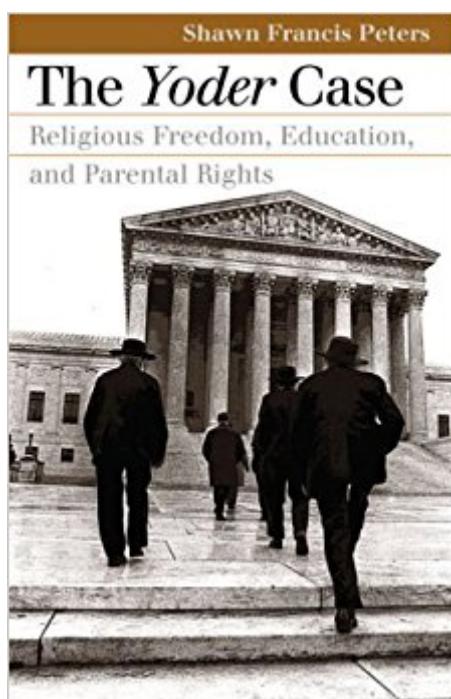


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# The Yoder Case: Religious Freedom, Education, And Parental Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society)



## Synopsis

Compulsory education has always been in the best interest of the state, as it fosters good citizenship and self-sufficiency. But what if a segment of society considers state education detrimental to its own values? In the late 1960s, one Wisconsin Amish community held that view and removed its children from public schools. When the state claimed truancy and took Jonas Yoder and two other parents to court, a legal battle of landmark proportions followed. Prize-winning historian Shawn Peters now offers a complete and compelling account of the Yoder case and of the tortured decision of simple Amish folk to break tradition and "go to law." He examines the breadth of First Amendment protections, the validity of compulsory school attendance, and the fundamental rights of parents and children. He also takes readers deep into the world of the Old Order Amish to show how their beliefs were often at variance with the very measures being undertaken to protect them. While most accounts of *Wisconsin v. Yoder* have focused on its origins and implications, Peters lays out all the facts of the case to reveal their intrinsic importance. He draws on trial transcripts and in-depth interviews with participants to fully explore the backgrounds, motivations, and strategies of the people who shaped the case—particularly the National Committee for Amish Religious Freedom and its attorney William Ball. He then describes in riveting prose how the trial unfolded, explains the impact of First Amendment jurisprudence on ordinary citizens involved, and shows how a relatively obscure dispute became a conflict of national importance. When the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972 ruled in favor of the Amish, its decision was hailed by many as a victory for religious freedom but was also criticized for conferring special protection on one faith. Yoder was subsequently cited in fundamentalist Christian efforts to excuse children from public schooling, but faith-based exemption to law was ultimately defeated in other tests. Peters traces the progress of such cases into the 1990s to show how Yoder in some ways marked the beginning of the end of an era for religious liberty jurisprudence. In exploring the meaning and legacy of Yoder, Peters reveals not only the human element of a landmark case but also its continuing relevance for our times.

## Book Information

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âœSympathetic, yet rigorous, and grounded in a thorough grasp of Amish culture, this superb book shows how Amish religious convictions have reshaped religious liberty for all Americans.â •â "Donald B. Kraybill, author of *The Amish and the State* âœA masterly study of a case at the very heart of what free exercise of religion means.â •â "Melvin I. Urofsky, author of *A March of Liberty: A Constitutional History of the United States* âœAdmirably blends a wonderful storytelling ability with a remarkable capacity to present complex legal aspects of the case in a way thatâ™s easy to understand.â •â "Derek Davis, author of *Original Intent: Chief Justice Rehnquist and the Course of American Church-State Relations* âœAn extremely illuminating study of a profound human drama.â •â "Sanford Levinson, author of *Constitutional Faith*

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Nice addition to my collection of books about the Amish <http://goo.gl/gbd9Ve>

Mr. Peter's work reads more like a fictional novel. This is an exceptionally enlightening look at a unique culture. I highly recommend this book.

Hello! I find this book very interesting. Shawn Peters gives a very interesting insight and information into this case. It gives detailed information, but it is not boring at the same time. It is also good for "beginners" in this case, not too thick either. It gives also some background information. But again, not too much. Anne

Prize-winning historian Shawn Peters presents *The Yoder Case: Religious Freedom, Education, And Parental Rights*, a scholarly study of the crucial 1972 Supreme Court ruling in a case when a Wisconsin Amish community claimed that compulsory education past a certain age was in conflict with its religious views and therefore removed its children from public schools. Also available in a hardcover edition, *The Yoder Case* is a detailed, impartial analysis of events, and a fascinating account recommended for law school students and non-specialist general readers with an interest in the separation of Church and State issues.

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