Anti-Catholicism in Eighteenth-Century England is a political and social study. This book provides the first analysis of the Catholic response to the supernatural and witchcraft and how it related to a characteristic Counter-Reformation preoccupation, the phenomenon of miracles (including the connections between religious toleration and the rise of the 'enlightenments'). Contributors also address issues of modernity and the ways in which a 'modern' society can draw its inspiration from both religion and rationality, as well as engaging with the seventeenth-century idea of the synthesis of religion and politics and its evolution into a system in which religion and politics were interdependent but separate. Offering a broadly conceived interpretation of current research from a more comparative perspective than is often the case, the historiographical implications of this collection are significant for the development of ideas of the nature of the Enlightenment and for the nature of religion, society and politics in the eighteenth century. By bringing together historians of politics, religion, ideas and society to engage with the central theme of the volume, the collection provides a forum for leading scholars to explore a significant theme in the history of the British Enlightenment.

Rational Dissent was a branch of Protestant religious nonconformity which emerged to prominence in England in the late eighteenth century. Rational Dissenters in Late Eighteenth-Century England: `an Ardent Desire of Truth`-Valerie Smith 2021-02-17

By focusing on the religious and political questioning of early modern Englishmen, the essays in Against Popery provide an effective framework for analyzing and explaining Anglo-American politics, especially since it figured prominently in the American Revolution as well as others. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, written by scholars from both sides of the Atlantic working in history, literature, art history, and political science, the essays in Against Popery cover three centuries of English, Scottish, Irish, early American, and imperial history. The book's objective is to foster a new awareness of the enduring power of anti-Catholicism as a prism through which to interpret the culture and politics of the British-American world. In early modern England, opposition to tyranny and corruption associated with the papacy could spark violent conflicts not only between Protestants and Catholics but among Protestants themselves. Yet anti-popery had a capacity for inclusion which, while it contributed to the wealth and well-being of the first British Empire. Combining the religious and political concerns of the Protestant Empire into a powerful (if occasionally unpredictable) ideology, anti-popery affords an effective framework for analyzing and explaining anti-American politics, especially since it figured prominently in the American Revolution as well. A lively discussion of how English and American Catholics have been treated in the historiography of the Enlightenment.

Amendment separated church and state, separation became part of American constitutional law only much later. Hamburger shows that separation became a constitutional freedom largely through fear and prejudice. First Amendment. The detailed evidence assembled here shows that eighteenth-century Americans almost never invoked this principle. Although Thomas Jefferson and others retrospectively claimed that the First Amendment separated church and state, separation became an American constitutional law long before much later. Hamburger shows that separation became a constitutional freedom largely through fear and prejudice.