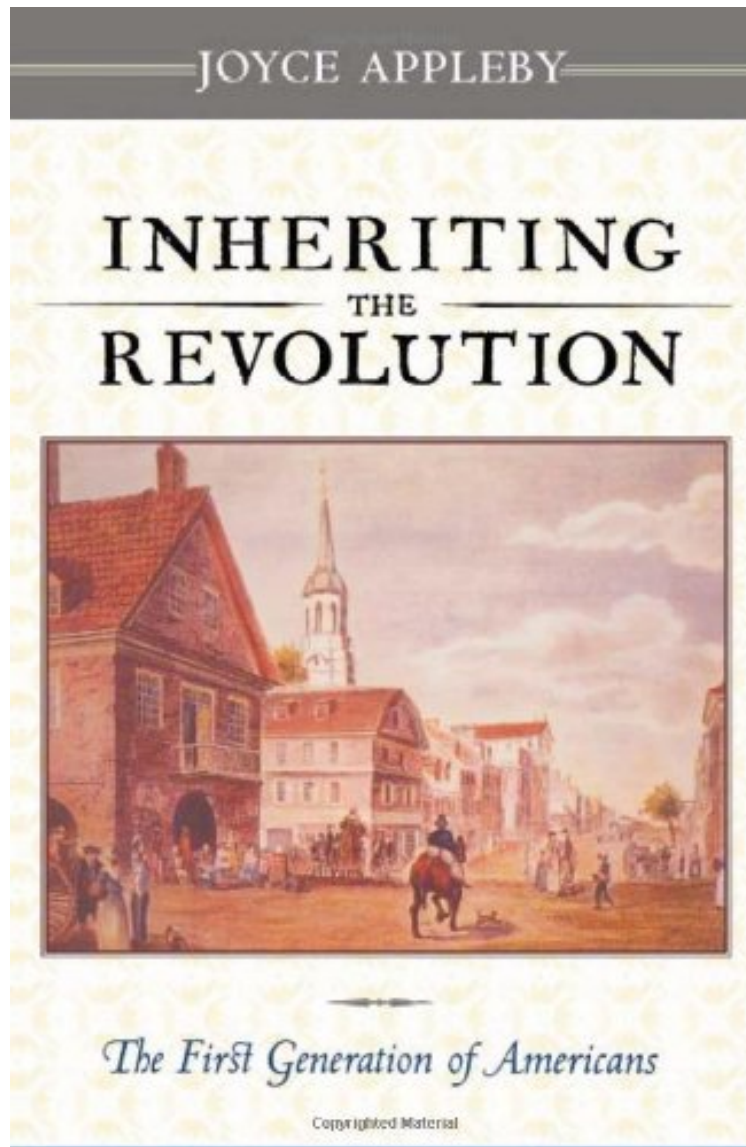


[Free download] Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans

Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans

Joyce Appleby

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#146098 in Books Belknap Press 2001-09-15 2001-10-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.20 x .92 x 6.14l, 1.06 #File Name: 0674006631322 pages | File size: 67.Mb

Joyce Appleby : Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Brilliantly-formed, eloquently-reasoned thesis By JRonJoyce Appleby's Inheriting a Revolution: The First Generation of Americans examines a post-Revolutionary America that looked differently than many founders had imagined. The focus of Appleby's book is the altered political, social,

economic, and familial environment in which Americans who came of age after 1790 had to live--and in which many prospered. Appleby is prudent, however, to illustrate that not everyone flourished in the new America. Chroniclers recorded the American way of success as the qualities of the period's successful northern white men. "A new ideal character was created: the man who developed inner resources, acted independently, lived virtuously, and bent his behavior to personal goals" (11). White women, enslaved Africans, besieged Native Americans, and white men who did not adapt do not factor into this analysis. The Revolution bequeathed the first generation of Americans a society awash in opportunity. In the eyes of post-Revolution Americans, "Independence made possible the creation of a distinctive American society that honored individual initiative, institutional restraint, and popular public participation" (5). The subjects of Appleby's study seized new opportunities and recorded their stories of challenge and success in diaries and memoirs. Appleby credits four post-Revolution phenomena for facilitating early national success and growth. First, she continues the discussion of the radicalizing of politics, which Gordon Wood brilliantly began in *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*. Men of different classes and occupations found new voices in local, regional, and national politics. "Twelve years after the ratification of the Constitution, a national elite, established with such high hopes for forming a stabilizing center, had been ousted and with it went that union of social and political power essential to ruling class" (52). The second phenomenon which helped to shape the American social landscape was a revitalization of religion. As Nathan O. Hatch's excellent *The Democratization of American Christianity* also details, Christian revivalists, many of whom held little education--in an outright rejection of established church structures--preached of love and redemption in Christ. Religious movements brought together men and women of different backgrounds--including Africans--and inspired the establishment of voluntary religious associations. No one could "have predicted that the cool, rationalist attitudes of the Enlightenment would be overwhelmed by the warm passions of religious awakening" (8). The third important element for early America's success was new opportunity for the young. The availability of land, access to credit, and increased literacy rates prompted young people to take risks with their career ambitions. More importantly, young men departed rural areas in search of jobs and entrepreneurial experience. Family relationships changed dramatically as boys who would have once stayed at home to carry on his father's name and occupation traversed the expanding country in search of money and adventure. The fourth and most prevalent aspect of Appleby's study is the abolition of slavery in the Northern states. The decision to outlaw slavery by 1800 freed the North of the task of defending the bondage of humans in a post-Revolutionary America and it challenged the region to diversify its economic practices. Artificially cheap labor became a commercial crutch for the South. In addition, "the new distinction of free and slave labor with all its social entailments divided the United States in ways that could not have been imagined at the time of the Revolution" (8). Relations between those on opposite sides of the Mason-Dixon Line became and remained frictional for decades. In Appleby's view, the North is the true winner following the Revolution, and the South's decision to hang on to slavery retarded its political, social, economic, and cultural development. This part of her argument, which is prominent throughout the book, may affront some southern historians. Her not-so-generous view of the South does, at times, reach beyond objectivity. Appleby's zeal of argument, however, should not cause scholars or general readers, from North, South, East, or West, to hesitate to engage a brilliantly-formed and eloquently-reasoned thesis of how first-generation Americans understood their world in the wake of the Constitution. Inheriting the Revolution rightfully places the early national period at center stage, rather than treat it as a footnote.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Think about it!!! We beat the British. Now what????!!!

By floridabob The concept of the book is cool enough, but Ms. Appleby makes it real. I am a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, so I follow this history in all its forms. I'd recommend this first to a student with any spark of patriotism and wondering whether American history is at all interesting. This book could turn that tiny amount of wonderment into a lifetime passion.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. New information about American culture

By Thomas Cushing Very disappointed that maps and photos that should have been included - WERE NOT AVAILABLE in kindle version. A historical text should include all necessary support materials..... The text itself provides some very enlightening conclusions with regard to the century following the American revolution and how our nation developed and prospered...., The writer has excellent insights but somewhat convoluted in presentation. Could have been clearer. Research and real life studies were excellent.

Born after the Revolution, the first generation of Americans inherited a truly new world--and, with it, the task of working out the terms of Independence. Anyone who started a business, marketed a new invention, ran for office, formed an association, or wrote for publication was helping to fashion the world's first liberal society. These are the people we encounter in *Inheriting the Revolution*, a vibrant tapestry of the lives, callings, decisions, desires, and reflections of those Americans who turned the new abstractions of democracy, the nation, and free enterprise into contested realities. Through data gathered on thousands of people, as well as hundreds of memoirs and autobiographies, Joyce Appleby tells myriad intersecting stories of how Americans born between 1776 and 1830 reinvented themselves and their society in politics, economics, reform, religion, and culture. They also had to grapple with the new distinction of free and slave labor, with all its divisive social entailments; the rout of Enlightenment rationality by the warm passions of religious awakening; the explosion of small business opportunities for young

people eager to break out of their parents' colonial cocoon. Few in the nation escaped the transforming intrusiveness of these changes. Working these experiences into a vivid picture of American cultural renovation, Appleby crafts an extraordinary--and deeply affecting--account of how the first generation established its own culture, its own nation, its own identity. The passage of social responsibility from one generation to another is always a fascinating interplay of the inherited and the novel; this book shows how, in the early nineteenth century, the very idea of generations resonated with new meaning in the United States.

From Publishers Weekly An esteemed historian of early America, Appleby (UCLA) has written a social history of "the first generation of Americans" Not those who fought the American Revolution but, as her title indicates, those who inherited it, who had to figure out just what their parents' bold declarations of liberty looked like on the ground. Appleby's lens is wide: she investigates religion, business, family life and politics, examining this generation's struggles with slavery, their musings on the proper role of women and their participation in evangelical revivals. One of the more innovative discussions comes in the chapter "Careers," in which Appleby argues that those who came of age after the revolution often earned their daily bread doing tasks their parents could not have imagined. Many continued to farm, of course, but others headed to cities to run businesses, teach school, preach sermons, build buildings, publish books. Indeed, Appleby notes that in the Revolutionary era, the term "career" "denote[d] a horse-racing course"; it was only after 1800 that it was used to describe the trajectory of a person's vocation. Appleby strains to pay attention to the South, but her book betrays a certain Northern bias. Her focus on the development of capitalism and the incursion of the market better describe the industrializing North than the slaveholding South, which, in historian Eugene Genovese's phrase, was in the market, but not of it. But that is a small quibble with a wonderful book, which freshly conveys the energy and creativity unleashed in a generation forging a new national identity. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. Joyce Appleby deals with two themes in this book: the historical experience of the generation after the American Revolution and conflicts within American identity. The result is Whitmanesque, both in its complex but coherent vision and in its elegant expression. (Edward Countryman New York Times Book) [A] fascinating study of how citizens of the newly constituted form of government seized the opportunities their break with the Old World offered them. (Ralph Hollenbeck King Features Syndicate) [Appleby] examines in exhaustive (but not exhausting) detail how "the first generation of Americans" reshaped virtually every aspect of American society. Commerce, religion, domestic life, personal behavior. They left nothing untouched, operating under the assumption that their "Revolutionary heritage" was nothing less than "a call to innovation, enterprise, reform and progress" (Michael D. Schaffer Philadelphia Enquirer) [Appleby] gives us an extended meditation on what happened to American society during the generation that grew up in the aftermath of the Revolution... Her fine, well-informed intelligence plays across this vast sea of biographical information and recreates the world her subjects inhabited... Everything is made fresh in these pages. The combination of out-of-the-way stories unearthed from the autobiographies and Appleby's own ingenuity and insight puts the familiar in a new light. (Richard Lyman Bushman H-Net Book s 2000-12-01) Joyce Appleby perfectly captures the world created by the sons and daughters of the American Revolution. Enterprising and energetic, mad about money and seemingly constantly on the move, deeply pious and convinced of their own capacity to shape their own destinies, they took their Revolutionary legacy and made it into the world that we still inhabit, if with a little less optimism and a better sense of its contradictions. (Jan Lewis, author of *The Pursuit of Happiness: Family and Values in Jefferson's Virginia*) Pungent, vivid narrative, magisterial sweep, and imaginative explorations fuel Appleby's compelling account of the early republic's improbable, extraordinary birth--a masterful achievement by one of our most distinguished historians. (Jon Butler, author of *Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776* (Harvard)) Joyce Appleby's influential argument for the democratic transformation of post-revolutionary America takes on new power and persuasiveness in her engaging biographical portrait of *The First Generation*. Artfully weaving personal narratives and sophisticated analyses into an evocative account of a new people's coming of age, Appleby sets the agenda for a new generation of scholarship. While never losing sight of the conflicts and contradictions that jeopardized the nation's future prospects, she brilliantly captures the dynamism and energy of her extraordinary cohort. (Peter S. Onuf, author of *Jeffersonian Legacies*) Joyce Appleby's dazzling narrative takes us into the lives of the Americans who inherited the Revolution. With Appleby we glimpse the men and women--black and white, immigrant and old stock--who invented the distinctive social and cultural forms that we ourselves have inherited. We see ourselves anew in the originating impulses of participatory politics, in the rise of capitalist culture, in the shifting relation between the personal and the civic, and in the myriad ways in which we struggle to fulfill the promise of America. Reading *Inheriting the Revolution* we reckon with the America we are still making. (Mary Kelley, author of *Private Woman, Public Stage: Literary Domesticity in Nineteenth Century America*) A highly original book, written very engagingly, by an author with a gift for apt phrases. The autobiographies include many fascinating accounts of little known people. Appleby's book will take an important place in the ongoing debates about its period. *Inheriting the Revolution* reflects the enthusiasm, maturity, common sense, and wisdom of its author. (Daniel W. Howe, author of *Making the American Self: Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln* (Harvard)) In her rich new book... [Appleby] argues that the first

generation of Americans...experienced a degree of political and social change unrivalled before or since...This first generation reached a kind of closure about the meaning of democracy that has made it difficult for succeeding generations to articulate a vision of America other than the one they created: a society devoted to individualism and free enterprise...What emerges is a striking tale, on its face one of the most celebratory accounts of American gumption in recent historiography. (Marc Arkin *New Criterion* 2001-04-01)Appleby documents, in precise and persuasive detail, the evolution and elaboration of assumptions about what it is to be an American that we now take completely for granted. What we think of as the "natural phenomenon" of individualism, for example, she describes as first appearing in the "prototype for the self-made man," who eventually evolved into "a new character ideal...the man who developed inner resources, acted independently, lived virtuously, and bent his behavior to his personal goals--not the American Adam, but the American homo faber, the builder." (Jonathan Yardley *Washington Post Book World* 2000-12-03)An esteemed historian of early America, Appleby has written a social history of 'the first generation of Americans'--not those who fought the American Revolution but, as her title indicates, those who inherited it, who had to figure out just what their parents' bold declarations of liberty looked like on the ground...[This is] a wonderful book, which freshly conveys the energy and creativity unleashed in a generation forging a new national identity. (Publishers Weekly)Joyce Appleby...has created a collective portrait of the generation of men and women born in the United States between 1776 and 1800, and on the basis of their lives and values ventures an answer to Crevecoeur's query that is intriguing, sophisticated and anything but exceptionalist. Anyone curious about how Americans came to understand themselves as a people would do well to read this book. Appleby maintains that Americans first defined their national identity by infusing meaning into the Revolution to which they were heirs...Inheriting the Revolution must also command the respect of all scholars who seek to understand the origins of American culture and identity. (Fred Anderson *Los Angeles Times Book*)A treasure-trove of information about the early republic, recreating an era that mixed cultural and emotional chaos with unprecedented opportunities at all levels of society...Although Appleby's purpose is to examine social contexts rather than anomalous individuals, the materials she uses vividly evoke the lived experiences of real people. Drawn from hundreds of diaries, letters, memoirs, and records of the obscure as well as the famous, her panorama.Appleby presents the explosion of possibilities at the beginning of the 19th century in sparkling, jargon-free prose and vibrant detail, producing an indispensable guide to a fascinating, turbulent time. (Kirkus s)Inheriting the Revolution is a welcome addition to the now-rich literature on the early American republic. Informed by Joyce Appleby's deep knowledge of the period's politics and political ideology, it portrays a society in a fresh stage of development, and a people defining themselves in the context not just of a new nationhood, but of the material and geographical circumstances the American Revolution created. No one concerned with the early United States or the longer trajectory of US development should ignore this book. (Christopher Clark *History* 2002-10-01)The life histories are indeed a rich source, providing Appleby with the parade of arresting stories and anecdotes that grace her textJoyce Appleby has accomplished the very difficult task of demonstrating ways in which men and women, simply by living and striving in what was for them a free environment, created the connection among revolutionary liberty, individual self-improvement, and national growth that became a powerful version of American-ness in the nineteenth century. (Paul E. Johnson *William and Mary Quarterly*)In this sweeping and gracefully-written interpretation of the Republic's early decades, Joyce Appleby examines the aspirations and achievements of Americans who came of age between roughly 1790 and 1830Appleby is sensitive to differences in race and gender, and she incorporates both African Americans and white women into her larger analysis of the period. Indeed, because she often uses stories of individual lives to illustrate general social and cultural trends, this book includes some fascinating vignettes of self-made women and men. (Cynthia A. Kierner *The Journal of the Early Republic*)The result is an empirically grounded yet extraordinarily dynamic foray into the multivalent experience of America's first nation-buildersAppleby has nonetheless written a brilliant page-turner, filled with insights, and truly a feast of period detail for general history readersAppleby has successfully taken on one of the most difficult tasks for early American historians: discovering the origins of American national identity in the welter of social and cultural forces shaping the new republic, while mindful of the civil calamity between North and South lying ahead. (Dee E. Andrews *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*) Joyce Appleby perfectly captures the world created by the sons and daughters of the American Revolution. Enterprising and energetic, mad about money and seemingly constantly on the move, deeply pious and convinced of their own capacity to shape their own destinies, they took their Revolutionary legacy and made it into the world that we still inhabit, if with a little less optimism and a better sense of its contradictions. (Jan Lewis, author of *The Pursuit of Happiness: Family and Values in Jefferson's Virginia*)