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The American Founding and the Social Compact

Edited by

Ronald J. Pestritto

Thomas G. West

Edward J. **Erler**

Steven **Forde**

Peter C. **Myers**

John **Paynter**

Karl **Walling**

Bradley C. S. **Watson**

Jean M. **Yarbrough**

Michael **Zuckert**

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From Brand: Lexington Books : The American Founding and the Social Compact before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Founding and the Social Compact:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Charles RichardsExcellent

Unlike many other books about the American founding, this new work by two of the most prominent scholars of American political history emphasizes the coherence and intelligibility of the social compact theory. Social compact

theory, the idea that government must be based on an agreement between those who govern and those who consent to be governed, was one of the Founders' few unifying philosophical positions, and it transcended the partisan politics of that era. Contributors to this volume present a comprehensive overview of the social compact theory, discussing its European philosophical origins, the development of the theory into the basis of the fledgling government, and the attitudes of some of the founders toward the theory and its traditional proponents. The authors argue forcefully and convincingly that the political ideas of the American Founders cannot be properly understood without understanding social compact theory and the exalted place it held in the construction of the American system of government.

This study is thoroughly researched, it engages critically with the existing literature, and it is convincingly argued. (Political Studies)This book magnificently succeeds in restoring the politics of natural right as an intelligible and persuasive alternative to the politics of historicism. (Claremont of Books)Recommended. (CHOICE)This volume makes a massive contribution to our understanding of the founding by emphasizing the social compact political theory behind the founding. This allows the various and thoughtful authors to be guided by those special qualities that inhere in the social compact theorythe ideas of nature, equality, liberty, and consentand to interpret its meaning; this is the often forgotten, yet necessary, condition that helps explain how our constitutional democracy can work so well. I heartily recommend this volume to all students of the founding. (Peter W. Schramm, Executive Director of the John M. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs and a Professor of Political Science at Ashland University)About the AuthorRonald J. Pestritto is Charles and Lucia Shipley Chair in the American Constitution at Hillsdale College and author of *Founding the Criminal Law: Punishment and Political Thought in the Origins of America* (2000). Thomas G. West is professor of politics at the University of Dallas and director and senior fellow of the Claremont Institute. His book *Vindicating the Founders: Race, Sex, Class and Justice in the Origins of America* (1997) won the 2000 Paolucci Book Award.