

*Study Guide for Seeking a Better Country by D. G. Hart and John R. Meuther
and for Selected Articles Read for the Class*

After each item you will find the page number(s) on which that item is found.

Introduction (1-10)

1. Note the levels in Presbyterian church government (3).
2. Note the Cumberland Presbyterians (5).
3. What are the text's distinctions between Presbyterians and Puritans (6-7)?
4. Note the focus of this text (bottom 7).
5. Note the distinct character of Covenanters (Reformed Presbyterians) and Seceders (Associate Reformed Presbyterians) (8).

Chapter 1: Scotland to America (13-32)

1. What is the importance of 1706 (13)?
2. Note Patrick Hamilton (15).
3. Note the career of John Knox (15-16).
4. What is meant by "the divine right of kings" (17)?
5. Note the origin of the Covenanters (18).
6. Note the beginnings of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in 1690 (19).
7. What are the nature and distinctives of the Covenanter/Reformed Presbyterian tradition (20-22)?
8. What are the nature and distinctives of the Seceder/Associate Presbyterian tradition (23-24)?
9. What is meant by "the Puritan type of Presbyterianism" in early North America (25)?
10. Note the contributions of Francis Makemie (26-28).
11. Note the contributions of Jedediah Andrews (29-30).
12. Note the significance of the Presbytery of Pennsylvania (30-31).

Chapter 2: In Search of Presbyterian Identity (33-49)

1. What is the significance of William Tennent and his Log College (37-38)?
2. Note the significance of Gilbert Tennent (38-39).
3. Note the significance of John Thomson (39).
4. Note the significance of Jonathan Dickinson (39-40).
5. What are the four types of Reformed Christians in America (40)?
6. Note the "two distinct parties" described on 40-41.
7. What was the question concerning the authority of the Synod (41)?
8. What was the question concerning subscription (41-43), including the controversial views of Thomson and Dickinson?
9. Understand the nature of the Adopting Act of 1729 (44-49) including the phrase "essential and necessary" (47-48).

Chapter 3: Enthusiasm and Order (50-69)

1. Note the effects of Presbyterian immigrants on the American church (52).
2. What is the importance of the case of Samuel Hemphill (53)?
3. What was Gilbert Tennent's memorial (54)?
4. Note the "Head vs. Heart" argument (55).

5. How was the Log College an issue (55-57)?
6. How was itinerancy an issue (55-57)?
7. What two questions did Tennent raise over ministerial qualifications (57-58)?
8. What was the impact of George Whitefield on American Presbyterianism (59-60)?
9. What was the significance of the sermon “The Danger of an Unconverted Ministry” (60-61)?
10. Note the Old Side–New Side split, including its causes, the nature of the two sides, and its healing (62-67).
11. Note the reunion of 1758 and its results (67-69).

Chapter 4: From a Colonial to a National Church (70-88)

1. Note the influence of John Witherspoon (70-72).
2. Note the formation of the General Assembly (83-85), including the role of sessions and presbyteries (85).
3. What is meant by the “voluntary” nature of the American Presbyterian Church (88)?

Chapter 5: Presbyterianism’s Ferment (91-108)

1. What are camp meetings, and note the roles of Barton Stone, Cane Ridge, James McGready, and the Cumberland Presbyterians (97-101)?
2. Understand the nature of the Plan of Union (102-4) including the “four general guidelines” (103).
3. Note the growth of Presbyterian education and the founding of Princeton Theological Seminary (106-8).

Chapter 6: Revivalism and Division (Again) (109-27)

1. Note the rise of Charles Finney (109-11).
2. What were Finney’s “new measures” (112)?
3. What was the significance of Finney’s revival in Rochester, NY (112-13)?
4. Note Finney’s theological views (113).
5. Note the connection between revivalism and social reform (114).
6. Note the nature of New England Calvinism, including the New Divinity/Hopkinsianism, Nathaniel Taylor and the New Haven Theology, and their overall views on sin and the atonement (116).
7. Understand the Albert Barnes case (118-20).
8. Note the cases of George Duffield and Lyman Beecher (120-21).
9. What was the nature of the Old School *Memorial* (122-23)?
10. Note the second trial of Albert Barnes (124).
11. Note the General Assembly of 1837 and its actions (124-25).
12. What is the Auburn Declaration (125)?
13. Note the General Assembly of 1838 and its actions (125-26).
14. What were the issues in the division of 1837-38 (126-27)?

Chapter 7: The Flowering of American Presbyterianism (128-46)

1. Note how Lyman Beecher and Albert Barnes represent New School Presbyterianism (130-32).
2. Note the Congregational abrogation of the Plan of Union in 1852 (134).
3. Note the examples of the movement of the New School toward stricter Presbyterian practice and Calvinistic orthodoxy (135-36).
4. What is the significance of Henry B. Smith and his “mediating theology” (136-37)?

5. Note the Old School nature of the positions of Charles Hodge and Princeton Theological Seminary (138-39), especially Hodge’s stress on “doctrine and order” (138).
6. Contrast Charles Hodge and James Henley Thornwell on *jure divino* Presbyterianism (140-41).
7. Understand the doctrine of the spirituality of the church (141-43).
8. Note the discussion about Scotland in the formation of the Free Church of Scotland and the “flowering” of Scottish Presbyterianism (144).
9. Contrast the New School and Old School in their respective views of American freedom and culture (145).

Chapter 8: War and Division (147-65)

1. Note the Gardiner Spring Resolutions and their effect (148-50).
2. What was the Presbyterian declaration of 1818 on slavery (151-52)?
3. Note the split of the New School Presbyterians over slavery (153).
4. Note the Old School position on slavery (154-55).
5. Note the union of the United Synod and the Old School in the South (159-60).
6. Note the reunion of the Old School and the New School in the North in 1869 (164).
7. Distinguish the two post–Civil War denominations: the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) in the South and the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA in the North (164).

Chapter 9: Ecumenism and Progress (169-87)

1. Review the ministry of Sheldon Jackson (169-70).
2. What was the nature of the Evangelical Alliance and the Presbyterian Alliance (170-71)?
3. Note the two effects of ecumenical activities on the Presbyterian Church (172-74).
4. What was the Southern Presbyterian dissent against an inclusive spirit (175)?
5. What were the two differing understandings of the church as an agent of Christian civilization or as a spiritual institution (177-78)?
6. Note the attitudes of Presbyterians toward Darwinism (178-79).
7. Note the attitudes of Presbyterians toward “progressive” ideas (180).
8. What is the importance of the article “Inspiration” by A. A. Hodge and B. B. Warfield (181)?
9. Review the Portland Deliverance (181).
10. Note Charles Briggs’s views and his heresy trial (181-83).
11. What were the revisions to the Westminster Confession in 1903 (184)?
12. Note the reunion with the Cumberland Presbyterians and its implications (184-85).
13. Note the Portland Deliverance and five fundamentals affirmed (186).

Chapter 10: The Presbyterian Conflict (North) (188-204)

1. What was the “Philadelphia Plan” of church union (190-91)?
2. Note the significance of Harry Emerson Fosdick (191-92).
3. Note the significance of Clarence Macartney (192).
4. What was the Auburn Affirmation (193)?
5. How did William Jennings Bryan fit into the Presbyterian controversy (193)?
6. Note the role of J. Gresham Machen (194).
7. What was the Special Commission of 1925-26 and what did it decide (195-96)?
8. Review the missions controversy (196-97), including the role of *Re-Thinking Missions*, Robert Speer, Machen, and the Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions.
9. Note the ousting of Machen (199).

10. Note the founding of the OPC (201).
11. What is Marsden's view of the departure of the Bible Presbyterians from the OPC (201)?

Chapter 11: Presbyterian Consolidation (205-21)

1. Note the United Presbyterian Church of North America, the "Testimony of 1856," and the work of John McNaugher (206-7).
2. Note what Neo-orthodoxy is and how it contributed to "ecclesiastical tranquility" (208-9).
3. What the significance of John Mackay (209)?
4. Review the importance of Cornelius Van Til and his critique of Neo-orthodoxy (209-10).
5. Note the symbolism of the Eisenhower administration for Presbyterianism (210-11).
6. Note the union of the PCUSA and the UPCNA (211).
7. What was changing in the Presbyterian understanding of the roles of women (214)?
8. Who was Eugene Carson Blake (214-16)?
9. Note the nature and significance of the Confession of 1967 (217-18).
10. Note the rightward shift of the ARP Church (220-21).
11. Note the union of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church (General Synod) to form the Reformed Presbyterian (Evangelical Synod) (221).

Chapter 12: The Assimilation of Southern Presbyterians (222-37)

1. Note the concept of "the spirituality of the church" and its defender James Henley Thornwell (223).
2. What was *jure divino* Presbyterianism (223-24)?
3. Review the importance of the James Woodrow case (226).
4. What was the significance of Ernest Trice Thompson (230-32)?
5. Note the Southern Presbyterian revision of the Westminster Confession in 1942 (232).
6. How was L. Nelson Bell important (234)?
7. Note the founding of the Reformed Theological Seminary (235).
8. What is meant by an "escape clause" (236)?
9. Note the founding of the PCA (236).

Chapter 13: Vanishing Presbyterianism (238-54)

1. Note the Kenyon case and move toward women's ordination (239).
2. What significant actions were taken by James Montgomery Boice and the Tenth Street Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia (239-40)?
3. Note the Kaseman case (240).
4. What was the significance of the founding of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (240-41)?
5. Note the union of the UPCNA and the PCUS into the PC(USA) (242-43).
6. Note the union of the PCA and the RPCES (243-44).
7. Note the failure of union efforts between the OPC and the PCA (244).
8. Note the decline in membership for mainline Presbyterianism (245-46).
9. What is the Presbyterian Lay Committee (247)?
10. What was the Confessing Church Movement (251-52)?

Article: Francis Grimké and the Fundamentalists

1. Note the path of Grimké to the ministry (80).
2. Note the mixture of conservatism in Grimké's views (81) with progressivism (82-83).

3. Note Grimké's interchanges with D. L. Moody, Billy Sunday, and William Jennings Bryan (84-86).
4. Note how Grimké viewed racial equality in his theology (87).
5. Note Grimké's position on segregation in the church (88).

Article: Was J. Gresham Machen a Fundamentalist?

1. Note the main details of Machen's career (71).
2. Note Dollar's argument for not considering Machen a Fundamentalist (72-73).
3. Note Hart's argument for not considering Machen a Fundamentalist (74-75).
4. How did Machen fit the pattern of a Fundamentalist (77)?

Article: Clarence Macartney and the Presbyterian Controversy

Part 1

1. Note the main details of Macartney's career (71).
2. What was Macartney's response to the ministry of Fosdick in a Presbyterian church (72-74)?
3. Note the nature of the Auburn Affirmation (74-75).
4. What was the General Assembly's decision in 1927 concerning the Presbyterian five-point test for ordination (76)?

Part 2

1. Note the battle over Princeton Seminary and its results (75-76).
2. Note the controversy over the IBPFM and how Machen and Macartney differed over strategy (76-77).
3. What path did Merrill T. MacPherson follow after expulsion from the Presbyterian Church (77)?
4. What does Longfield suggest as Macartney's reason for not leaving the Presbyterian Church (78)?
5. How did Macartney's later career reflect the idea of "independent Fundamentalism" in the 1930s and 1940s (79)?
6. Note how Macartney changed tactics through the progress of the Presbyterian controversy (80).

Article: W. P. Nicholson and the Rise of Ulster Fundamentalism

1. Note Nicholson's conversion and entrance into evangelism (94-95).
2. Note the situation in Ulster and the awakening that occurred there under Nicholson's preaching in the 1920s (95-97).
3. Note the theological emphases of Nicholson (98-99).
4. Note Nicholson's role in the growth of Ulster Fundamentalism (99-100).
5. How was Ian Paisley connected to Nicholson (101)?

Article: Fundamentalism and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

1. Review the summary of events of the Presbyterian controversy (1-2).
2. Note the founding of the OPC (2).
3. Note the details of the split between the OPC and the Bible Presbyterians (3).
4. What were the reasons the OPC did not join the National Association of Evangelicals or the American Council of Christian Churches (4)?
5. What is Hart's reason for opposing terms such as *revived* and *revival* (5)?