as publishing, the media, academe, etc., because the rulings violate the obvious and provable intent of the Constitution.