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**Faculty Books**

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## Rendering to God and Caesar: Critical Readings for American Government

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## Rendering to God and Caesar: Critical Readings for American Government

### Description

To understand American government is, at minimum, to recognize religion's profound influence on our culture and, by extension, our politics." So state the editors of this outstanding collection of 55 readings that survey the function and purpose of American government from its founding to the present. Rendering to God and Caesar is mostly comprised of primary sources, including founding documents, Supreme Court cases, and momentous speeches. Grouped into six unifying sections with introductions that tie the individual works together and point to their significance, each article is introduced as well by brief comments to highlight specific features or issues.

Designed to whet the reader's appetite for exploring the rich American governmental heritage-from The Mayflower Compact and excerpts from the writing of de Tocqueville and Rothbard to commentary about civil liberties and Barack Obama's speech about his own understanding of how religion should influence politics-the collection is sure to generate controversy and lead to lively classroom discussion.

### Keywords

American government, readings

### Disciplines

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# THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

1620

There is much known about the Pilgrims, their journey, and their hardships. Landing at the tip of Cape Cod instead of their intended Virginia, the settlers were forced to make a decision about how they were going to coexist. While they had permission from the King to settle in a different location, landing here, and staying, compelled them to form their own body politic, which they did. The male passengers signed the following document, binding themselves together and, in a sense, making the colony more democratic than their homeland.

**I**n the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honor of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant

and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, Anno Domini; 1620.

THE MAYFLOW  
COMPACT

1620

These are the names of the persons who have subscribed their names to the Compact of the Pilgrims at Cape Cod, the eleventh of November, 1620.

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the first-born of the Colonie, do hereby certify that we have agreed together to combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, Anno Domini; 1620.