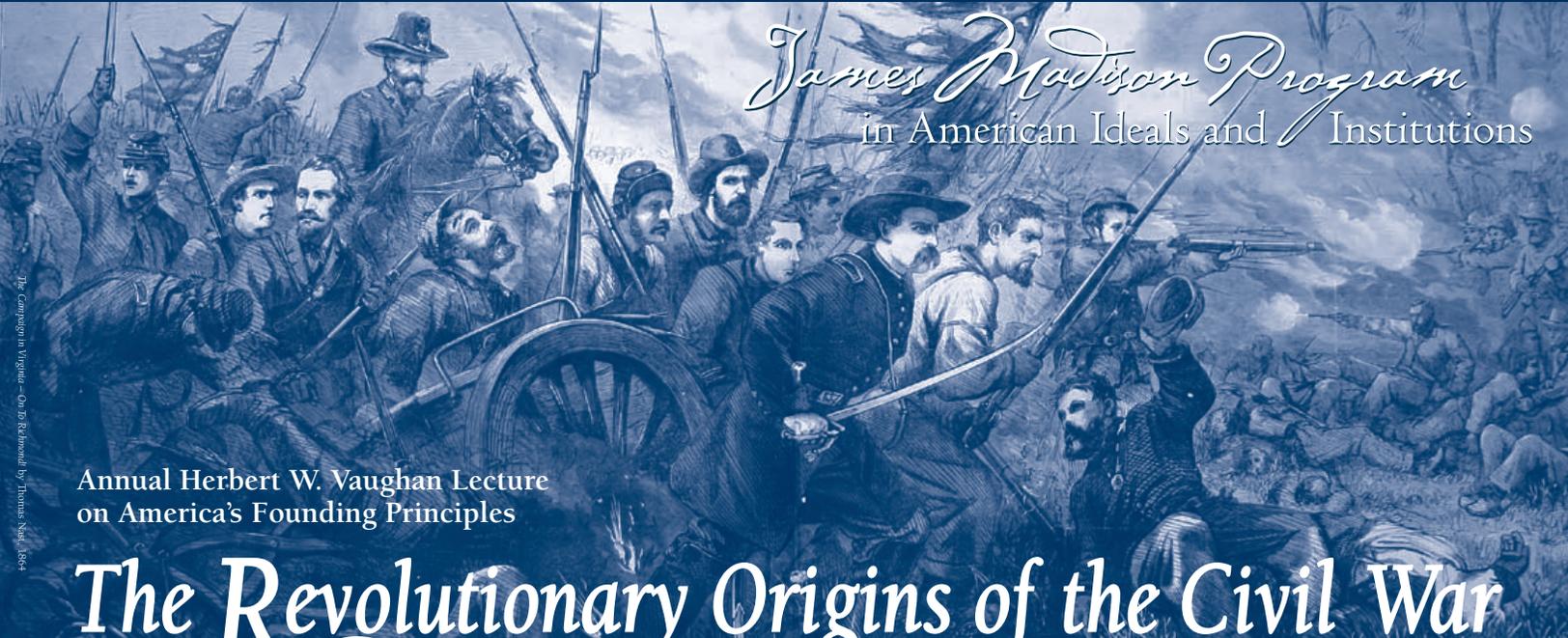


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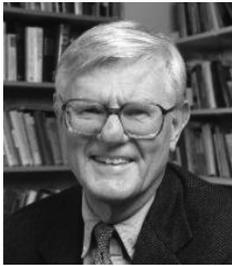
Annual Herbert W. Vaughan Lecture
on America's Founding Principles

The Revolutionary Origins of the Civil War

Gordon S. Wood

Alva O. Way University Professor, Professor of History Emeritus, Brown University
Recipient of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for History for *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*

Wednesday, **November 30, 2011**
4:30 p.m., McDonnell Hall A01



Gordon S. Wood is the Alva O. Way University Professor and Professor of History Emeritus at Brown University and recipient of the Pulitzer-Prize in History for his book *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*. He taught at Harvard University and the University of Michigan before joining the faculty at Brown in 1969.

He is the author of many works, including *The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787* (Chapel Hill, 1969), which won the Bancroft Prize and the John H. Dunning Prize in 1970; *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* (New York, 1992), which won the Pulitzer Prize for History and the Ralph Waldo Emerson Prize in 1993; *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin*, which was awarded the Julia Ward Howe Prize by the Boston Authors Club in 2005; and *The Idea of America: Reflections on the Birth of the United States* (Penguin Press, May 2011), a collection of essays in which Wood reflects on the birth of American nationhood and explains why the revolution remains so essential. His volume in the Oxford History of the United States, *Empire of Liberty: A History of the Early Republic, 1789-1815*, published in October 2009, was a finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for history. The Pulitzer committee described it as “a lucid exploration of a turbulent era when a profoundly changing America, despite the sin of slavery, came to see itself as a beacon to the world.”

In 2010 Professor Wood was awarded the National Humanities Medal for “scholarship that provides insight into the founding of the nation and the drafting of the U.S. Constitution.” Professor Wood writes frequently for *The New York Review of Books* and *The New Republic*. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

He received his B.A. degree from Tufts University. After serving in the U.S. Air Force in Japan, during which time he earned an A.M. at Harvard University, he entered the Ph.D. program in History at Harvard, where he studied under Bernard Bailyn.

“I, Herbert W. Vaughan, have endowed this Lecture at Princeton University to promote and advance understanding of the founding principles and core doctrines of American constitutionalism. What Alexander Hamilton said to the Americans of his day remains true for Americans of every generation:

it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force.

In my judgment, the Constitution of the United States is the greatest practical achievement of political science. It is a testament to the extraordinary gifts of creativity, prudence, and high mindedness possessed by the founders of our Nation. May you be guided and inspired by their genius as you meet the challenges of the present day.”

— Herbert W. Vaughan