

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University, 1974, in Government.
A.B., Cornell University, 1967, in Government.

EMPLOYMENT:

Hillsdale College, Paul Ermine Potter and Dawn Tibbetts Potter Professorship in Politics, 2011-present.
University of Dallas, 1974-2011. Department chair 2007-11.
Salvatori Visiting Scholar, Claremont McKenna College, 1990-92.
Bradley Resident Scholar, Heritage Foundation, 1988-89.

PUBLICATIONS

Selected publications are posted at
<https://www.hillsdale.edu/faculty/thomas-west/>
<https://hillsdale.academia.edu/ThomasWest>

PUBLICATIONS (books authored and coauthored):

The Political Theory of the American Founding: Natural Rights, Public Policy, and the Moral Conditions of Freedom. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Vindicating the Founders: Race, Sex, Class, and Justice in the Origins of America. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1997. Paperback, 2001.

Chapter 1, "Slavery,"

<https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Vindicating-ch.-1-Slavery.pdf>

Chapter 7, "Immigration and the Moral Conditions of Citizenship,"

<https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Vindicating-ch.-7-Immigration.pdf>

Plato's "Apology of Socrates": An Interpretation, with a New Translation. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1979.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Plato_s_Apology_of_Socrates_An_Interpret.pdf

PUBLICATIONS (books translated or edited):

Modern America and the Legacy of the Founding. Ed. Ronald J. Pestritto and TGW. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2006.

Challenges to the American Founding: Slavery, Historicism, and Progressivism in the Nineteenth Century. Ed. Ronald J. Pestritto and TGW. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2004.

The American Founding and the Social Compact. Ed. Ronald J. Pestritto and TGW. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2003.

Algernon Sidney. *Discourses Concerning Government*, with an introduction and notes. Edited by TGW. Indianapolis: Liberty Classics, 1990. Revised edition, 1996.

Plato. *Charmides*. Translated by TGW and Grace Starry West. Introduction by TGW. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1986.

Plato and Aristophanes. *Four Texts on Socrates: Plato's Euthyphro, Apology, and Crito, and Aristophanes' Clouds*. Edited with an introduction by TGW. Translated by TGW and Grace Starry West. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984. Revised ed., 1998. Over 200,000 copies sold (2017).

Shakespeare as Political Thinker. Edited by John E. Alvis and TGW. Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 1981. Revised and expanded edition, Wilmington: Intercollegiate Studies Institute Books, 2000.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (articles and book chapters):

“Harry V. Jaffa, 1918-2015: The Problem of the Best Political Order,” *Claremont Review of Books* 15, no. 1, Spring 2015. <http://www.claremont.org/crb/article/harry-v-jaffa-1918-2015/>.

“Locke’s Neglected Teaching on Morality and the Family.” *Society* 50, no. 5 (September/October 2013): 472-6. This article is a response to Peter Lawler, “Locke, Darwin, and the American Science of Modern Virtue,” same journal, 447-55.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2013-Lockes_Neglected_Teaching_on_Morality.pdf

“The Ground of Locke’s Law of Nature.” *Social Philosophy and Policy* 29, no. 2 (Summer 2012): 1-50. Also in *Natural Rights Individualism and Progressivism in American Political Philosophy*, ed. Ellen Frankel Paul, Jeffrey Paul, Fred D. Miller, Jr., 1-50. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2012-Ground_of_Locke_s_Law_of_Nature.pdf

“The Universal Principles of the American Founding.” In *The American Founding: Its Intellectual and Moral Framework*, ed. Daniel N. Robinson and Richard N. Williams, 53-75. New York: Continuum, 2012.

“The Economic Theory of the American Founding.” In *Rediscovering Political Economy*, ed. Joseph Postell and Bradley C. S. Watson, 159-185. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2011.

“The Economic Principles of America’s Founders: Property Rights, Free Markets, and Sound Money.” First Principles Series Report #32, Heritage Foundation, 2010, <http://www.heritage.org/political-process/report/the-economic-principles-americas-founders-property-rights-free-markets-and>.

“What’s Wrong with Tocqueville?” In “Soft Despotism, Democracy’s Drift: What Tocqueville Teaches Today,” by Paul Rahe, James W. Ceaser, and Thomas G. West. First Principles Series Report #28, Heritage Foundation, 2009, <http://www.heritage.org/political-process/report/soft-despotism-democracys-drift-what-tocqueville-teaches-today>, pp. 10-14. The published version omits the article title.

“Immigration: The Founders’ View and Today’s Challenge.” In *The Founders on Citizenship and Immigration: Principles and Challenges in America*, by Edward J. Erler, John Marini, and Thomas G. West. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. Pp. 75-114.

“The Progressive Movement and the Transformation of American Politics.” First Principles, #12, Heritage Foundation, 2007, <http://www.heritage.org/political-process/report/the-progressive-movement-and-the-transformation-on-american-politics>

“Progressivism and the Transformation of American Government.” In *The Progressive Revolution in Politics and Political Science: Transforming the American Regime*, ed. John Marini and Ken Masugi, 13-33. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005. https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2005-Progressivism_and_the_Transformation_of_Amer_Govt.pdf

“The Transformation of Protestant Theology as a Condition of the American Revolution.” In *Protestantism and the American Founding*, ed. Thomas S. Engeman and Michael P. Zuckert, 187-223. South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press, 2004.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Transformation_of_Protestant_Theology_2004.pdf

“Free Speech in the American Founding and in Modern Liberalism.” *Social Philosophy and Policy* 21, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 310-84. Also in *Freedom of Speech*, ed. Ellen Frankel Paul, Fred D. Miller, Jr., and Jeffrey Paul, 310-384. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

<https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2004-free-speech-in-the-founding-and-in-modern-liberalism.pdf>

“Leo Strauss and American Foreign Policy.” *Claremont Review of Books* 4, no. 3 (Summer 2004): 13-16.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2004-Leo_Strauss_and_American_Foreign_Policy.pdf

“Nature and Happiness in Locke: A Review of *Launching Liberalism: On Lockean Political Philosophy*, by Michael P. Zuckert.” *Claremont Review of Books* 4, no. 2 (Spring 2004): 54-57.

<https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/West-Nature-and-happiness-in-Locke-2004.pdf>

“The Political Theory of the Declaration of Independence.” In *The American Founding and the Social Compact*, edited by Ronald J. Pestritto and TGW, 95-145. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2003.

“God and Man in America.” Review essay on *Separation of Church and State*, by Philip Hamburger. *Claremont Review of Books* 3, no. 2 (Spring 2003): 28-30.

<http://www.claremont.org/crb/article/god-and-man-in-america/http://www.claremont.org/crb/article/god-and-man-in-america/>

“Sins of the Fathers.” (On Dostoevsky and the Problem of Traditionalism.) *Claremont Review of Books*, 2, no. 4 (Fall 2002): 28-31.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2002-Sins_of_the_Fathers-Dostoevsky.pdf

“The Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.” In *The Declaration of Independence: Origins and Impact*, ed. Scott Douglas Gerber, 72-95. Washington: CQ Press, 2002.

“Jaffa versus Mansfield: Does America Have a Constitutional or a ‘Declaration of Independence’ Soul?” *Perspectives on Political Science* 31, no. 4 (Fall 2002), 235-46.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2002-Jaffa_vs_Mansfield.pdf

“The Constitutionalism of the Founders versus Modern Liberalism.” *Nexus: A Journal of Opinion* 6 (Spring 2001): 75-99.

“Jaffa’s Lincolnian Defense of the Founding.” *Interpretation* 28 (Spring 2001): 279-96.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2001-Jaffas_Lincolnian_Defense_of_the_Founding.pdf

“Leo Strauss and the American Founding.” *Review of Politics* 53 (Winter 1991), 157-72. Repr. in *Leo Strauss: Political Philosopher and Jewish Thinker*, ed. Kenneth L. Deutsch and Walter Nicgorski, 309-24. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 1994.

“Misunderstanding the American Founding.” In *Interpreting Tocqueville’s Democracy in America*, ed. Ken Masugi, 155-77. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1991.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/1991-Misunderstanding_the_American_Founding-Tocqueville.pdf

“Allan Bloom and America.” *Claremont Review of Books* 6, no. 1 (Spring 1988): 1, 17-20. Reprinted in part in *Essays on the Closing of the American Mind*, ed. R. L. Stone. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1989. Pp. 166-73. Repr. *Texas Education Review*, Summer 2000, 5-13. https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/1988-Allan_Bloom_and_America_on_Closing_of_the_American_Mind.pdf

“The Classical Spirit of the Founding.” In *The American Founding: Essays on the Formation of the Constitution*, ed. J. Jackson Barlow, Leonard W. Levy, and Ken Masugi. New York: Greenwood Press, 1988. Pp. 1-56.

“The Rule of Law in *The Federalist*.” In *Saving the Revolution: The Federalist Papers and the American Founding*, ed. Charles R. Kesler, 150-67. New York: Free Press, 1987.

“Defending Socrates and Defending Politics.” In *Natural Right and Political Right: Essays in Honor of Harry V. Jaffa*, ed. Thomas B. Silver and Peter W. Schramm. Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 1984. Also in *Interpretation* 11, no. 3 (September 1983): 383-97. http://www.interpretationjournal.com/backissues/Vol_11-3.pdf

“Marx and Lenin.” *Interpretation* 11, no. 1 (January 1983): 73-85. Revised version in *Marx and the Gulag: Two Essays*. Co-author with Sanderson Schaub. Montclair, CA: Claremont Institute, 1988.

https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/1987-Marx_and_Lenin.pdf

“Cicero’s Teaching on Natural Law.” *The St. John’s Review* 32 (Summer 1981): 74-81. https://www.hillsdale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/1981-Ciceros_Teaching_on_Natural_Law.pdf

“The Two Truths of *Troilus and Cressida*.” In *Shakespeare as Political Thinker*, ed. John E. Alvis and TGW, 127-143. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 1981. In the revised and expanded edition, Wilmington: Intercollegiate Studies Institute Books, 2000, 143-162.

PUBLICATIONS (selected reviews and miscellany):

Brief reviews of *The Federalist*; *Anabasis*, by Xenophon; *Meltdown: A Free-Market Look at Why the Stock Market Collapsed*, by Thomas E. Woods; *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded*, by Samuel Richardson; *In Praise of Folly*, by Erasmus; *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy. In “A Very Claremont Christmas,” Claremont Institute website, Dec. 2009. <http://www.claremontinstitute.org/crb/basicpage/crb-christmas-list-2009/>

Brief reviews of *Paradise Lost*, by Milton; *Studies in Platonic Political Philosophy*, by Leo Strauss; and *Leo Strauss and the Theological-Political Problem*, by Heinrich Meier. In “A Merry Claremont Christmas,” Claremont Institute website, Dec. 2006. <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-chat/1751915/posts>.

Brief reviews of *Leviathan*, by Thomas Hobbes; *The Spirit of the Laws*, by Montesquieu; *Don Quixote*, by Cervantes; *Eros and Empire: Politics and Christianity in Don Quixote*, by Henry Higuera; *The Religion of Protestants: A Safe Way to Salvation*, by William Chillingworth. In “A Very Claremont Christmas 2004,” <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1303224/posts>

“Classical Republicanism and America.” Review essay on *Republics: Ancient and Modern*, by Paul A. Rahe. *Review of Politics* 56, no. 2 (Spring 1994): 359-63.

“Does the Founding Need Ennobling?” Review of *The Ennobling of Democracy*, by Thomas L. Pangle. *Crisis*, June 1993, 47-50.

“Educating for Liberty.” Review of *The Thinking Revolutionary: Principle and Practice in the New Republic*, by Ralph Lerner. *Review of Politics* 51 (Summer 1989), 440-43.

“Nobility in the American Founding.” Review of *American Political Writing during the Founding Era, 1760-1805*, edited by C. S. Hyneman and D. S. Lutz. *Claremont Review of Books* 4, no. 2 (Summer 1985): 28.

<http://www.claremont.org/crb/article/nobility-in-the-american-founding/>

“The Puritans and Classical Rationalism.” (Printed under the title “God and Man at Harvard.”) Review of *Moral Philosophy at Seventeenth-Century Harvard*, by Norman Fiering. *Claremont Review of Books* 2 (December 1983), 1, 8.

<http://www.claremont.org/crb/article/god-and-man-at-harvard/>

RECENT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS:

“The Founders on Sex and Marriage.” Presented at Notre Dame University, 1/25/18.

“The Political Theory of the American Founding.” Presented at a panel discussion of the book, Heritage Foundation, 11/8/17. Panelists: William Galston, Randy Barnett.

“The Political Theory of the American Founding.” Presentation in Randy Barnett’s Georgetown Law seminar, 11/7/17.

“The Political Theory of the American Founding.” Public lecture for a Hillsdale College conference on the book. Participant on three panel discussions, 11/4/17.

“The Political Theory of the American Founding.” Presented at the Claremont Institute’s Alumni Retreat, Washington, DC, 10/28/17.

“The Political Theory of the American Founding.” Dinner seminar with Yale’s Buckley Fellows, 10/12/17.

“The Political Theory of the American Founding.” Hillsdale College, Constitution Day Celebration, Washington, DC. Panelists: Patrick Deneen, Joshua Mitchell. 9/19/17.

“The Political Theory of the American Founding.” Kirby Center, Hillsdale College, 5/4/17.

“The Post-1970 Liberal Repudiation of Pre-1970 Progressivism and the Transformation of America.” Center for Political and Economic Thought’s biennial Culture and Policy Conference, “E Pluribus: Is America Still a Country?” Saint Vincent College, April 2017.

“The Future of Conservatism” and “The Political Theory of the American Founding.” APSA annual meeting, San Francisco, 9/2/17.

“Hobbes’s Teaching on the Reality of Felicity, or the Summum Bonum.” Presented at Republics Revisited: A Conference on the 25th Anniversary of Paul Rahe’s *Republics Ancient and Modern*. Hillsdale College, 5/27/17.

“The Founders’ Arguments Justifying Equality, Natural Rights, and Natural Law.” Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, 11/11/2016.

“The Natural-Rights and Natural-Law Basis of the Founders’ Policies on Sex and Marriage.” APSA annual meeting, Philadelphia, 9/2/2016.

“How Television Occasionally Teaches Profound Lessons about Politics, Religion, Moral Relativism, Crime, and the Nature of Political Founding: ‘The Telltale Head,’ an Episode of *The Simpsons*.” Presentation for Politics students, Hillsdale College, 11/7/14.

“‘Lord of the Flies’: Illustrating Machiavelli and the State of Nature,” for Hillsdale graduate students, 10/18/2013.

“Post-1970 Liberalism and Pre-1970 Progressivism: Continuity or Discontinuity?” APSA annual meeting, Chicago, August 2013.

“Future Prospects for American Federalism.” Hillsdale College, Annual Constitution Day Celebration, Washington, D.C., 9/15/2011.

“The Ground of Locke’s Law of Nature.” At a symposium sponsored by Liberty Fund and the Social Philosophy & Policy Center of Bowling Green State University, Perrysburg, OH, 5/12/11.

“Leo Strauss’s Final Statement on Machiavelli: A Modification of the ‘Ancients vs. Moderns’ Thesis?” Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, November 2010.

“Why Government Should Support Religion: The Founders’ View.” Public debate with Calvin Massey, sponsored by the student chapter of the Federalist Society, at the College of Law, University of California at Berkeley, 10/21/10.

“Freedom of Speech and Press.” Public lecture at the student chapter of the Federalist Society, College of Law, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, 9/24/10.

“The Universal Principles of the American Founding.” Public lecture at the Wheatley Institution, Brigham Young University, 9/23/10.

“Economic Regulation and the Constitution.” Constitution Day Colloquium, Hillsdale College, Washington, D.C., 9/16/10.

“What Virtues Should Government Promote? The Founders’ Answer.” APSA annual meeting, Washington, D.C., 9/4/10.

Instructor, Publius Fellows Program, Claremont Institute, Indian Wells, CA, 6/27 to 6/30/10.

Instructor, Jack Miller Center Summer Institute, Charlottesville, VA, 6/17 to 6/19/10.