

What If the Founders Never Recognized Natural Law?

Our rights as Americans are considered unalienable, says Heritage Foundation president Jim DeMint, only because they were inherent in the natural order of life established by the laws of nature and nature's God.

While musing on the writings of author and philosopher G.K. Chesterton in his personal notebook, a young John F. Kennedy wrote, "Don't ever take a fence down until you know the reason why it was put up." Fences hold things in we want to keep close, and protect us from things we want to keep out. But Chesterton and JFK were not making a point about physical fences. They were speaking of the ideas, principles, and institutions that surround the things that make life worth living, and protect us from threats to those things we value and love.

This is a sort of fence we are currently "taking down" in America. Since its inception, America has been surrounded and protected by a unique set of ideas that created the strongest, most prosperous, most secure and compassionate land of opportunity that has ever existed. These ideas were considered by America's founders to be "self-evident" because they were based on the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" (from the first sentence of the Declaration of Independence).

Click [here](#) to read more of his comments on the subject, written for *The Federalist*.