



Religious Liberty in America: The First Amendment in Historical and Contemporary Perspective

By Bruce T. Murray

University of Massachusetts Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Religious Liberty in America: The First Amendment in Historical and Contemporary Perspective, Bruce T. Murray, In recent years a series of highly publicized controversies has focused attention on what are arguably the sixteen most important words in the U.S. Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The ongoing court battles over the inclusion of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, the now annual cultural quarrel over "Merry Christmas" vs. "Happy Holidays," and the political promotion of "faith-based initiatives" to address social problems - all reflect competing views of the meaning of the religious liberty clauses of the First Amendment. Such disputes, as Bruce T. Murray shows, are nothing new. For more than two hundred years Americans have disagreed about the proper role of religion in public life and where to draw the line between church and state. In this book, he re-examines these debates and distills the volumes of commentary and case law they have generated. He analyzed not only the changing contours of religious freedom but also the phenomenon of American civil religion, grounded in the notion...



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Reviews

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