

# “Not a Square Inch’: Abraham Kuyper and the Role of Epistemology in Shaping the American Evangelical Response to Modernity”



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This thesis uses Abraham Kuyper’s theory of a Calvinist worldview to examine the role of epistemology in shaping the American evangelical response to modernity in the 20th century. I argue that Kuyper was initially rejected by the theologians at Princeton Theological Seminary because of a longstanding commitment to “right reason” epistemology that both prevented Princeton theologians from compromising with modernists and encouraged a fundamentalist separatist movement among evangelicals. Additionally, I contend that when evangelicals eventually did embrace Kuyperian thought in the mid-20th century, it represented a profound shift in the way evangelicals engaged with government and society.