

THE SOUL OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

*From Protestant Establishment
to Established Nonbelief*



George M. Marsden

Soul Of The American University From Protestant Establishment To Established Nonbelief

Tony Blair



Soul Of The American University From Protestant Establishment To Established Nonbelief:

The Soul of the American University George M. Marsden, 1994 Explores the decline in religious influence in American universities discussing why this transformation has occurred *The Soul of the American University* George M. Marsden, 2002-07-01 Only a century ago almost all state univ held compulsory chapel services and some required Sunday church attendance as well Today however the once pervasive influence of religion in the intellectual and cultural life of America s colleges and univ has all but vanished This book explores how and why these changes occurred It offers a critique of that era surveying the role of Protestantism in higher educ from the founding of Harvard through the collapse of the WASP establishment in the 1960s It ranges from stories of many of our pacesetting univ at defining moments in their histories to an analysis of such issues as the debates over Darwinism and the impact of changing student mores *The Soul of the American University* George M. Marsden, 1994 Only a century ago almost all state universities held compulsory chapel services and some required Sunday church attendance as well In fact state sponsored chapel services were commonplace until the World War II era and as late as the 1950s it was not unusual for leading schools to refer to themselves as Christian institutions Today the once pervasive influence of religion in the intellectual and cultural life of America s preeminent colleges and universities has all but vanished In *The Soul of the American University* George Marsden explores how and why these dramatic changes occurred Far from a lament for a lost golden age when mainline Protestants ruled American education *The Soul of the American University* offers a penetrating critique of that era surveying the role of Protestantism in higher education from the founding of Harvard in the 1630s through the collapse of the WASP establishment in the 1960s Marsden tells the stories of many of our pace setting universities at defining moments in their histories including Harvard Yale Princeton the University of Michigan Johns Hopkins the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Chicago He recreates the religious feuds that accompanied Yale s transition from a flagship evangelical college to a university and the dramatic debate over the place of religion in higher education between Harvard s President Charles Eliot and Princeton s President James McCosh Marsden s analysis ranges from debates over Darwinism and higher criticism of the Bible to the roles of government and wealthy contributors the impact of changing student mores and even the religious functions of college football He argues persuasively that the values of liberalism and tolerance that the establishment championed and used to marginalize Christian fundamentalism and Roman Catholicism eventually and perhaps inevitably led to its own disappearance from the educational milieu as nonsectarian came to mean exclusively secular While the largely voluntary disestablishment of religion may appear in many respects commendable Marsden believes that it has nonetheless led to the infringement of the free exercise of religion in most of academic life In effect nonbelief has been established as the only valid academic perspective In a provocative final chapter Marsden spells out his own prescription for change arguing that just as the academy has made room for feminist and multicultural perspectives so should there be room once again for

traditional religious viewpoints A thoughtful blend of historical narrative and searching analysis *The Soul of the American University* exemplifies what it advocates that religious perspectives can provide a legitimate contribution to the highest level of scholarship Religion and the American University James W. Fraser, 2025-07-01 Explores religion's historic and present day role in American universities Once the unifying center of American higher education religion has undergone a dramatic transformation over the past 220 years From its origins as the core of a unified understanding of truth as it was taught at the nation's first colleges to its current presence on the periphery of campus life religion has both shaped and been shaped by the evolution of the American university In *Religion and the American University* James W Fraser explores the complex relationship between faith and higher education While many histories of higher education rarely focus on religion after the Civil War and studies of religion often neglect its ties to academia this book bridges the gap between the two histories offering a richly detailed chronological account of the shifting role of religion in American colleges and universities over more than two centuries Through key institutional examples Fraser illuminates how the place of religion evolved from the dominance of Protestantism in the nineteenth century to the broad spectrum of faiths spiritualities and secular philosophies represented on campuses today This compelling study examines how student led organizations chaplains religious studies departments and local communities have kept faith vibrant in academia despite its absence from the dominant university culture of the twenty first century Essential reading for educators historians faith leaders and anyone interested in the intersection of faith and education *Religion and the American University* offers a fresh perspective on why religion remains a vital and misunderstood aspect of campus life in the twenty first century

The Metaphysics of Historical Jesus Research Jonathan Rowlands, 2015-10-15 In this book Rowlands interrogates the theological and philosophical foundations of the Quest for the historical Jesus from Reimarus to the present day culminating in a call for greater metaphysical transparency and diversity in the discipline This multidisciplinary approach to historical Jesus research drawing on historiography sociology philosophy and theology makes a significant and original contribution to the field Part I outlines the implicit role of metaphysical presuppositions in historical methodology by examining the concept of an historiographical worldview Part II provides an overview of the Quest for the historical Jesus demonstrating that the disparate historiographical worldviews operative in the Quest evidence a particular shared characteristic in that they might accurately be described as secular Rowlands study concludes with a call for a greater plurality and openness regarding the philosophical and theological presuppositions at work in historical Jesus research *The Metaphysics of Historical Jesus Research* is of interest to students and scholars working on New Testament studies and historical Jesus research

History of Higher Education Annual: 1996 Roger L. Geiger, 2020-03-09 A collection of articles and review essays from the year 1996 that make up Volume 16 of the annual publication by The Pennsylvania State University

Faith, Freedom, and Higher Education P. C. Kemeny, 2013-03-11 While debates abound today over the cost purpose and effectiveness of higher

education often lost in this conversation is a critical question Should higher education attempt to shape students moral and spiritual character in any systematic manner as in the past or focus upon equipping students with mere technical knowledge Faith Freedom and Higher Education argues that Christianity can still play an important role in contemporary American higher education George M Marsden D G Hart and George H Nash among its authors analyze the debate over the secularization of the university and the impact of liberal Protestantism and fundamentalism on the American academy during the twentieth century Contributors also assess how the ideas of Dorothy Sayers C S Lewis Wendell Berry and Allan Bloom can be used to improve Christian higher education Finally the volume examines the contributions Christian faith can make to collegiate education and outlines how Christian institutions can preserve their religious mission while striving for academic excellence

Church and Academy in Harmony Tony Blair, 2010-08-01 Why do church leaders and the leaders of their institutions of higher learning seem to speak different languages Why are relationships between church and academy so filled with tension and misunderstanding This insightful and provocative volume written by one with leadership experience in both camps explains those dynamics Tony Blair parses the cultural and theological trends that have created this gap in recent decades and notes how those same patterns yet offer hope for the future Blair delineates five models of more collaborative relationships between church and academy three of which are drawn from the creative positioning of existing institutions that serve as case studies and two of which describe the academy of the future For church and university leaders alike as well as all those who care about the relationship of these two essential institutions in the fulfillment of God's kingdom Church and Academy in Harmony offers a readable and intelligent analysis

A Charge to Keep Garth M. Rosell, 2020-03-10 In celebration of Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary's fiftieth anniversary its former Academic Dean and longtime historian Garth M Rosell was commissioned to write a history of the school The merger of two much older institutions the Conwell School of Theology founded in 1884 in Philadelphia and Gordon Divinity School founded in 1889 in Boston created an institution that since its own founding in 1969 has become one of the largest theological seminaries in the world With more than ten thousand graduates and nearly two thousand students studying on four campuses from Hamilton and Boston in the north to Charlotte and Jacksonville in the south the seminary has become an important center for theological education in the evangelical tradition A Charge to Keep explores the seminary's history from its founding by Billy Graham Harold John Ockenga and J Howard Pew to the installation of its seventh president Scott Sunquist

Shaping a Christian Worldview David S. Dockery, Gregory Alan Thornbury, 2002-09-01 Shaping a Christian Worldview presents a collection of essays that address the key issues facing the future of Christian higher education

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