

allen guelzo conservative

allen guelzo conservative is a phrase often associated with the prominent historian Allen C. Guelzo, a respected scholar primarily known for his work on the American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. While Guelzo's expertise lies in historical scholarship, there is ongoing discussion about his conservative perspectives and how they influence his interpretations of history. This article explores Allen Guelzo's conservative views, his contributions to historical discourse, and the ways in which his ideological stance shapes his scholarship. We will also examine the broader context of conservatism in historical studies and how Guelzo fits within this framework. By understanding Allen Guelzo conservative viewpoints, readers can better appreciate the nuances of his work and its impact on contemporary historical debates.

- Allen Guelzo's Background and Historical Expertise
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Allen Guelzo's Background and Historical Expertise

Allen C. Guelzo is an American historian specializing in Civil War history, the antebellum period, and the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. He is a professor at a prestigious university and has authored numerous books and articles that have contributed significantly to American historical scholarship. Guelzo's academic credentials and rigorous research methods have established him as an authority in his field. His work often emphasizes detailed archival research and a commitment to factual accuracy, which has garnered respect across different scholarly communities.

Academic Career and Publications

Throughout his career, Guelzo has published extensively on topics related to the Civil War era, with notable works including biographies of Abraham Lincoln and analyses of Reconstruction. His publications often explore complex political, social, and moral issues of the 19th century America. Guelzo's academic appointments and participation in historical societies further reflect his standing as a scholar deeply engaged with American history.

Professional Recognition

Allen Guelzo has received awards and honors that acknowledge his contributions to historical research. His work has been cited widely by historians and educators, and he frequently participates in lectures, panel discussions, and media appearances to discuss Civil War history. This recognition underscores his role as a leading voice in the interpretation of America's past.

The Nature of Allen Guelzo's Conservatism

The term "Allen Guelzo conservative" often refers to his intellectual approach and ideological leanings that align with conservative principles. Guelzo's conservatism is rooted in a commitment to traditional values, respect for historical institutions, and a cautious approach to social and political change. His conservative stance influences both his interpretation of historical events and his engagement with contemporary cultural debates.

Philosophical Foundations

Guelzo's conservatism reflects classical conservative principles that emphasize order, continuity, and skepticism toward radical reforms. He tends to prioritize the preservation of foundational American ideals and often critiques movements or interpretations that he views as revisionist or overly progressive. This philosophical foundation shapes his approach to history, particularly in how he assesses the causes and consequences of the Civil War.

Public Statements and Writings

In various essays and public talks, Guelzo has articulated his conservative views explicitly, addressing issues such as constitutionalism, the role of government, and the interpretation of historical figures. His writings often challenge prevailing liberal narratives, advocating for a balanced understanding of history that acknowledges complexity and nuance rather than ideological bias.

Influence of Conservatism on Guelzo's Scholarship

Allen Guelzo's conservative perspective significantly informs his scholarly work, affecting his choice of topics, interpretive frameworks, and conclusions. His commitment to conservative principles encourages a focus on individual responsibility, the importance of moral clarity, and the dangers of ideological extremism.

Approach to Historical Interpretation

Guelzo employs a methodology that seeks to avoid presentism—the anachronistic imposition of contemporary values on historical events. His conservative lens prompts him to view history through the context of its time, emphasizing the intentions and beliefs of historical actors rather than judging them solely by modern standards.

Focus on Constitutionalism and Moral Agency

One of the hallmarks of Guelzo's work is his emphasis on constitutional principles and moral agency. He often highlights the centrality of the U.S. Constitution and the personal convictions of historical figures in shaping pivotal moments like the Civil War. This focus aligns with conservative respect for legal frameworks and individual ethical responsibility.

Allen Guelzo and Abraham Lincoln Interpretations

Allen Guelzo is widely recognized for his scholarship on Abraham Lincoln, offering interpretations that reflect his conservative viewpoint. He portrays Lincoln as a complex and principled leader who navigated the challenges of his era with pragmatism and moral resolve.

Lincoln as a Conservative Figure

Guelzo's writings often depict Lincoln as a conservative in the sense that he sought to preserve the Union and uphold constitutional order rather than pursue radical social change. This interpretation contrasts with more progressive views that emphasize Lincoln's role as a revolutionary figure pushing for sweeping reforms.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation

In examining Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Guelzo highlights the strategic and constitutional considerations behind the policy rather than framing it solely as a moral crusade. This nuanced portrayal reflects Guelzo's conservative approach, emphasizing legal legitimacy and political prudence.

Conservatism in Historical Scholarship: Broader Context

The presence of conservatism in historical scholarship is significant, as it influences how history is taught, interpreted, and understood. Allen Guelzo represents a strand of conservative historians who seek to balance critical inquiry with respect for tradition and foundational national narratives.

Conservative Historians' Characteristics

- Emphasis on continuity and tradition
- Respect for founding documents and institutions
- Skepticism toward radical or revisionist interpretations
- Focus on moral clarity and individual responsibility

- Commitment to contextual analysis rather than presentism

Role in Academic and Public Discourse

Conservative historians like Guelzo contribute to academic debates by challenging dominant paradigms and providing alternative perspectives. They also engage with the public through media and education, influencing how history shapes cultural and political conversations.

Critical Reception and Impact of Guelzo's Work

Allen Guelzo's conservative approach has garnered both praise and criticism within scholarly and public circles. His detailed research and articulate arguments have earned admiration for intellectual rigor, while some critics challenge his ideological framing.

Scholarly Responses

Many historians commend Guelzo for his meticulous scholarship and clear prose. However, debates persist regarding his conservative interpretations, with some arguing that they may underplay certain social dynamics or progressive movements in history.

Influence on Public Understanding

Guelzo's work has extended beyond academia, shaping public understanding of key historical figures and events. His conservative lens offers a perspective that resonates with audiences valuing tradition and constitutionalism, contributing to ongoing discussions about national identity and historical memory.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Allen Guelzo and what is he known for?

Allen Guelzo is an American historian and professor known for his expertise on the American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. He is recognized for his conservative perspective on historical interpretation.

What conservative viewpoints does Allen Guelzo hold?

Allen Guelzo is known for emphasizing traditional values, a strong interpretation of the Constitution, and a focus on moral and religious elements in American history, often aligning with conservative intellectual thought.

Has Allen Guelzo written any books from a conservative perspective?

Yes, Allen Guelzo has authored several books, including biographies of Abraham Lincoln and works on the Civil War, where he presents historical narratives that resonate with conservative viewpoints on patriotism and American exceptionalism.

What is Allen Guelzo's stance on Abraham Lincoln's legacy?

Allen Guelzo views Abraham Lincoln as a moral and constitutional hero, emphasizing Lincoln's commitment to preserving the Union and ending slavery, a perspective that aligns with many conservative interpretations of Lincoln's legacy.

How has Allen Guelzo contributed to conservative thought in academia?

Allen Guelzo has contributed to conservative thought through his scholarly work, public lectures, and participation in conservative intellectual forums, promoting a historically grounded conservatism focused on American founding principles.

Does Allen Guelzo engage in contemporary political debates?

While primarily a historian, Allen Guelzo occasionally comments on contemporary political issues, often from a conservative standpoint, especially relating to constitutional interpretation and the role of government.

What universities has Allen Guelzo been affiliated with?

Allen Guelzo has been a professor at institutions such as Gettysburg College and previously Princeton University, where he has taught history with an emphasis on the Civil War era.

How is Allen Guelzo perceived within conservative circles?

Within conservative circles, Allen Guelzo is respected as a serious historian who provides scholarly support for conservative interpretations of American history, particularly regarding the Civil War and Lincoln.

Additional Resources

1. Lincoln and the Conservatives: The Struggle for the Soul of the Republican Party

This book explores Abraham Lincoln's relationship with the conservative faction within the Republican Party during the Civil War era. Allen Guelzo examines how conservative principles influenced Lincoln's policies and leadership style. The narrative delves into the tensions between progressivism and conservatism in shaping the nation's future.

2. Conservatism in America: From the Founders to the 21st Century

Guelzo traces the evolution of conservative thought in the United States, highlighting key figures and moments that defined the movement. The book offers a comprehensive overview of how conservatism has adapted to changing political and social landscapes. It serves as a foundational text for understanding the ideological roots of modern American conservatism.

3. The Conservative Mind and the American Civil War

This work investigates the philosophical underpinnings of conservatism during the tumultuous Civil War period. Guelzo analyzes how conservative values informed the decisions of leaders and citizens alike. The book provides insight into the ideological battles that paralleled the physical conflict.

4. Allen Guelzo on Conservatism and Historical Memory

A collection of essays where Guelzo reflects on the role of conservatism in shaping historical narratives. The pieces discuss the importance of preserving tradition while engaging with contemporary challenges. Readers gain an understanding of how history and conservatism intersect in public discourse.

5. Faith and Conservatism: Religion's Role in American Political Thought

In this book, Guelzo explores the influence of religious belief on conservative ideology. He examines how faith has guided conservative principles and policy decisions throughout American history. The work highlights the enduring connection between spirituality and political conservatism.

6. The Conservative Legacy of Abraham Lincoln

Guelzo presents an argument for viewing Lincoln as a fundamentally conservative figure in American history. The book discusses Lincoln's commitment to preserving the Union and the Constitution. It challenges conventional portrayals and repositions Lincoln within a conservative framework.

7. Conservatism and the Constitution: Defending America's Founding Principles

This book delves into conservative interpretations of the U.S. Constitution and their impact on American governance. Guelzo articulates the importance of constitutional originalism and limited government. It is a vital resource for understanding conservative legal and political thought.

8. The Historical Foundations of Modern Conservatism

Guelzo examines the intellectual and cultural origins of contemporary conservative movements. The book highlights the continuity of conservative ideas from early American history to modern times. It provides context for current political debates within a historical framework.

9. Preserving Tradition: Allen Guelzo's Views on Cultural Conservatism

This volume compiles Guelzo's perspectives on the necessity of maintaining cultural heritage in a rapidly changing world. The essays argue for a balance between progress and preservation in societal development. Readers are invited to consider the value of tradition in sustaining social cohesion.

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allen guelzo conservative: Right-Wing Critics of American Conservatism George Hawley, 2017-07-31 The American conservative movement as we know it faces an existential crisis as the nation's demographics shift away from its core constituents—older white middle-class Christians. It is the American conservatism that we don't know that concerns George Hawley in this book. During its ascendancy, leaders within the conservative establishment have energetically policed the movement's boundaries, effectively keeping alternative versions of conservatism out of view. Returning those neglected voices to the story, *Right-Wing Critics of American Conservatism* offers a more complete, complex, and nuanced account of the American right in all its dissonance in history and in our day. The right-wing intellectual movements considered here differ both from mainstream conservatism and from each other when it comes to fundamental premises, such as the value of equality, the proper role of the state, the importance of free markets, the place of religion in politics, and attitudes toward race. In clear and dispassionate terms, Hawley examines localists who exhibit equal skepticism toward big business and big government, paleoconservatives who look to the distant past for guidance and wish to turn back the clock, radical libertarians who are not content to be junior partners in the conservative movement, and various strains of white supremacy and the radical right in America. In the Internet age, where access is no longer determined by the select few, the independent right has far greater opportunities to make its many voices heard. This timely work puts those voices into context and historical perspective, clarifying our understanding of the American right—past, present, and future.

allen guelzo conservative: The Conservatives Patrick Allitt, 2009-05-26 This lively book traces the development of American conservatism from Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, and Daniel Webster, through Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, and Herbert Hoover, to William F. Buckley, Jr., Ronald Reagan, and William Kristol. Conservatism has assumed a variety of forms, historian Patrick Allitt argues, because it has been chiefly reactive, responding to perceived threats and challenges at different moments in the nation's history. While few Americans described themselves as conservatives before the 1930s, certain groups, beginning with the Federalists in the 1790s, can reasonably be thought of in that way. The book discusses changing ideas about what ought to be conserved, and why. Conservatives sometimes favored but at other times opposed a strong central government, sometimes criticized free-market capitalism but at other times supported it. Some denigrated democracy while others championed it. Core elements, however, have connected thinkers in a specifically American conservative tradition, in particular a skepticism about human equality and fears for the survival of civilization. Allitt brings the story of that tradition to the end of the twentieth century, examining how conservatives rose to dominance during the Cold War. Throughout the book he offers original insights into the connections between the development of conservatism and the larger history of the nation.

allen guelzo conservative: Loathing Lincoln John McKee Barr, 2014-04-07 While most Americans count Abraham Lincoln among the most beloved and admired former presidents, a dedicated minority has long viewed him not only as the worst president in the country's history, but also as a criminal who defied the Constitution and advanced federal power and the idea of racial equality. In *Loathing Lincoln*, historian John McKee Barr surveys the broad array of criticisms about Abraham Lincoln that emerged when he stepped onto the national stage, expanded during the Civil War, and continued to evolve after his death and into the present. The first panoramic study of

Lincoln's critics, Barr's work offers an analysis of Lincoln in historical memory and an examination of how his critics -- on both the right and left -- have frequently reflected the anxiety and discontent Americans felt about their lives. From northern abolitionists troubled by the slow pace of emancipation, to Confederates who condemned him as a black Republican and despot, to Americans who blamed him for the civil rights movement, to, more recently, libertarians who accuse him of trampling the Constitution and creating the modern welfare state, Lincoln's detractors have always been a vocal minority, but not one without influence. By meticulously exploring the most significant arguments against Lincoln, Barr traces the rise of the president's most strident critics and links most of them to a distinct right-wing or neo-Confederate political agenda. According to Barr, their hostility to a more egalitarian America and opposition to any use of federal power to bring about such goals led them to portray Lincoln as an imperialistic president who grossly overstepped the bounds of his office. In contrast, liberals criticized him for not doing enough to bring about emancipation or ensure lasting racial equality. Lincoln's conservative and libertarian foes, however, constituted the vast majority of his detractors. More recently, Lincoln's most vociferous critics have adamantly opposed Barack Obama and his policies, many of them referencing Lincoln in their attacks on the current president. In examining these individuals and groups, Barr's study provides a deeper understanding of American political life and the nation itself.

allen guelzo conservative: The 1619 Project: A Critique Phillip W. Magness, 2020-04-07
"When I first weighed in upon the New York Times' 1619 Project, I was struck by its conflicted messaging. Comprising an entire magazine feature and a sizable advertising budget, the newspaper's initiative conveyed a serious attempt to engage the public in an intellectual exchange about the history of slavery in the United States and its lingering harms to our social fabric. It also seemed to avoid the superficiality of many public history initiatives, which all too often reduce over 400 complex years of slavery's history and legacy to sweeping generalizations. Instead, the Times promised detailed thematic explorations of topics ranging from the first slave ship's arrival in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619 to the politics of race in the present day. At the same time, however, certain 1619 Project essayists infused this worthy line of inquiry with a heavy stream of ideological advocacy. Times reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones announced this political intention openly, pairing progressive activism with the initiative's stated educational purposes. In assembling these essays, I make no claim of resolving what continues to be a vibrant and ongoing discussion. Neither should my work be viewed as the final arbiter of historical accuracy, though I do evaluate a number of factual and interpretive claims made by the project's authors. Rather, the aim is to provide an accessible resource for readers wishing to navigate the scholarly disputes, offering my own interpretive take on claims pertaining to areas of history in which I have worked. -- Phil Magness

allen guelzo conservative: Situation Critical Max Cavitch, Brian Connolly, 2024-02-26 The contributors to Situation Critical argue for the continued importance of critique to Early American studies, pushing back against both reductivist neo-empiricism and so-called postcritique.

allen guelzo conservative: The 1619 Project Myth Phillip W. Magness, 2025-07-15 "There is no one better to pick apart the disastrous 1619 Project than Phil Magness. If every classroom that incorporated the 1619 Project into its curriculum replaced it with this book, the country would be better off." —Coleman Hughes Slavery is part of America's story—its greatest shame. But abolition is part of America's story, too. Ignoring the latter isn't just bad scholarship. It's brazen deceit. And more often than not, it's done for political reasons. But that didn't seem to bother the writers at the New York Times when they launched the 1619 Project in August 2019. Advertised as a journalistic deep dive on the history of slavery, the series promised thematic explorations on a number of topics ranging from the first slave ship's arrival in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619, to the present day. Independent Institute Senior Fellow and David J. Theroux Chair Phillip W. Magness was intrigued. What he found, though, was something else entirely. To say he was disappointed is putting it mildly. The 1619 Project was riddled with partisan hysteria, sloppy "scholarship," blatant errors of fact and interpretation, and, above all else, an anti-capitalist ideological agenda to make the case for tearing down our free market economy. Worse still, its transformation from intellectual debate to political

dogma poisoned discourse on the right and the left. Angry Twitter mobs canceled and called for the censoring of all critics. Civil discourse and rational thinking became almost impossible. Almost impossible. Thankfully, *The 1619 Project Myth* boldly sounds the alarm on the New York Times' outright ideological warfare against American history. It's the essential guide to the many lies, distortions, and propaganda peddled by the 1619 Project and its defenders. Magness' writing is cool, calm, collected, and firm. An acclaimed academic and historian in his own right, he debunks and dismantles every myth and blunder of the 1619 Project, including: how the 1619 Project's creator Nikole Hannah-Jones twisted history into shallow political propaganda (just in time for election season); why the Project's activist defenders rely on sneering derision instead of historical facts; why capitalism is not racist ... and, in fact, helped free the slaves; why reparations are a moral and logistical dead end; how the American Historical Association fumbled a chance to protect its institutional integrity and defend real scholarship; how Hannah-Jones responded to her critics by ignoring their corrections and making her message even more partisan, political, and anti-capitalist; and so much more... In these pages, Magness delivers a long-overdue rebuke to "scholars" who treat history as a political weapon. History isn't a tool for scoring points. It's a long, complicated, and morally nuanced story that demands humility, intelligence, and moral courage from every scholar who dares plumb its depths. This is a must-read book on slavery, freedom, and the true American story.

allen guelzo conservative: *Abraham Lincoln and Liberal Democracy* Nicholas Buccola, 2016-03-14 Though Abraham Lincoln was not a political philosopher per se, in word and in deed he did grapple with many of the most pressing and timeless questions in politics. What is the moral basis of popular sovereignty? What are the proper limits on the will of the majority? When and why should we revere the law? What are we to do when the letter of the law is at odds with what we believe justice requires? How is our devotion to a particular nation related to our commitment to universal ideals? What is the best way to protect the right to liberty for all people? The contributors to this volume, a methodologically and ideologically diverse group of scholars, examine Lincoln's responses to these and other ultimate questions in politics. The result is a fascinating portrait of not only Abraham Lincoln but also the promises and paradoxes of liberal democracy. The basic liberal democratic idea is that individual liberty is best secured by a democratic political order that treats all citizens as equals before the law and is governed by the law, with its limits on how the state may treat its citizens and on how citizens may treat one another. Though wonderfully coherent in theory, these ideas prove problematic in real-world politics. The authors of this volume approach Lincoln as the embodiment of this paradox--naturally antislavery yet unflinchingly committed to defending proslavery laws; defender of the common man but troubled by the excesses of democracy; devoted to the idea of equal natural rights yet unable to imagine a harmonious, interracial democracy. Considering Lincoln as he attempted to work out the meaning and coherence of the liberal democratic project in practice, these authors craft a profile of the 16th president's political thought from a variety of perspectives and through multiple lenses. Together their essays create the first fully-dimensional portrait of Abraham Lincoln as a political actor, expressing, addressing, and reframing the perennial questions of liberal democracy for his time and our own.

allen guelzo conservative: *The Academic Trumpists* David L. Swartz, 2024-08-01 Matt Dawson and David L. Swartz discuss *The Academic Trumpists* on the New Books in Sociology podcast. Reviewed by Scott McLemee in *Inside Higher Ed* 'Donald Trump wants to dismantle the Department of Education. Some professors would welcome it', by David L. Swartz in *Salon* There has been an outpouring of research on populist conservatism since the advent of the Trump presidency and extreme right movements in Europe. Much less studied, however, is the growing political conservatism in the American academy and how it relates to populist sentiment. *The Academic Trumpists* addresses a gap in the research literature by looking at the impact of Trumpism on conservative faculty. It compares 109 professors who publicly support Trump to 89 conservative professors who oppose Trump. All 198 function as public intellectuals who advocated publicly their views. Drawing on recent research in the sociology of intellectuals and Pierre Bourdieu's analytical

field perspective, this book offers a fielding political identities and practices framework to show how these two groups of professors (Trumpists and anti-Trumpists) differ in where they teach, their intellectual orientations, their scholarly productivity, their political rationales, where they network with think tanks, scholarly professional associations, and government agencies, and their stances on key controversies surrounding the Trump presidency (Covid-19, the two impeachments, the November 2020 election lost, and the January 6 mob assault on the United States Capitol). The academic Trumpists embrace the right-wing populist wave mobilized by Trump and the conservative critics resist this move. This polarization of views between these two groups of conservative professors is enduring and rooted in two distinct social networks that connect their positions in the academic field to affiliations with conservative think tanks that reinforce their respective political identities and radical right-wing anti-establishment thinking in America more generally. This book will appeal to readers interested in the politics of higher education, the sociology of intellectuals, political sociology, and research on conservative and right-wing populism politics in America today.

allen guelzo conservative: Remixing the Civil War Thomas J. Brown, 2011-11-15 In 1961, the historian and poet Robert Penn Warren remarked that “the Civil War is, for the American imagination, the great single event of our history.” This volume reconsiders whether, fifty years later, Warren’s claim still holds true. Essays from specialists in art, literature, and history examine how contemporary culture represents and interprets the Civil War. They look at the works of more than thirty artists and writers as well as multiple movements—political and social—to reveal the many and provocative ways in which Americans engage the Civil War today. The book includes chapters on the place of Abraham Lincoln in Barack Obama’s presidential campaign, controversies over the symbolism of the Confederate flag, and the proliferation of Juneteenth observances. Remixing the Civil War pays special attention to the works of African Americans and white southerners, for whom the Civil War was a revolutionary and defining moment. Such prominent scholars as Robert H. Brinkmeyer Jr., W. Fitzhugh Brundage, Kirk Savage, and Elizabeth Young explore the works of major artists and lesser-known figures, including Bobbie Ann Mason, Kara Walker, Dario Robleto, and John Huddleston. The authors find that Americans today openly and playfully manipulate familiar images of the Civil War to explore the malleability and permeability of traditional social categories like national identity, gender, and race. This collection continues the conversation Warren began fifty years ago, although taking it in unorthodox and challenging directions, to offer fresh and stimulating perspectives on the war’s presence in the collective imagination of the nation.

allen guelzo conservative: The Future of Conservatism Charles W. Dunn, 2007 Previously relegated to the wings of the American political stage, conservatism now plays a leading role in public life, thanks largely to the dynamic legacy of Ronald Reagan. But despite conservatism's emergence as a powerful political force in the last several decades, questions remain about its meaning and nature. In examining these questions, The Future of Conservatism reveals the forces that unite, and the tensions that divide, conservatives today. Edited by noted Reagan scholar Charles W. Dunn, this volume casts conservatism as a collage of complexity that defies easy characterization. Book jacket.

allen guelzo conservative: Noble Powell and the Episcopal Establishment in the Twentieth Century David Hein, 2007-05-01 Hein skillfully provides regional, religious, and historical contexts for Powell's life and furnishes penetrating insights into the man and the entire Episcopal establishment of this era. [The author] resourcefully combines secondary scholarship, personal conversations and communications, and conventional primary documents to capture Powell's personality, career, and relationships.... Anyone with a serious interest in American religious history will find this compelling biography to be both informative and thought provoking. -- Samuel C. Shepherd Jr., *Journal of Southern History* Hein's wide knowledge of the sociocultural forces at work in the mid-twentieth century, and especially the forces that generated the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, have enabled him to illuminate an entire period of Episcopal Church history through the life and work of one man. . . . Hein's gracious style, judicious insights,

and especially his striking ability to penetrate the subtleties of southern religion in brief and trenchant observations make this book a pleasure to read. -- Susan J. White, *Anglican and Episcopal History* [A] painstaking, thoughtful biography. . . . To this story Hein ... brings balance, sensitivity, and exhaustive research. As 'the last bishop of the old church,' Noble Powell will be remembered longer than many of his predecessors. -- James Bready, *Baltimore Sun* [This] biography . . . is meticulously researched, full of primary source material and rich documentation. [It] is fun to read for anyone with an interest in American Protestant history. -- David E. Sumner, *Journal of American History*

allen guelzo conservative: Lincoln and the Politics of Christian Love Grant N. Havers, 2009-11-13 America has seen faith-based initiatives and “the audacity of hope” in twenty-first-century politics, but few participants in our political scene have invoked the other Christian virtue of charity as a guiding principle. Abraham Lincoln extolled the merit of “loving thy neighbor as thyself,” especially as a critique of the hypocrisy of slavery, but a discussion of Christian love is noticeably absent from today’s debates about religion and democracy. In this provocative book, Grant Havers argues that charity is a central tenet of what Lincoln once called America’s “political religion.” He explores the implications of making Christian love the highest moral standard for American democracy, showing how Lincoln’s legacy demands that a true democracy be charitable toward all—and that only a people who lived according to such ideals could succeed in building democracy as Lincoln understood it. Havers argues that it is simplistic to conflate Lincoln’s invocation of “with charity for all” with his abiding support for the ideal of human equality. The ethic of charity in his view also brought a uniquely Christian realism to the universalism of democracy. He also describes how, since World War I, intellectuals and political leaders have denied that there exists a necessary relation between democracy and Christian love, proposing that democracy is sufficiently ethical without reliance on a specific religious tradition. Today’s neoconservatives and liberals instead posit a universal yearning for democracy that requires no foundation in the ethic of charity. Havers shows that this democratic universalism, espoused by those who believe a “chosen people” should uphold the natural rights of humanity, is alien to the sober thought of both the founders and Lincoln. This carefully argued work defends Lincoln’s understanding of charity as essential to democracy while emphasizing the difficulty of fusing this ethic with the desire to spread democracy to people who do not share America’s Christian heritage. In considering the prospect of America’s leaders rediscovering a moral foreign policy based on charity rather than the costly idolization of democracy, *Lincoln and the Politics of Christian Love* makes a timely contribution to the wider debate over both the meaning of religion in American politics and the mission of America in the world—and opens a new window on Lincoln’s lasting legacy.

allen guelzo conservative: Antifascism Paul Gottfried, 2021-10-15 No doubt Gottfried's book will rank among the most scholarly and convincing responses to the delirium of the present.—*Éléments* A conservative take on the antifascist movement *Antifascism* argues that current self-described antifascists are not struggling against a reappearance of interwar fascism, and that the Left that claims to be opposing fascism has little in common with any earlier Left, except for some overlap with critical theorists of the Frankfurt School. Paul Gottfried looks at antifascism from its roots in early twentieth-century Europe to its American manifestation in the present. The pivotal development for defining the present political spectrum, he suggests, has been the replacement of a recognizably Marxist Left by an intersectional one. Political and ideological struggles have been configured around this new Left, which has become a dominant force throughout the Western world. Gottfried discusses the major changes undergone by antifascist ideology since the 1960s, fascist and antifascist models of the state and assumptions about human nature, nationalism versus globalism, the antifascism of the American conservative establishment, and Antifa in the United States. Also included is an excursus on the theory of knowledge presented by Thomas Hobbes in *Leviathan*. In *Antifascism* Gottfried concludes that promoting a fear of fascism today serves the interests of the powerful—in particular, those in positions of political, journalistic, and educational power who want to bully and isolate political opponents. He points out the generous support given to the

intersectional Left by multinational capitalists and examines the movement of the white working class in Europe—including former members of Communist parties—toward the populist Right, suggesting this shows a political dynamic that is different from the older dialectic between Marxists and anti-Marxists.

allen guelzo conservative: Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism John Burt, 2013-01-07 In their famous debates, Lincoln and Douglas struggled with how to behave when an ethical conflict like slavery strained democracy's commitment to rule by both consent and principle. What conscience demands and what it can persuade others to agree to are not always the same. Ultimately, this tragic limitation of liberalism led Lincoln to war.

allen guelzo conservative: *Religious Freedom* John D. Wilsey, 2025-04-24 A conservative perspective on vital questions about religious liberty In this timely book, historian John D. Wilsey addresses urgent questions about religious freedom in America. How have conservatives historically understood the meaning of religious freedom? How do Americans who identify as conservative now think about religious freedom in this era? What are the differences between the historical and contemporary views, and how do those differences shape fights about religious freedom today? Writing for fellow Americans concerned about threats to religious liberty, Wilsey draws on US history to explain why rather than weaponizing religious freedom in the context of the culture wars, today's conservatives need to rally around religious freedom to promote peace between church and state. With wisdom and acuity, Wilsey charts a path forward for thinking about and maintaining a uniquely American tradition: the harmony between liberty and religion that each generation has received as an inheritance from the generations preceding theirs.

allen guelzo conservative: The Independent Voter Thom Reilly, Jacqueline S. Salit, Omar H. Ali, 2022-09-30 Independent voters—the 40-50 percent of Americans who reject identification with either of the two major parties or with any party—are increasing in number and impact. Independents are determining the outcome of major elections, upending the long-held categories of political science. Drawing on historical and contemporary data (including survey data, participant observation, interviews, and current writings and scholarship) and providing timely new analysis, the authors argue that independents are an engine for a transformation of US democracy, perhaps even its saviors. Rather than “leaning” to a party or an ideology, independents vary on issues but share a deep distrust of the partisan system. What are the consequences of this distrust? What about shifting trends among Black, Latino, and Asian communities regarding party loyalty? What of young voters who eschew party identification wanting a different kind of political culture? For a wide variety of audiences, this book gives students, scholars, campaign professionals, activists, and media analysts an insight into current voting dynamics and future possibilities.

allen guelzo conservative: **EVERYTHING You Learned About the Civil War Was Wrong** Meru El Muad'Dib, 2019-11-19 This book examines the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln. What was the Civil War fought for? Was it to end slavery and free the slaves? Was it taxes and tariffs? Is/Was Abraham Lincoln the Great Emancipator? Was he one of if not the best president? Did he provoke the war with the south? What were his personal views on slavery and slaves. These and many more topics will be discussed.

allen guelzo conservative: *The War on Critical Race Theory* David Theo Goldberg, 2023-04-03 “Critical Race Theory” is consuming conservative America. The mounting attacks on a once-obscure legal theory are upending public schooling, legislating censorship, driving elections, and cleaving communities. In this much-needed response, renowned scholar David Theo Goldberg cuts to the heart of the claims expressed in these attacks. He punctures the demonization of Critical Race Theory, uncovering who is orchestrating it, funding the assault, and eagerly distributing the message. The book richly illustrates the enduring nature of structural racism, even as a conservative insistence on colorblindness serves to silence the possibility of doing anything about it. Crucially, Goldberg exposes the political aims and effects of the vitriolic attacks. The upshot of CRT's targeting, he argues, has been to unleash racisms anew and to stymie any attempt to fight them, all with the aim of protecting white minority rule. Also available as an audiobook.

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