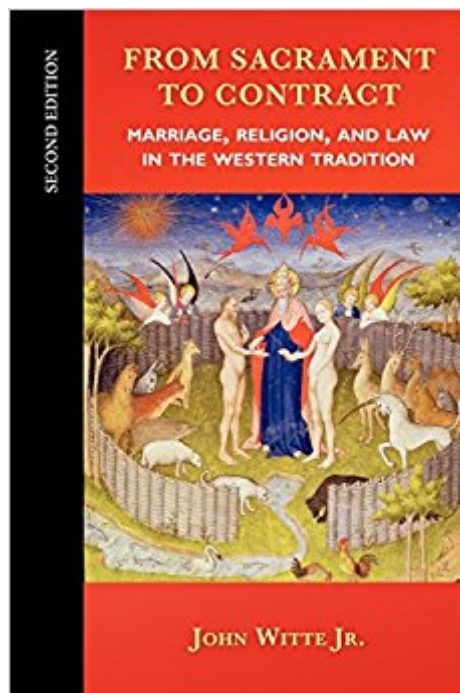


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From Sacrament To Contract, Second Edition: Marriage, Religion, And Law In The Western Tradition



Synopsis

This newly revised and enlarged edition of John Witte's authoritative historical study explores the interplay of law, theology, and marriage in the Western tradition. Witte uncovers the core beliefs that formed the theological genetic code of Western marriage and family law. He explores the systematic models of marriage developed by Catholics, Lutherans, Calvinists, Anglicans, and Enlightenment thinkers, and the transformative influence of each model on Western marriage law. In addition, he traces the millennium-long reduction of marriage from a complex spiritual, social, contractual, and natural institution into a simple private contract with freedom of entrance, exercise, and exit for husband and wife alike. This second edition updates and expands each chapter and the bibliography. It also includes three new chapters on classical, biblical, and patristic sources.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this book just a few weeks prior to president Obama's announcement in support of same-sex marriages. No matter your position on the issue this book is a must read in order to have a well rounded and comprehensive understanding of marriage in western civilization. It is packed full of information that details the multi-faceted nature of marriage, including social, spiritual, natural, and contractual perspectives. It also does a wonderful job of showing how major Christian traditions have approached marriage as well as post-enlightenment thinking. If you want to have an intelligent discussion on marriage that goes beyond sound bites and tweets then this is a must read. It is an historical approach and does not promote a position on things like same-sex marriage or any of the other issues so common under the topic of marriage. What it will do is give you all the information

you need to make an informed decision and be able to explain your decision clearly.

I teach a course on Christian marriage and related ethics of sex, and this book is absolutely indispensable for a historical survey of Christian thinking on marriage and how that thinking affected Western culture and law for 20 centuries. A terrific book.

I took a course with this professor and he is a man of incredibly incisive intellect and the book is one of the best summaries on the evolution of marriage in the west

I had no idea about the history of marriage before I read this book. It's a fascinating insight into the different forms of Christian Western marriage and made the class I was taking fun (where I thought it was a dreary prospect). Would thoroughly recommend, even if just out of an interest. It's an incredibly accessible book for those from a non-religious background.

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