

# 基督教與美國民主政治的建立： 新制度論的重新詮釋

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基督教與民主政治有必然的關連嗎？目前學者的看法似乎趨向兩極。本文以美國的建國為例，說明兩者的關連決定於基督教是否經過本土化，建立起**民主神學**（democratic theology）和**民主教權**（democratic ecclesiology）。歐洲新教在傳入美洲以後，受到當時環境（如開發地的廣大、種族與宗教派別的多樣性、以及十八世紀初期宗教大復興運動）的影響，促成了美國宗教體系中民主神學和民主教權的出現，影響到美國人民選擇了獨立的道路以及民主政府的體制。美國宗教體系中的民主神學，主要是從呼召的概念，加入了政府契約論、革命論、擴大的平等觀、對於君主和貴族政體的批判、以及政教分立論，從而主張獨立建國並且建立民主政體，以保障平等和自由。美國宗教體系中的民主教權，則是指信仰自由的保障制度，平信徒的教會參與制度，以及會眾制度。這些實際的教會生活制度，使得美洲殖民地的人民在生活中學習到民主制度，並且從下往上的逐漸建立起國家的民主政體。

**關鍵詞：**美國歷史、基督教、民主政治、新制度論、民主神學、民主教權。

# **Christianity and the Establishment of American Democracy: A Reinterpretation from the New Institutional Perspective**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Is there a necessary relationship between Christianity and democracy? Contemporary scholars seem to have opposite answers to this question. With the examination of the American case, this paper argues that the relationship between Christianity and democracy is determined by the establishment of democratic theology and democratic ecclesiology through the indiginization of religion. After the transplantation of European Protestantism on American soil, the idiosyncratic environmental factors, such as the huge size of the colonies, the multiplicity of religious denominations, and the religious revivalism of the early eighteenth century, contributed to the establishment of democratic theology and democratic ecclesiology. Together they deeply affected American colonists' choice of independence and democratic polity. The democratic theology of American religion systems built on the core concept of calling and merged with the theories of contractarianism, revolution, enlarged egalitarianism, criticisms of monarchy and aristocracy, and the separation of state and church. The democratic ecclesiology consisted of those church institutions that protected the freedom of conscience, the participation in church affairs by lay believers, and congregationalism. Through these pragmatic institutions, American colonists learned about democracy from their daily lives, and built a national democracy from the bottom up.

**Key Words:** American History, Christianity, Democracy, New Institutionalism, Democratic Theology, Democratic Ecclesiology.