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Seth Barrett Tillman

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“The framing of our Constitution is a story that every American ought to know by heart and John R. Vile’s *The Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution* tells that wonderful story very well. His emphasis on the ‘practical virtue’ of the framers is a welcome one at a time in our own political history when principle is regarded as the antithesis of compromise.”

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“What the United States Constitution means is a matter of legal and increasingly contentious political dispute. Often invoked in these debates are what the framers of the document intended. *The Writing and Ratification of the U.S. Constitution: Practical Virtue in Action* offers an excellent summary of the context for the drafting of the Constitution as well as critical examination of the drafting of the document at the Philadelphia Convention. Written by one of the leading contemporary constitutional scholars, John R. Vile demonstrates how the framers combined scholarship and experience to produce America’s Constitution. For students, faculty, and others who want to grasp what the Constitution meant to the framers, this book is an excellent first stop and essential read.”


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—SETH BARRETT TILLMAN, Lecturer of Law, National University of Ireland Maynooth

“The *Writing and Ratification of the United States Constitution* by John R. Vile is a wise and practical book of scholarship. A pleasure to read, the book provides a concise compendium of the issues and the personalities of those at the center of the central enterprise of the American experiment in self-government. Vile offers an understated but eloquent vindication of the pragmatism the founders brought to their work and challenges our current generation of leaders to find such common ground once more.”

—KENNETH L. PENEGAR, author of *The Political Trial of Benjamin Franklin*