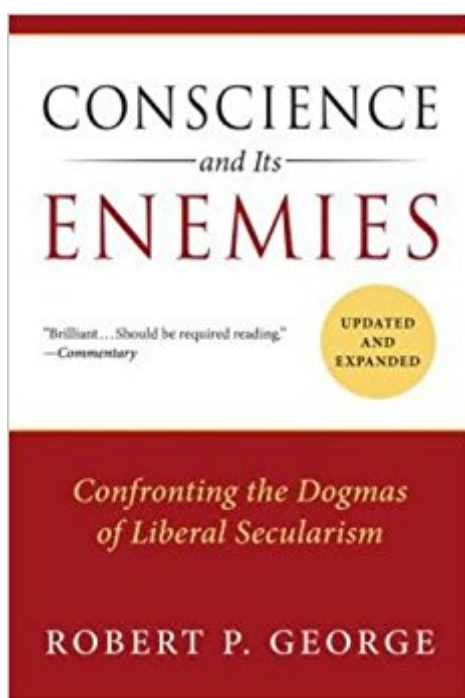


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# Conscience And Its Enemies: Confronting The Dogmas Of Liberal Secularism (American Ideals & Institutions)



## Synopsis

“Brilliant . . . Should be required reading.” • Commentary “As a critic of liberalism, George is devastating.” • National Review “Puts George’s highly burnished philosophical and constitutional learning on full display. . . George speaks for a sizable number of conscientious objectors to America’s ruling liberal secularism.” • New York Times Book Review “Could not be more timely. A treasure trove of thought-provoking reflections by one of the best minds of our time.” • Mary Ann Glendon, Harvard Law, from the foreword to the updated and expanded paperback edition of *Conscience and Its Enemies* Assaults on religious liberty and traditional morality are growing fiercer. Here, at last, is the counterattack. This revised and updated paperback edition of the acclaimed *Conscience and Its Enemies* showcases the talents that have made Robert P. George one of America’s most influential thinkers. Here George explodes the myth that the secular elite represents the voice of reason. In fact, it is on the elite side of the cultural divide where the prevailing views are little more than articles of faith. *Conscience and Its Enemies* reveals the bankruptcy of these too often smugly held orthodoxies while presenting powerfully reasoned arguments for classical virtues. In defending what James Madison called the “sacred rights of conscience” • rights for which government shows frightening contempt • George grapples with today’s most controversial issues: same-sex marriage, abortion, transgenderism, genetic manipulation, euthanasia and assisted suicide, religion in politics, judicial activism, and more. His brilliantly argued essays rely not on theological claims or religious authority but on established scientific facts and a philosophical tradition that extends back to Plato and Aristotle. *Conscience and Its Enemies* sets forth powerful arguments that secular liberals are unaccustomed to hearing • and that embattled defenders of traditional morality so often fail to marshal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This country’s most influential conservative Christian thinker.”

• New York Times Magazine “As a critic of liberalism, George is devastating. Generally attributing honest motives to his opponents, he nevertheless ruthlessly exposes [their] sophistries.”

• National Review “There’s not a dull or insignificant page in the whole volume. I don’t think we get better, or more consequential, commentary on the modern crisis.”

• Washington Times “Brilliant”

• Commentary “Puts George’s highly burnished philosophical and constitutional learning on full display. George speaks for a sizable number of conscientious objectors to America’s ruling liberal secularism.”

• New York Times Book Review “George’s claim to that title [“This country’s most influential conservative Christian thinker”] is made abundantly clear in this collection of incisive, accessible essays, which seek to expose and confront the dogmas of liberal secularism while also directing and deepening modern conservatism. Intended for a wide audience, the book deserves one.”

• Claremont Review of Books “Could not be more timely. A treasure trove of thought-provoking reflections by one of the best minds of our time.”

• Mary Ann Glendon, from the foreword “An important primer on the most pressing issues of our time . . . George’s incomparable expertise will give even the most seasoned reader new insights.”

• Catholic World Report “Few thinkers speak as clearly as Robert P. George. He is a model democratic citizen. The book offers some of the strongest arguments at all levels of public discourse, from anthropology to the meaning of conscience and marriage.”

• Library of Law and Liberty “One of the nation’s most respected legal theorists. Even people who profoundly disagree with some of his conclusions [respect] his sheer brilliance, the analytic power of his arguments, the range of his knowledge [and] a deeply principled conviction, a profound and enduring

integrity. • Elena Kagan, Supreme Court justice • “One of the most incisive legal and moral thinkers working today.” • First Things • “An indispensable man.” • Touchstone

Robert P. George is McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University. He has received the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Bradley Prize for Intellectual and Civic Achievement, and the Canterbury Medal of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. He is chairman of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and has served on the President's Council on Bioethics and the United States Commission on Civil Rights. Professor George holds degrees from Swarthmore, Harvard, and Oxford, as well as many honorary degrees. A regular guest on television and radio and a frequent contributor to popular and scholarly publications, he is the author of *The Clash of Orthodoxies* and coauthor of *What Is Marriage?* and *Embryo: A Defense of Human Life*.

I wish this was an audible book since the themes are so beautifully developed. A professor like this deserves a wide audience since he thinks outside of the mainstream of "obviously true" sort of lazy thinking. If he had questions at the end of each chapter with the kind of a tone that gives the reader the idea that the professor wants to hear from us... it would only add to the discussion he certainly is capable of provoking.

Good read.

I am reading parts in no certain order, and it is still very informative.

A brilliantly thought out and executed book!!

You could read the arguments in this book as tilting at windmills given where American culture is on abortion and gay marriage in 2016. But another fact that is receiving notice in 2016 is inequality and the breakdown of traditional marriage in households without a college education. If you want a better understanding of this breakdown and it's cultural roots this book will provoke your thinking. US inequality is not just an economic story as writers like Paul Krugman try to argue. This book will give you a much clearer understanding of the changes described in a book like Putman's *Our Kids*

I enjoyed this book. Robert P. George takes on the liberal assumptions that are stifling thought in modern culture with careful reasoned argument. Reading these essays will give many others thoughtful responses to the arguments of the modern liberal agenda, especially where abortion and end of life issues come into play. A good deal of the book focuses on same sex marriage, and points out some fundamental flaws with thinking that marriage is about romantic love. I'm not sure I can quite agree with everything he has to say in those arguments about the nature of marriage though. Despite himself, I think he betrays Roman Catholic notions of marriage, which I as a Christian don't find compatible with the biblical notions of marriage, and as an American don't find helpful for a religiously plural society. And that is not to say that I'm on the other side of the fence from him on that topic. Just not sure I agree with all his reasoning there. All that aside, he gives you a meal of thought to chew on for a while. I especially liked his discussion of the ethics and morals upon which The United States was founded and why these are worthy of our respect today and need to be guarded, especially helpful was his discussion of the Supreme Court and the making of an oligarchy. Also enjoyable were the biographical sketches at the end of the book discussing the legacies of infamous and famous political thinkers in the Twentieth Century. All in all, a very good book, surprisingly easy and refreshing to read.

this book takes you through all the moral arguments and makes a solid thought provoking case. It inspires you to think along with the author as opposed to being told what to think. Rare to find such a qualitative book!

Cogent and logical refutation of all the 'talking points' of the left. Leaves their views with the gravitas deserved....zip

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