



**DECONSTRUCTING THE REPUBLIC**  
**VOTING RIGHTS, THE SUPREME COURT,**  
**AND THE FOUNDERS' REPUBLICANISM RECONSIDERED**

**By Anthony A. Peacock**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 3, 2008

In the coming months questions of race identity politics will be at the center of the presidential campaign. These issues have already made headlines in the high-profile controversy over Barack Obama's relationship with the controversial Reverend Jeremiah Wright. In his new book, *Deconstructing the Republic: Voting Rights, the Supreme Court, and the Founders' Republicanism Reconsidered* (AEI Press, April 2008), political scientist Anthony A. Peacock provides the most comprehensive critique currently available of the race identity politics that has been at the heart of so much federal affirmative action policy. Peacock's book demonstrates that the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Voting Rights Act, one of the least known yet most important pieces of federal legislation, which covers every electoral district in the country with minority populations has not only "deconstructed our republic and attacked the Founders' republicanism" at its most fundamental level, that is, at the allocation of political power in state and federal elections, but has also assaulted the concept of a uniform American citizenship.

Barack Obama openly opposed the anti-racial preferences Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI), which won overwhelming approval from Michigan's voters in 2006. Ward Connerly, a principal architect of the MCRI and cofounder and president of the American Civil Rights Institute, has written that "*Deconstructing the Republic* is an extraordinary book. For anyone who wants to truly understand the Founders' concept of 'inalienable rights,' Professor Anthony Peacock has given us a new textbook." Former attorney general Edwin Meese III has also written that "Peacock's book shows how judges and politicians are . . . replacing the Founders' vision of democratic self-government based on individual rights with a multicultural republic based on group rights. His argument should concern anyone who loves American democracy."

Anyone who wants to understand the current debate over race preferences and the problem of race identity in American law and politics will benefit from reading *Deconstructing the Republic*.

**Anthony A. Peacock** is an associate professor of political science at Utah State University, where he teaches courses on law, politics, and war. He has a Ph.D. from the Claremont Graduate School and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. If you would like to interview Professor Peacock, requests may be sent directly to [anthony.peacock@usu.edu](mailto:anthony.peacock@usu.edu) (telephone 435.797.1314).

###