Best known for his edition of Blackstone's Commentaries, St. George Tucker (1752-1827), a lawyer and judge in the state and federal courts of Virginia, played a central role in the republicanization of the common law as it unfolded in the commonwealth of Virginia. His papers offer a comprehensive picture of the law in America's first fifty years, from the technical discussion of issues in broader questions of liberty, property, debt, landlordship, and criminal law to concluding whether a person was slave or free.

St. George Tucker was a towering figure among lawyers and judges of the early republic. As an influential legal thinker of the post-Revolutionary era, Tucker provided crucial insight into the legal debates shaping major ideological issues such as slavery, crime and punishment, debt regulation, the power between church and state, and the common law in the new nation.


In his View of the Constitution of the United States, published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture in 2015, St. George Tucker belongs with James Kent as one of the most important and influential legal thinkers of the post-Revolutionary era. His papers provide crucial insight into the legal debates shaping major ideological issues such as slavery, crime and punishment, debt regulation, the power between church and state, and the common law in the new nation.

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