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Review Of "Revolution Within The Revolution: The First Amendment In Historical Context 1612-1789" By W. R. Estep

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While the wealth of information regarding the archives, the detailed bibliographies, and the biographical references make this a volume for specialists, the lucid and concise historical introductions will be of immense value to all interested in the ecclesiastical history of northern Italy and southern Switzerland.

Cleverdale, New York

KATHLEEN G. CUSHING

Revolution Within the Revolution: The First Amendment in Historical Context 1612–1789. By WILLIAM R. ESTEP. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1990. xvii + 214 pp. \$14.95.

This book, written by a Baptist for Baptists, attempts to persuade those tempted to join the radical right's crusade against separation of church and state not to betray the heritage of their faith. Estep argues that "at every point in the struggle for religious freedom in the colonies, the Baptists led the way." From the Anabaptists to John Leland, the ideology was consistent: the church must be protected from the state. The freedom of religion enshrined in the First Amendment was a result of Baptist theology, not a response to Deism. In the struggle for disestablishment in Virginia, Madison and Jefferson provided leadership and enlightenment ideology, but the political muscle came from the Baptists.

Estep insists that government aid to religious schools or outlawing abortion betrays the original intent of the First Amendment. By stopping in 1791 he can ignore later Baptist support for religious exercises in public schools. Scholars will find little new in this book and see flaws in the central theses. Thomas Curry, *The First Freedoms: Church and State in American to the Passage of the First Amendment* (1986), not cited in the bibliography, is a more reliable guide. Still, Estep may have calculated correctly that stressing early Baptist concern for protecting religion is the best strategy to counter recent attempts to lower the wall separating church and state.

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J. WILLIAM FROST

A Nation Dedicated to Religious Liberty: The Constitutional Heritage of the Religion Clauses. By ARLIN M. ADAMS and CHARLES J. EMMERICH. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1990. xiv + 172 pp. \$19.95 cloth; \$9.95 paper.

In less than a hundred pages the authors of this fine book present a concise and cogent argument for understanding the religion clauses of the constitution. Adams, a former appellate judge and continuing constitutional scholar, and Emmerich, a research consultant, argue that a historical understanding of the clauses is critical for interpreting them. They consider the discussion of