

“First Freedom: The Fight for Religious Liberty”

“First Freedom: The Fight for Religious Liberty” is a 90-minute documentary that explores the faith of the U.S. Founding Fathers and the path to religious liberty in America. This film uses stunning re-enactments, the Founding Fathers’ own words--Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin and others--and the incisive commentary of key experts to profile the lives and times of the colonial Americans who raised the ideal of religious freedom to the level of a fundamental human right. “First Freedom: The Fight for Religious Liberty” airs on NET1/HD on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. CT.

“First Freedom” examines provocative and historically significant issues by exploring the religious history leading up to the era of the American Revolution, key debates on the intersection of religion and governance, and the Founding Fathers’ personal beliefs about religion. The film details the progression of religious liberty from Pilgrims and Puritans to the creation of the Bill of Rights and how it shaped a new nation, guaranteeing religious freedom for its citizens and establishing a free marketplace for religion in the United States.

A government without the interlocking authority of religion was utterly unprecedented in Western history and within a generation of its creation, it produced a vibrant religious culture still unmatched anywhere in the world. “First Freedom” also explores with scholars, historians and writers the contemporary tests of religious freedom, current interpretations, and the lasting legacy of the Constitutional guarantees.

“First Freedom” examines how the Founders’ religious backgrounds and beliefs shaped the lasting hallmarks of American society: religious freedom and the separation of church and state. A driving force in this narrative are the words of the actual Founders themselves.

“First Freedom” includes engaging educational resources at www.pbs.org/firstfreedom. This website allows users to further study the history and themes presented in the film as they explore expanded content, video clips, resources and more in an interactive environment.

NET1/HD are part of NET Television. NET Television is a service of NET. For a complete program schedule, visit NET’s website (netNebraska.org/television).

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