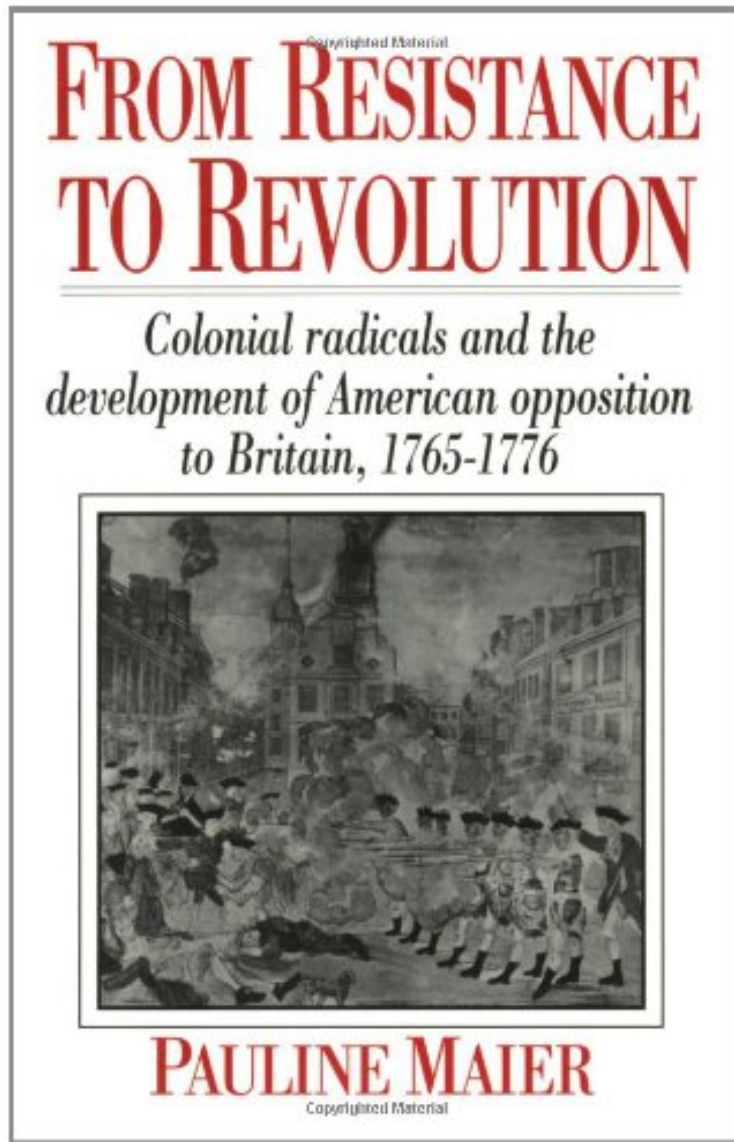


(Read now) From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776

From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776

Pauline Maier

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Pauline Maier : From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. reads like, and is, a dissertation-turned-book
By Robert J. Crawford
This is a very academic book intended for a limited audience and was relevant for a certain time, in the beginning of the 1970s. The writer was a young academic out to smash a "paradigm", the "progressive version" of how Americans became revolutionaries. The idea is very simple (and is expressed with perfect clarity in a new introduction): the old interpretation was that poor upstarts opposed the conservative rich, who supported the British Crown; the upstarts mobilized the "mob" with whatever means they could, including republican rhetoric (which was ill-defined), which was ignited by the stamp protests. Maier argues that protest was a long and accepted tradition and that the process of radicalization was gradual, beginning with the success of getting the Stamp Act revoked and then getting sharper with repeated failures and ham-handed rebuff by George III. That is it for the ideas. The rest of the book is one long academic proof of this, in unbelievably turgid detail. I am sure this is a worthy academic book, but it is not fun to read and would be barely of interest for non-academic lovers of popular history. I skimmed it, and wondered why, since I am not an undergraduate, I was doing so. OK, it is a good review of the events, the interpretation is definitely of merit, and I feel like turning to other sources for a better narrative account (i.e. it did not kill my interest). But it conveys little feeling and it certainly never fascinated me. If I had known it was so academic, I would never have bought it.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A major historian's maiden voyage
By VirgulePauline Maier was a wonderful historian. This is her first book, developed from her dissertation and it shows. That's not in any sense a criticism, but the style is rather academic and the footnotes prolific. By the time of, say, *American Scripture* her style was more relaxed and fluid. This is a fine book, a careful study of the intellectual and social issues that led to the revolution and made it almost inevitable.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain
By Kim Burdick.
I always get a kick out of reading books written by Maier's generation of scholars. The lens of "radicalism" was so real, so up close and personal to adults and students living through the Sixties and Seventies that the Revolution intuitively made sense. In my own research related to 18th century Delaware Valley history, I have often thought that the Irish Quakers and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians pouring into 18th century Philadelphia brought their hostilities and animosities against each other and against England with them. I was very pleased to find that Maier's book confirmed my observations. This is a good and carefully researched book but it is a little dry. An excellent resource for a PhD candidate or political scientist, this is definitely not a book for the casual Revolutionary War buff.

Kim Burdick
Stanton, Delaware

"An intellectual interpretation of the American revolution that raises it to a new height of comprehensiveness and significance. A superbly detailed account of the ideological escalation . . . that brought Americans to revolution."
Gordon S. Wood, *New York Times Book Review*
In this classic account of the American revolution, Pauline Maier traces the step-by-step process through which the extra-legal institutions of the colonial resistance movement assumed authority from the British. She follows the American Whigs as they moved by stages from the organized resistance of the Stamp Act crisis of 1765 through the non-importation associations of the late 1760s to the collapse of royal government after 1773, the implication of the king in a conspiracy against American liberties, and the consequent Declaration of Independence. Professor Maier's great achievement is to explain how Americans came to contemplate and establish their independence, guided by principle, reason, and experience.

Written gracefully and clearly, *From Resistance to Revolution* fills a significant need for professional historians and general readers alike. Its fresh interpretation of American radicals in the crucible of revolution, based on substantial research and subtle reasoning, transcends its immediate subject and illuminates the meaning of radicalism, violence, and rebellion in American history. - Michael Kammen
About the Author Pauline Maier is William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of History at MIT.