



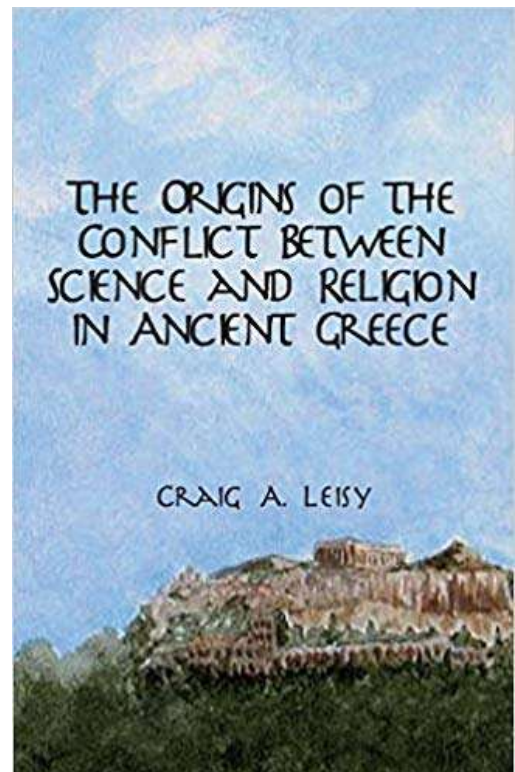
Craig A. Leisy  
1502 Bon Homme Richard Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80526  
Mobile: (425) 736-6843  
Email: [cleisy@earthlink.net](mailto:cleisy@earthlink.net)

Craig A. Leisy  
P. O. Box 270356  
Fort Collins, CO 80527

**TITLE:** *The Origins of the Conflict between Science and Religion in Ancient Greece*  
**AUTHOR:** Craig A. Leisy  
**GENRE:** Non-fiction (history of philosophy, religion)  
**FORMAT:** 5.5" (W) x 8.5" (H)  
**LENGTH:** 159 pages  
**PUBLISHING HISTORY:** Print-on-Demand,  
Manchester Center, VT:  
Shires Press (2012)  
Author retains all rights to the Work  
including derivatives of the Work.  
**COPYRIGHT:** Author registered copyright  
effective January 31, 2012,  
Reg. No. TX 7-534-3415

## OVERVIEW

This monograph proposes the thesis that the modern conflict between science and religion had its origins in ancient Greece at the time that the first sciences were discovered c. 500 BCE. The focus is on the science of astronomy which is usually considered the oldest science. Many contemporary scholars argue that the conflict between science and religion originated with Galileo and



the Catholic Church. This book challenges that claim by contrasting the principal discoveries of 16 notables in early Greek astronomy from Thales of Miletus (624-547 BCE) to Poseidonius of Apamea (c. 130-50 BCE) with the unorthodox beliefs of 16 notables of ancient Greek philosophy from Xenophanes of Colophon (570 – 478 BCE) to Epicurus of Samos (341 – 271 BCE).

The discovery that the motion of the heavenly bodies were predictable undermined the early myths about the gods and shook the foundations of traditions and religious beliefs. Astronomy was of singular importance in the ancient world because the development of accurate calendars was crucial to determining when to plant and harvest crops. Additionally, this knowledge enabled the navigation of ships to trade with other cities and allowed the computation of time. Most of what we recognize as the key concepts of modern astronomy were originally discovered by the ancient Greeks: the plurality of worlds, the sphericity of the earth, the cause of lunar and solar eclipses, the distances from the earth to the moon and the sun, and the heliocentric hypothesis.

Even as the discoveries of the sciences weakened belief in the ancient religious myths, they changed the way man understood his world and diminished the roles of the gods. The historians, sophists and poets attributed to natural causes what had previously been believed the work of the gods, forever altering the relationship between man and the gods. In fact, the beginnings of religious unbelief can be traced to this period. Epicurus was the founder of the Epicurean school which taught that there was nothing to fear from death. The Epicureans, along with the Sceptics and Cynics, founded the novel concept of secularism which, today, dominates the cultures in the West.

The origins of the conflict between science and religion cannot be found in the early modern astronomers such as Copernicus and Galileo and their fights with the Catholic church but rather among the ancient astronomers who came into conflict with pagan religion more than 1,500 years previously. State religions in ancient Greece with celebration of the religious festivals were a matter of patriotism – not theology.

This book presents a fresh perspective on the origins of the conflict between science and religion written for the general reader. All that is required is a curiosity about how and why the conflict started. A unique feature of this book is that the ancients speak in their own words throughout, based on fragments or complete manuscripts that have survived. All sources used are readily available in local public libraries or through interlibrary loan. The most authoritative translations are employed. This book is not an opinion piece but, instead, merely relates the history of the conflict between science and religion beginning with the pre-Socratics c. 500 BCE.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

The book is divided in three parts: early astronomers, early philosophers who expressed unorthodox ideas, and sources of unbelief in ancient Greek society. It is noteworthy that there is little overlap between the first ‘scientists’ (natural philosophers) and the early Greek philosophers who voiced the first expressions of religious unbelief. Chapter 1 examines the mystery of why the first natural philosophers lived in Miletus, a Greek colony on the

Mediterranean coast of modern Turkey. The history of these natural philosophers and sophists proves that the conflict between science and religion originated in ancient Greece when the sciences were born. They were two world views that were inherently opposed – one studying laws of nature and the other finding supernatural causes for the world as they found it.

|       |  |    |
|-------|--|----|
|       | <b>Introduction</b>  | 1  |
| Ch. 1 | <b>The Origins of Science</b>  | 5  |
| Ch. 2 | <b>The History of Early Greek Astronomy</b>  | 12 |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thales of Miletus</li> <li>▪ Anaximander of Miletus</li> <li>▪ Anaximenes of Miletus</li> <li>▪ Pythagoras of Samos</li> <li>▪ Anaxagoras of Clazomenae</li> <li>▪ Empedocles of Acragas</li> <li>▪ Philolaus of Croton</li> <li>▪ Lerucippus of Miletus</li> <li>▪ Democritus of Abdera</li> <li>▪ Eudoxus of Cnidos</li> <li>▪ Heraclides of Pomntus</li> <li>▪ Aristarchus of Samos</li> <li>▪ Archimedes of Syracuse</li> <li>▪ Eratosthenes of Cyrene</li> <li>▪ Hipparchus of Nicea</li> <li>▪ Poseidonius of Apamea</li> </ul>               |    |
| Ch. 3 | <b>The Beginnings of Religious Unbelief</b>  | 45 |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Xenophanes of Colophon</li> <li>▪ Anaxagoras of Clazomenae</li> <li>▪ Hippo of Rhegium</li> <li>▪ Heraclitus of Ephesus</li> <li>▪ Diogenes of Sinope</li> <li>▪ Diagoras of Melos</li> <li>▪ Protagoras of Abdera</li> <li>▪ Democritus of Abdera</li> <li>▪ Critias of Athens</li> <li>▪ Prodicus of Ceos</li> <li>▪ Bion of Borysthene</li> <li>▪ Euripides of Salamis</li> <li>▪ Socrates of Athens</li> <li>▪ Aristotle of Stagira</li> <li>▪ Euhemerus of Messene</li> <li>▪ Epicurus of Samos</li> <li>▪ Other Religious Unbelief</li> </ul> |    |
| Ch. 4 | <b>Sources of Conflict with Religion</b>   | 94 |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Greek Religion</li> <li>▪ The State and Religion</li> <li>▪ City Life and Religion</li> <li>▪ Trade and Religion</li> </ul>   |    |

|       |                               |     |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----|
|       | ▪ History and Religion        |     |
|       | ▪ Philosophy and Religion     |     |
|       | ▪ The Sophists and Religion   |     |
|       | ▪ Literature and Religion     |     |
|       | ▪ Moral Criticism of Religion |     |
|       | ▪ The Problem of Evil         |     |
|       | ▪ Fate and Religion           |     |
|       | ▪ Religious Unbelief          |     |
|       | ▪ Science and Religion        |     |
| Ch. 5 | <b>Conclusion</b>             | 131 |
|       | <b>Bibliography</b>           | 137 |
|       | <b>Appendices</b>             | 143 |
|       | ▪ Early Greek Astronomy       |     |
|       | ▪ Early Greek Unbelief        |     |
|       | <b>Index</b>                  | 153 |

## MARKET

The target market for this biography is the general reader with an interest in the Civil War or the Indian Wars. The book has more than 200 annotated footnotes that provide additional detail for readers who wish to follow up on some aspect of the history presented in this biography. The book is suitable for students in both secondary school and college. It would be a great resource for school and public libraries.

I have a web site ([www.craigleisy.com](http://www.craigleisy.com)) and a blog ([www.craigleisy.blog](http://www.craigleisy.blog)). Both are under development at this time.

## AUTHOR

I have written six other books – five are available by print-on-demand on Amazon and other internet booksellers. My latest book is with a traditional publisher and has been recently sent out to reviewers. The other books are very diverse: history, biography, history of philosophy, poetry and an economic history. I have also started work on a novel.

| Year | Title  | ISBN  | Publisher  |
|------|--|---|--|
| 2019 | <i>Transportation Network Companies and Taxis: The Case of Seattle</i> , 551 pp.<br>(Genre: history, economics, current affairs) | Under contract.<br>Estimated<br>publication is mid-<br>2019 | Routledge<br>Taylor and Francis<br>2 Park Square<br>Milton Park<br>Abingdon<br>Oxfordshire<br>OX14 4RN<br>UK |

|      |   |  |   |
|------|---|--|---|
| 2017 | <i>On Trial for Blasphemy: The State of New Jersey v. Charles B. Reynolds</i> , 67 pp.<br>(Genre: theatrical/screen play, history)                | 978-60571-384-7<br>\$13.95<br>Soft cover   | Shires Press 4869 Main Street<br>P.O. Box 2200<br>Manchester Center, VT 05255<br><a href="http://www.northshire.com">www.northshire.com</a> |
| 2017 | <i>Sergeant Phillip McHugh, U.S. Cavalry: Indian Fighter</i> , 165 pp.<br>(Genre: biography)  | 978-1-60571-354-0<br>\$27.95<br>Soft cover   | Shires Press 4869 Main Street<br>P.O. Box 2200<br>Manchester Center, VT 05255<br><a href="http://www.northshire.com">www.northshire.com</a> |
| 2016 | <i>Rain's only wet if you're in it</i> , 117 pp.<br>(Genre: poetry collection, literary essays)   | 978-1-60571-321-2<br>\$15.95<br>Soft cover<br>978-1-60571-375-5<br>\$39.95<br>Hard bound | Shires Press 4869 Main Street<br>P.O. Box 2200<br>Manchester Center, VT 05255<br><a href="http://www.northshire.com">www.northshire.com</a> |
| 2015 | <i>The Influence of Epicurean Thought on the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam</i> 265 pp.<br>(Genre: history of philosophy, biography)                    | 978-1-60571-277-2<br>\$19.95<br>Soft cover   | Shires Press 4869 Main Street<br>P.O. Box 2200<br>Manchester Center, VT 05255<br><a href="http://www.northshire.com">www.northshire.com</a> |
| 2012 | <i>The Origins of the Conflict between Science and Religion in Ancient Greece</i> , 159 pp.<br>(Genre: history of philosophy, history of science) | 978-1-60571-132-4<br>\$24.95<br>Soft cover   | Shires Press 4869 Main Street<br>P.O. Box 2200<br>Manchester Center, VT 05255<br><a href="http://www.northshire.com">www.northshire.com</a> |
| 2011 | <i>The Blasphemy Trial of Charles B. Reynolds: Morristown, New Jersey, May 19-20, 1887</i> , 107 pp.<br>(Genre: history, biography)               | 978-1-60571-115-7<br>\$19.95<br>Soft cover   | Shires Press 4869 Main Street<br>P.O. Box 2200<br>Manchester Center, VT 05255<br><a href="http://www.northshire.com">www.northshire.com</a> |

I was a service dependent – my father was an aviator in the U. S. Coast Guard for 23 years and a veteran of WWII and my mother was a nurse in the U.S. Navy during WWII. We were stationed on Kodiak, Alaska (when Alaska was still a U.S. Territory) and Guam, Mariana Islands (U.S. possession) as well as Florida, New York, California and Louisiana. I graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT (1972) and completed a 23-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard: deck watch officer on a 180-foot seagoing buoy tender in Homer, AK (1972-1974); commanding officer of a Loran A Station on Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands (U.N. Trust Territory) (1974-1975); commercial vessel safety inspector at Seattle, WA (1975-1978); commercial vessel safety inspector at Morgan City, LA (offshore oil industry) (1978-1981); instructor in the department of economics and management at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT (1981-1984); graduate student in Institute for Marine Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA (1984-1985); chief of commercial vessel safety inspection department in Seattle, WA (1985-1989); branch chief of training for marine safety program at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (1989-1993); regional manager (Gulf of Mexico) National Pollution Fund Center, Arlington, VA (1993-1995). I earned two postgraduate degrees: Master of Business Administration (MBA) at University of Puget Sound (1978) and Master of Marine Affairs (MMA) at the University of Washington (1988). I retired from the U.S. Coast Guard in 1995.

My second career was as a manager in charge of the Consumer Affairs Unit for the City of Seattle where I was responsible for regulating: the taxicab industry, limousine industry, transportation network company (TNC) industry (e.g., Uber, Lyft), the towing industry and weights and measures. I was a board member of the International Association of Transportation Regulators and a member of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. I presented professional papers at both. I retired from the City of Seattle after 22 years in 2017.

Currently, I am dedicating most of my time to writing. I just completed *Transportation Network Companies and Taxis: The Case of Seattle* and it is under contract to a major publisher with an estimated release date of mid-2019. I have started work on a novel. I am married and have two grown children.

[Rev. December 22, 2018]