



LAWRENCE W. REED

**AUTHOR, SPEAKER,
ECONOMIST, HISTORIAN**

Lawrence W. Reed is one of the most widely-read voices in the American liberty movement. He spent 21 years as president of the [Mackinac Center for Public Policy](#), followed by nearly 11 years as president of the [Foundation for Economic Education](#) (FEE), where he now serves as President Emeritus. His writing has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The American Spectator, The Washington Examiner, and Christian Science Monitor, among many others. He has authored or co-authored more than 2,000 columns and eight books, including *Was Jesus a Socialist?* and *Real Heroes: Inspiring True Stories of Courage, Character and Conviction*.

Larry's newest book, [Born of Ideas: How Principles, Faith, and Courage Forged America](#), releases September 1, 2026 from Faith and Freedom Press, the inaugural publishing imprint of the Institute for Faith & Freedom at Grove City College. Reed is a 1975 Grove City graduate, making this book a homecoming. In 2022, the President of Poland awarded him the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, the country's highest honor for a foreigner. Ronald Reagan is among past recipients.

CREDENTIALS

- President Emeritus, Foundation for Economic Education (FEE)
- Former President, Mackinac Center for Public Policy (21 years)
- B.A. Economics, Grove City College, 1975
- M.A. History, Slippery Rock State University
- Multiple honorary doctorates
- Has authored over 2,000 columns and eight books
- Experienced TV/radio/podcast guest
- Prolific speaker, having keynoted at least 75 events per year for 34 consecutive years (1985-2019)
- Grove City College Distinguished Alumni Award

AVAILABILITY

- Available Mon-Fri, standard business hours
- Time zone: Eastern (Newnan, Georgia)
- Available via phone or Zoom. Avail to travel upon request.
- Open to pre-recorded interviews for release around September 1 pub date

EXPERTISE

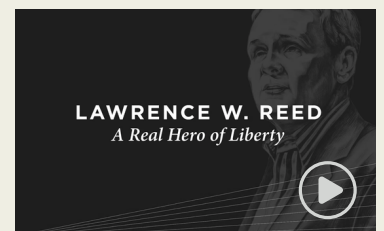
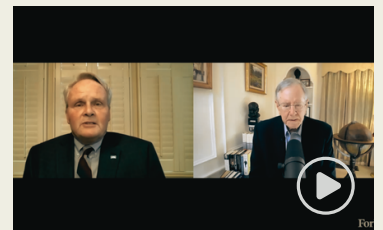
- **Free-market economics and economic history.** 21 years running the Mackinac Center, 11 as president of FEE, taught economics at Northwood.
- **The American Founding.** Not dates and events, but the ideas, faith, and moral character that made it possible — and the overlooked figures the standard narrative leaves out.
- **Christian faith and the free society**
- **Communism, socialism, and the Cold War.** Lived experience, not book knowledge. Traveled with the Polish anti-communist underground in the 1980s, detained by Polish border police in 1986, awarded Poland's Grand Cross in 2022.
- **Character and courage as the foundation of a free society.** The Real Heroes thesis: free countries run on the character of the people inside them, not systems alone.

DOWNLOADS/LINKS

- [Headshot](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Book cover](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Manuscript](#)

WATCH, LISTEN

In conversation with Steve Forbes and in his popular PragerU talk, Larry tackles the question, 'was Jesus a socialist?' In FEE's tribute, colleagues share their admiration.



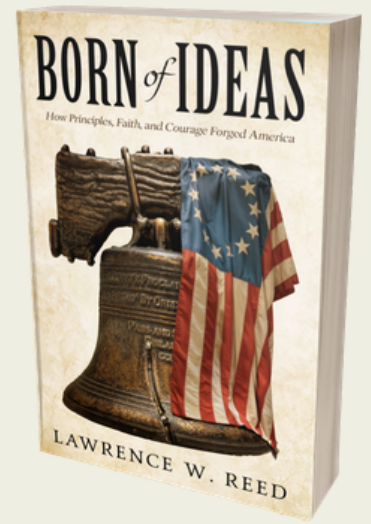
TO BOOK AN INTERVIEW, CONTACT:

MARK BRETA

MARK@JONESLITERARY.COM



ABOUT THE BOOK



[Born of Ideas: How Principles, Faith, and Courage Forged America](#) is a story-driven history of the American Founding, told through the lives of the men and women whose principles, faith, and moral courage made the country possible. From the Mayflower Compact of 1620 to the Bill of Rights, Larry Reed traces the intellectual and spiritual currents that shaped what he calls "first a revolution of ideas that produced a revolution in governance."

Across 33 chapters, Reed profiles familiar figures like Patrick Henry, Thomas Paine, and Samuel Adams alongside overlooked heroes like Anne Hutchinson, Phillis Wheatley, Joseph Warren, Mercy Otis Warren, and the all-Black First Rhode Island Regiment. He argues that the American Revolution was singular in world history. Unlike the French or Bolshevik revolutions, which promised power to "the people" and delivered it to tyrants, the American experiment actually did what it said it would do. The book is a homecoming for Reed, a Grove City College alumnus (Class of 1975) whose education there shaped his life's work. It is also the inaugural title from **Faith and Freedom Press**, the new publishing imprint of the Institute for Faith & Freedom at Grove City College.

WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

- This book promises to rekindle in readers a passion for America's founding ideals, encouraging them to build and expand on them rather than give up on them.
- At a time when Americans openly wonder how long our experiment will last, Reed's book confronts that question directly. He argues that the American Founding was uniquely successful because it was, above all, a revolution of ideas. And he makes the case that those ideas can still hold, if we remember them.
- *Born of Ideas* is also a serious answer to the 1619 Project. Reed argues that the American story began not with slavery in 1619 but with the Mayflower Compact of 1620, and he documents the Black patriots (Phillis Wheatley, Peter Salem, James Armistead) whose contributions the current narrative flattens out.

WHO IS IT FOR?

- Histories of the American Revolution often are a blizzard of war-time events. This book was written for those who want an accessible account of memorable people and ideas whose inspiration mostly preceded the outbreak of war, explained so that readers will appreciate the profound and lasting importance of what the courageous patriots of that day accomplished.
- Christians who want a serious historical case that faith and the American Founding are inseparable
- Homeschool families and classical Christian education parents
- The book was written at a level that anyone from high school to retired would find accessible and appealing.
- The "ideal" reader may be college students who want an honest account of their country's founding and who will be inspired to devote a good portion of their lifetime to defending it.
- Readers of traditional American history and its heroic figures

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- You write that the American Revolution was "first a revolution of ideas that produced a revolution in governance." What were those ideas, and where did they come from?
- You open the book by asking how many governments in world history have been overthrown by revolution, and you argue that ours stands nearly alone. What made the American Revolution different?
- You start the story in 1620, not 1776, and not 1619. Why is the Mayflower Compact the right starting place for understanding America?
- Anne Hutchinson, Phillis Wheatley, Mercy Otis Warren, Joseph Warren, the all-Black First Rhode Island Regiment. You deliberately profile figures who don't always make the standard American history curriculum. Why did you include them?
- Many Americans wonder aloud how long our experiment will last. After spending years with the Founders' ideas, are you optimistic or worried?
- You've been writing about liberty and economics for more than five decades. What do the men and women you profile have to teach Americans right now?
- You devote a full chapter to Anne Hutchinson — a woman banished by the Puritan leaders of Massachusetts and eventually killed for her convictions. What does her story tell us about religious liberty in America that we don't hear often enough?
- Liberty is a concept your book talks a lot about. Tell us how, why, and when it became an important concept for YOU, indeed, the focus of your professional life.
- What makes the Founding generation so unique in history?
- How can we celebrate the Declaration of Independence's claim that "all men are created equal" when slavery existed in the same place at the same time?
- Why was George Washington, who lost more battles than he won, so special?
- You claim that liberty and character are two sides of the same coin. What's the connection there, and its relevance to 1776?
- What similarities do you see between the old Roman Republic and the American Republic? Can we avoid the mistakes and the fate of the first?
- Many Americans seem to think that runaway inflation is something that only happens in Third World countries, but your book cites at least one occasion when it happened here. Tell us about that.

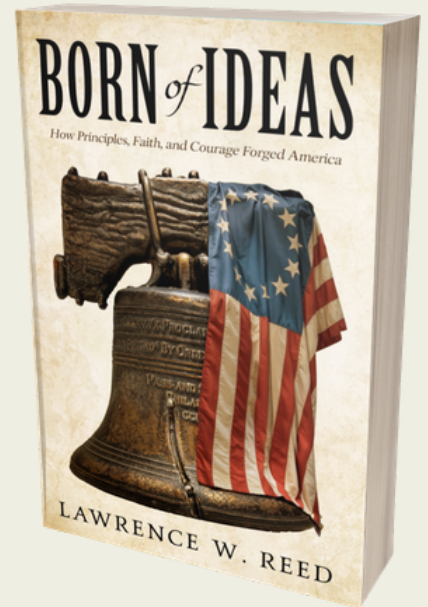
TO BOOK AN INTERVIEW, CONTACT:

MARK Breta

MARK@JONESLITERARY.COM



ENDORSEMENTS



“My friendship with Larry dates back more than sixty years to the time we were neighbors in Western Pennsylvania. Liberty runs in his veins, and that’s clear in this superb book on the ideas that made America exceptional. His passion and eloquence, like fine wine, get better every year.”

-George Pearson, co-founder of the Kansas Policy Institute and the Cato Institute

“This is a marvelous trip through early American history, showing how the idea of liberty shaped America’s founding and percolated through its history through the Revolutionary War. In carefully crafted biographical sketches, Reed shows how Nathan Hale, Joseph Reed, Mercy Otis Warren, and others advanced the cause of liberty during America’s remarkable fight for independence.”

-Burton W. Folsom, Distinguished Fellow, Hillsdale College

“With prose clear and direct, Reed introduces us to forgotten episodes in American history and makes familiar episodes sparkle with lessons typically missed. There isn’t a chapter in this splendid volume that failed to teach me something new and that didn’t enhance my admiration and thanks for our forebears who not only courageously fought for freedom, but who also made the most of it when they won it.”

-Donald J. Boudreaux, Professor of Economics, George Mason University

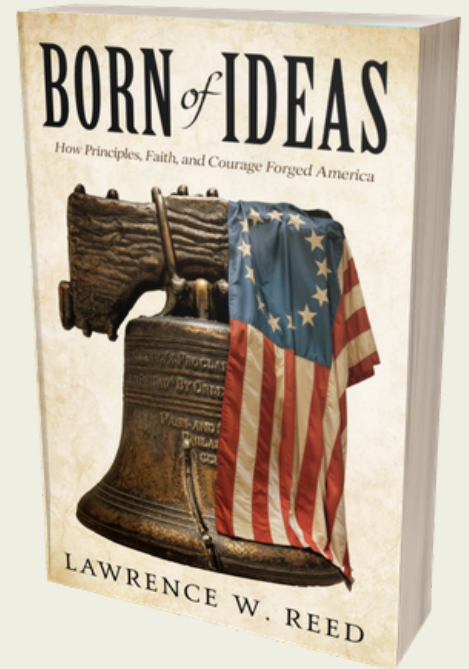
“Reed has spent a lifetime making the moral and economic case for human liberty. In *Born of Ideas*, he revisits the principles that drove America’s founding generation and asks what it would take to preserve them now. Drawing on both well-known and overlooked figures, he traces how conviction, courage, and a belief in liberty under law shaped a nation. At a time when historical memory tends to run shallow or cynical, Reed has written something serious, spirited, and unapologetically hopeful.”

-Diogo Costa, President, Foundation for Economic Education

“Larry has a unique talent for integrating well-told stories about American heroes with wisdom and deep insight into the founding principles of the United States. Read his book, give it to your kids and grandkids, and read the stories together as a family!”

-Magatte Wade, entrepreneur and author, The Heart of the Cheetah





FROM CHAPTER ONE: THE COVENANT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

The Mayflower Compact is a quintessentially American story, and the philosophical wellspring from which the United States sprung.

For the 102 English people aboard the Mayflower, the first days of November in 1620 were ones they would never forget.

After more than two months on a perilous, storm-tossed journey at sea, they sighted land on November 9, 1620, which today we call Provincetown Harbor of Cape Cod. They dropped anchor on November 11. During those two days in between, they produced a document that established what historian Rebecca Fraser has called "the first written democratic constitution."

We recognize that 200-word statement today as the Mayflower Compact, and it is difficult to overestimate its importance.

Previous statements and declarations in which freedom was a factor were agreements between an aggrieved people and the king or queen who ruled them. The Magna Carta, for example, created a new relationship between English nobles and King John in 1215.

The Mayflower Compact, however, had nothing directly to do with the State. It was a private contract between the Pilgrim men and the other male passengers, called "strangers" by the Pilgrims, who had been sent to America by the ship's sponsors in Britain to provide skills to help the new colony succeed.

Compelled by circumstances (their survival hung in the balance) to settle the issue one way or another, the passengers did the adult and civil thing. They promised in writing to form a government of mutual consent. Its laws would bind them all without religious or political discrimination.

Personally, I love this story because it is so quintessentially American, so sublimely pro-liberty. The Pilgrims fled religious persecution at the hands of the English government. They made a deal with investors to privately finance a new settlement across the Atlantic Ocean. Half the passengers on their ship did not share their religious views, but the Pilgrims and "the strangers" put their differences aside to survive together and to plant the seeds of a new civilization.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence asserted that "all men are created equal" and that to secure their unalienable rights, "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." To Americans who remembered the Mayflower Compact, this was a glorious continuation of an idea their ancestors had planted more than 150 years earlier.

It is no exaggeration to say that the great American experiment — the achievement of self-government, rule of law and enlightened liberty for all — began not in 1776 but in 1620. We are still on that same voyage and though occasional storms thwart and even set us back, we remain committed to the ideal.

