

Frederick the Great Quote On Christianity

Post by "Cassius" of February 23, 2019 at 2:44 AM

Martin I have made some progress.

The first cite is to this work:

65. Clark, Iron Kingdom, p. 187.

That is a cite to:

Clark, Christopher, Iron Kingdom: The Rise and Downfall of Prussia 1600–1947 (London, 2006)

There, in Iron Kingdom, I find:

"Throughout his life, Frederick displayed a remarkable disregard for the conventional pieties of his era. He was vehemently irreligious: in the Political Testament of 1768, he described Christianity as 'an old metaphysical fiction, stuffed with miracles, contradictions and absurdities, which was spawned in the fevered imaginations of the Orientals and then spread to our Europe, where some fanatics espoused it, some intriguers pretended to be convinced by it and some imbeciles actually believed it.'⁹"

That reference is as follows:

¹ Dietrich, *Die politischen Testamente*, pp. 657–9.
² Wolfgang Pyta, "Von der Erste Cordonale zur Anklündigung der Ständegemeinschaft: Die preussisch-polnischen Beziehungen im Siebenjährigen Krieg 1758–1762", *FoPUG, New Series* 10 (2006), pp. 1–48, here pp. 41–2.
³ For a discussion of the historical works, see Kamisch, *Frederick der Große*, pp. 102–3, 119, 218–23.
⁴ Frederick William I, *Instruction for the Successor* (1722); Frederick II, *Political Testament of 1762*, both in Dietrich, *Die politischen Testamente*, pp. 243, 255.
⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 681.

Does that help? We may now be at a dead end on that "Political Testament" but maybe not (?)