

Book Title: *The Miracle of America: The Influence of the Bible on the Founding History and Principles of the United States of America for a People of Every Belief*

Author: Angela E. Kamrath
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Overview:

America is a country founded on ideas. Yet studies show that Americans today are largely ignorant about the key principles and ideas that have shaped our nation. As a result, we have become more fragmented as a nation and unclear and divided about what our nation stands for and where it is headed—or where it should be heading. Without citizens’ learning of America’s founding principles and values, the American idea is rapidly weakening. America’s heritage is at risk in our society, culture, institutions, and education today.

Even fewer Americans understand or agree that the United States is founded on principles largely rooted in Bible-based or Judeo-Christian thought. Some call ours a Christian nation, yet we have no national religion and uphold religious freedom for all. Others call it a secular society, yet we pledge “one nation under God.” This seeming contradiction is often misunderstood and misrepresented. What is the American ethic? Where does it come from?

The Miracle of America (American Heritage and Xulon, 2014) is an in-depth, comprehensive study of America’s philosophical origins and its relation to the Bible. This timeless work presents original documents, thinkers, and events in history, specific Bible scriptures and references as cited historically, and relevant scholarship. In doing so, it explains how our nation’s founding principles and values are rooted in Bible-based or Judeo-Christian thought. Ultimately, it shows how the Bible and Judeo-Christian thought are arguably the nation’s most significant foundational root and its enduring source of strength. This resource includes over 1000 endnotes, review questions, and learning activities for educational use.

The Miracle of America is recommended reading for all citizens and families, teachers and students to whom the American Founders have entrusted our self-governing republic. It is vital that Americans learn, teach, defend, and preserve the American idea for our families and our nation so that it may endure. This book is for people of all nations who endeavor to preserve and promote Freedom, Unity, Progress, and Responsibility (FUPR™) in America and the world.

Author Bio:

Angela E. Kamrath is President and Editorial Director of the American Heritage Education Foundation (AHEF). She is Editor and a contributing writer of AHEF's widely-distributed teacher resource, *America's Heritage: Adventure in Liberty* and a contributing writer to *America's Heritage: An Experiment in Self-Government*. She has taught and consulted in writing and research at colleges and universities including University of Houston, Houston Baptist University, and Belhaven College. She served as a Research Assistant intern in the Office of National Service during the George H. W. Bush administration. She holds a B.A. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin, a M.A. in Journalism from Regent University, and a M.Ed. from the University of Houston. She has served in a various children's and student ministries and has been a student of the Bible for over 20 years.

What the Experts Are Saying:

We certainly stand at a critical moment now. It is a moment at which significant voices have called deeply into question principles, both political and moral, that have been foundational to our civilization: marriage and the family, sanctity of human life, Rule of Law, true democratic participation, the market economy, limited government. Those principles have been radically called into question as never before in our country. Now which way are we going to go? Are we going to abandon those principles? To my mind, that would be such a tragedy, such a loss to the dignity of the human being that is supported by those principles. Or will we defend those principles? Will we reaffirm those principles? If we do that, we make the right choice, and this country will be a greater country than it has ever been.

The American experiment in republican liberty is truly a miracle. In her informative and well-written book, Angela Kamrath helps to explain why. I warmly commend it, especially to younger readers who will inherit the noble responsibility for sustaining the miracle of America.

Dr. Robert P. George
McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence
Director, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions
Princeton University

Until now, there has not been a systematic analysis of the relationship between core American political principles and religious principles. Angela Kamrath's clearly written work, *Miracle of America*, links these two sets of principles in a non-denominational presentation. The many references to the Bible are apt, well-explicated, and thorough. References to the scholarly literature are sensible and unusually free of academic jargon. The result is a highly informative analysis that is a page-turner.

Dr. Donald S. Lutz
Professor Emeritus, Political Philosophy
University of Houston

Very original is Angela Kamrath's linking of political and philosophical concepts to specific Biblical passages. She is to be congratulated on taking on such an ambitious project, reading the enormous body of literature, and coming up with a well-reasoned argument that historians, students, and citizens need to hear.

Dr. Peter H. Gibbon
Senior Research Fellow
Boston University

The idea that we are all created equal with inherent, God-given dignity was a radical idea and came primarily from our Judeo-Christian background, not from the Enlightenment. Angela Kamrath's incredible work documents basic American ideas and ideals in a way that has not been accomplished before. It is a must-read for people of all faiths or no faith.

Dr. Robert C. Koons
Professor of Philosophy
Founding Director, Program in Western Civilization and American Institutions
The University of Texas at Austin

Angela Kamrath gets the main ideas right. Many prominent scholars think that notions such as the importance of consent, the right to revolt, natural rights, and limited government sprang from the head of a secularized John Locke, with seemingly no recognition that these ideas had long been a part of Christian (particularly Reformed) communities. I also like many of the exercises at the end of each chapter. A beautiful book.

Dr. Mark David Hall
Herbert Hoover Distinguished Professor of Politics
George Fox University

Angela Kamrath provides a powerful demonstration of the strength of our republic's Judeo-Christian roots.

Dr. Stephen H. Balch
Director, Texas Tech Institute for the Study of Western Civilization
Former President, National Association of Scholars

In an age of historical amnesia, spiritual apathy, and political correctness, *Miracle of America* is a sigh of relief and a breath of fresh air. It allows students and educators alike to appreciate and to understand America as an idea. It is a profound work, at once a model of intellectual, religious, and political history.

The primary research is diligent. Moreover, the activities and supplementary resources included at the end of each chapter reinforce major themes and should stimulate productive classroom discussions.

Brian M. Jordan
Doctoral Student of History
Yale University

Miracle of America provides all the background on which Russell Kirk based his work. Super documentation. Very thorough research. All factual, historical.

...A wonderful book which will not permit us to forget the essential biblical roots underlying our American consensus. American Protestant Christian theology and belief inform all of the thinking that underlay the foundation of our Republic.

Rev. Donald Nesti
Director, Center for Faith and Culture
University of St. Thomas

Well what can I say. I have spent just a few hours perusing *Miracle of America* and have been left fairly speechless. I cannot recall anything like this. Ever. If all young people in America could read this, I think we'd have a Second American Revolution and/or a Third Great Awakening.

...The only real solution to the American crisis (of widespread ignorance among the people of America's founding and history) resides squarely in our ability to restore a Biblical worldview to our people. Now that is a daunting, exhaustive prospect, but it's where this book and others like it come to the fore. If we cannot restore that view, that heart, that vision, the republic may well fail.

Dr. Cliff Kelly
Online Professor of Communication

Liberty University

I am impressed with the amount of work that Angela Kamrath has done in assembling this material and in documenting the importance of the Bible and the Christian tradition in the thinking of the Founders, from the Puritans to the Framers of the Constitution. I agree that today's students should be aware of this important history and, regrettably, that most are not. I am happy to have this impressive work.

Dr. Bill Martin
Senior Fellow for Religion and Public Policy
Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University

Miracle of America is excellently arranged for its argument. I've learned a lot unquestionably from reading this book. There was research, content, and philosophers in it that were new to me. ... The work is neutral and balanced. It puts truth on the table. The truth will shine. ... This book would be a great resource in an American political thought class.

Dr. Michael Bordelon
Professor of Government
Houston Baptist University

Angela Kamrath has provided a well-researched contribution for the study of the foundations of American Government, especially detailing from primary source material the various philosophical and religious perspectives that helped promote revolution and shape those foundations. *The Miracle of America* provides much historic detail of argumentation that was adapted by our country's founders from both reformation and radical reformation ideals and experiences. ...An excellent history source book that includes helpful student learning exercises, and both research and review questions with each chapter.

Dr. Brian H. Wagner
Instructor of History, Theology, and Biblical Languages
Virginia Baptist College

Miracle of America is a book with a point, a point it makes no attempt to hide and for which it makes no apologies. That point is that the founding principles of the United States of America are strongly and unequivocally based on Biblical ideals. The ideals leading to those founding principles can be traced to their sources and identified through the actions and communications of the founding members of the culture. The task of this book is to provide evidence supporting this central point. The book accomplishes this task substantially enough to be persuasive to those who respect the power of original documents to establish such facts. The support is expansive enough to meet the test of validity.

This book traces the lineage of governmental institutions in the United States to Christian principles and specifically to Biblical underpinnings. The lineage is undeniable. The work basically creates a documentary family-tree that shows us clearly how many of these founding concepts were carried torch-like from generation to generation. Just about anyone can benefit from reading this book.

Dr. Matthew Melton
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Lee University

The Miracle of America is the most important book I have ever read, outside of the Bible. I have been in the Christian ministry since 1968. I wish I had read this book then. ... This is the very best resource book for study of America's Christian Heritage I have ever read. It is worth a college semester of studies.

Billy Falling
Pastor and Headmaster
The Internet Church International