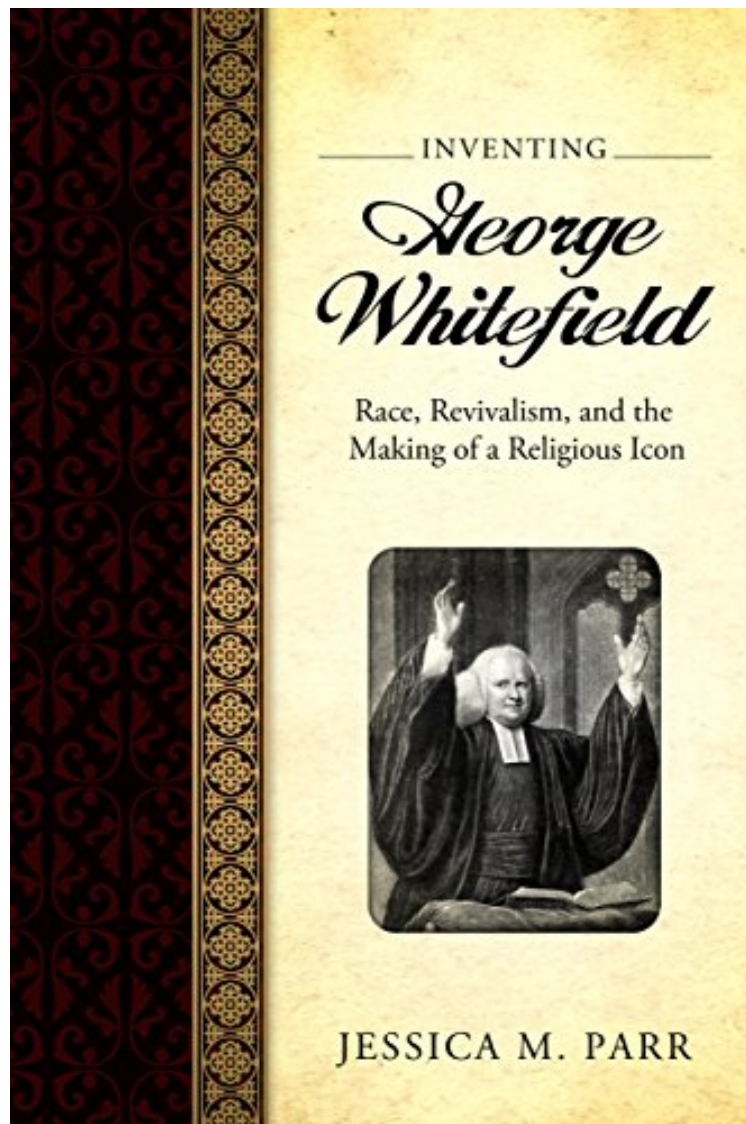


(Mobile ebook) Inventing George Whitefield: Race, Revivalism, and the Making of a Religious Icon

Inventing George Whitefield: Race, Revivalism, and the Making of a Religious Icon

Jessica M. Parr

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Jessica M. Parr : Inventing George Whitefield: Race, Revivalism, and the Making of a Religious Icon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inventing George Whitefield: Race, Revivalism, and the Making of a Religious Icon:

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Highly Recommend!By Kate LarsonThis book is a must for any colonialist and others fascinated by the roots of evangelism in our nation's history! Highly readable, with fresh

research, and eerily timely - our current political dramas are playing out in ways that would be familiar to Whitefield and his contemporaries. Conflicts between various conservative religious ideologies, their influence on culture and society, radical challenges to the status quo, and the remarkable use of media, are all playing out in our political and cultural wars today. Parr deftly uses her sources to vividly build and reveal the complex character of Whitefield the man, placing him within the context of great social, cultural, and economic change and upheaval. Students of American slavery, religion, colonial community development, evangelical Christianity, and family relations will find much to ponder in this book! Highly recommend. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Well written, original study of Whitefield. By John D. Wilsey Parr's work is an expansive, carefully researched, and groundbreaking study of Whitefield as he is situated in eighteenth century colonial America, as a key figure in the Great Awakening, and as a powerful symbol after his death. Perhaps the most important contribution Parr makes in the book is that she takes a careful look at Whitefield's views on slavery, which is a remarkable example of historical complexity. Parr's work notably advances the field of Whitefield studies, particularly as it relates to race and slavery. The book is helpful, not just as a biography of Whitefield, but also as a history of the Great Awakening, the colonial South, and the mythmaking that occurred after Whitefield's death in 1770, just before the Revolution got underway. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellently Researched and Written. By drsmith Parr's study of George Whitefield is a much needed corrective to the bulk of extant literature on the "Grand Itinerant's" life and career as a major figure in the First Great Awakening, which tends to exaggerate his stature as a theologian and his influence upon the course of the history of Christianity in colonial America. Parr, in contrast to studies by Arnold Dallimore, Harry S. Stout, and--most recently--Thomas Kidd, convincingly proves that Whitefield was much more a creation of post-revolutionary America, especially in the nineteenth century. This parallels the assessment of the First Great Awakening offered by Jon Butler, who similarly thought the Awakening to be an invention of nineteenth-century evangelicals and evangelical historians. Parr's research is top-notch, making abundant use of primary source materials as well as the most recent and relevant scholarship on Whitefield, the Awakening, and the American Revolution to support her thesis. This is a formidable work, and future scholars of early American religion will have to reckon with Parr's work for many years to come.

Evangelicals and scholars of religious history have long recognized George Whitefield (1714-1770) as a founding father of American evangelicalism. But Jessica M. Parr argues he was much more than that. He was an enormously influential figure in Anglo-American religious culture, and his expansive missionary career can be understood in multiple ways. Whitefield began as an Anglican clergyman. Many in the Church of England perceived him as a radical. In the American South, Whitefield struggled to reconcile his disdain for the planter class with his belief that slavery was an economic necessity. Whitefield was drawn to an idealized Puritan past that was all but gone by the time of his first visit to New England in 1740. Parr draws from Whitefield's writing and sermons and from newspapers, pamphlets, and other sources to understand Whitefield's career and times. She offers new insights into revivalism, print culture, transatlantic cultural influences, and the relationship between religious thought and slavery. Whitefield became a religious icon shaped in the complexities of revivalism, the contest over religious toleration, and the conflicting role of Christianity for enslaved people. Proslavery Christians used Christianity as a form of social control for slaves, whereas evangelical Christianity's emphasis on freedom in the eyes of God suggested a path to political freedom. Parr reveals how Whitefield's death marked the start of a complex legacy that in many ways rendered him more powerful and influential after his death than during his long career.

Readers interested in transatlantic revivalism or slavery and Christianity will find much to think about after reading this book. It is a useful and engaging addition to the literature on the Great Awakening and Whitefield. Emily Conroy-Krutz (Michigan State University), *H-AmRel*, H-Net, July 2016. Jessica M. Parr's well-written and well-researched *Inventing George Whitefield* takes a unique and compelling angle by not only describing who Whitefield was and what he did but also by explaining how he became so profoundly symbolic in the broader Atlantic world. Samuel C. Smith, *Journal of American History*, June 2016 (Vol. 103, no. 1). About the Author: Jessica M. Parr, Exeter, New Hampshire, is a historian specializing in race and religion in the early modern British Atlantic world. She currently teaches at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester.