



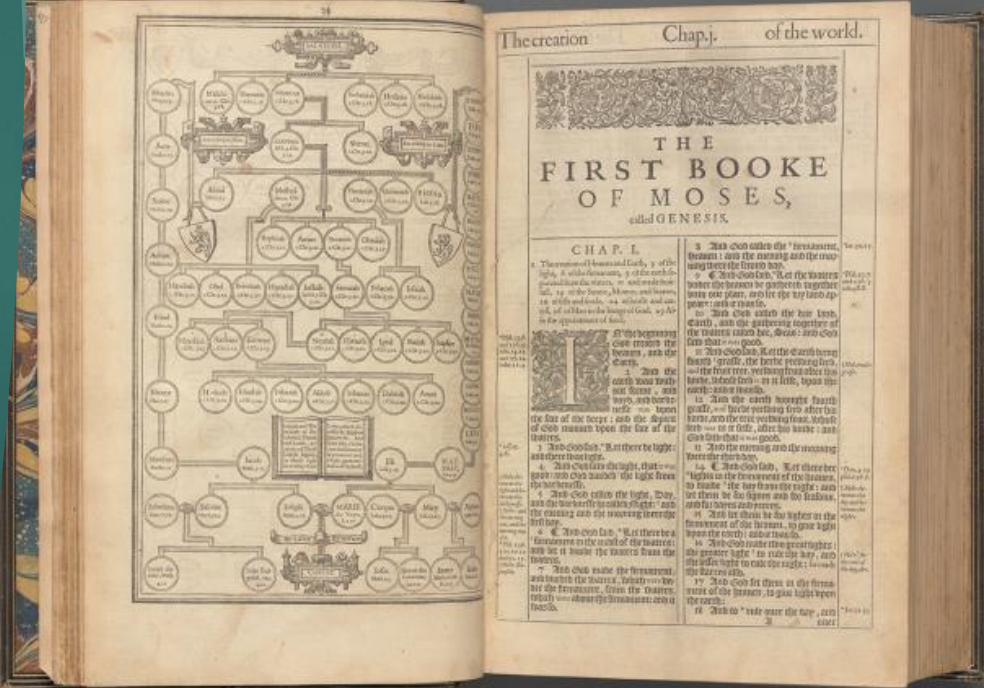
3 Things Everyone Needs to Know About The History of Religious Freedom

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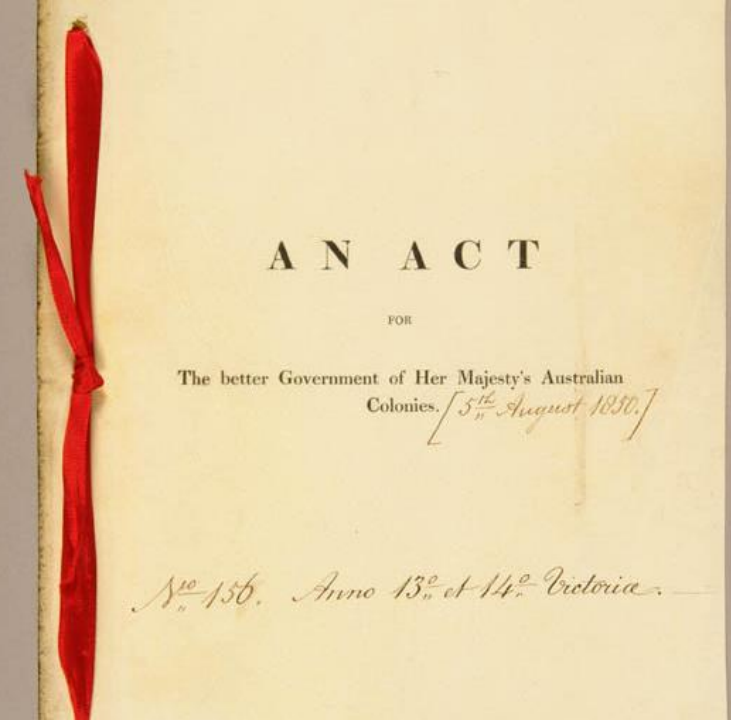
1. Religious freedom emerged in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

- * Unique theological conception of conscience
- * Emergence of a tradition of natural rights in Middle Ages
- * Separation of secular authority from the church especially after the Reformation.
- * The modern liberal state- conceived to limit the government's power over private lives.



2. In Australia religious freedom was historically not about excluding religion from public life.

- * Colonial context: the concern was to prevent sectarian divisions.
- * Religion a part of public culture, e.g. public education in late 19th/early 20th century
- * The Constitution: to ensure the Commonwealth would not establish the Church of England.



3. Religious freedom is a good that benefits all, including the non-religious.

* Arguments for spiritual connection to land have been central to some Native Title claims, eg. Yirrkala Bark petition (1963); Wallaga Lake/Mumbulla Mountain; Wiradjuri Wellington Common.

* Conscientious objection (in a variety of fields) is grounded in a secularized religious claim to liberty of conscience.

