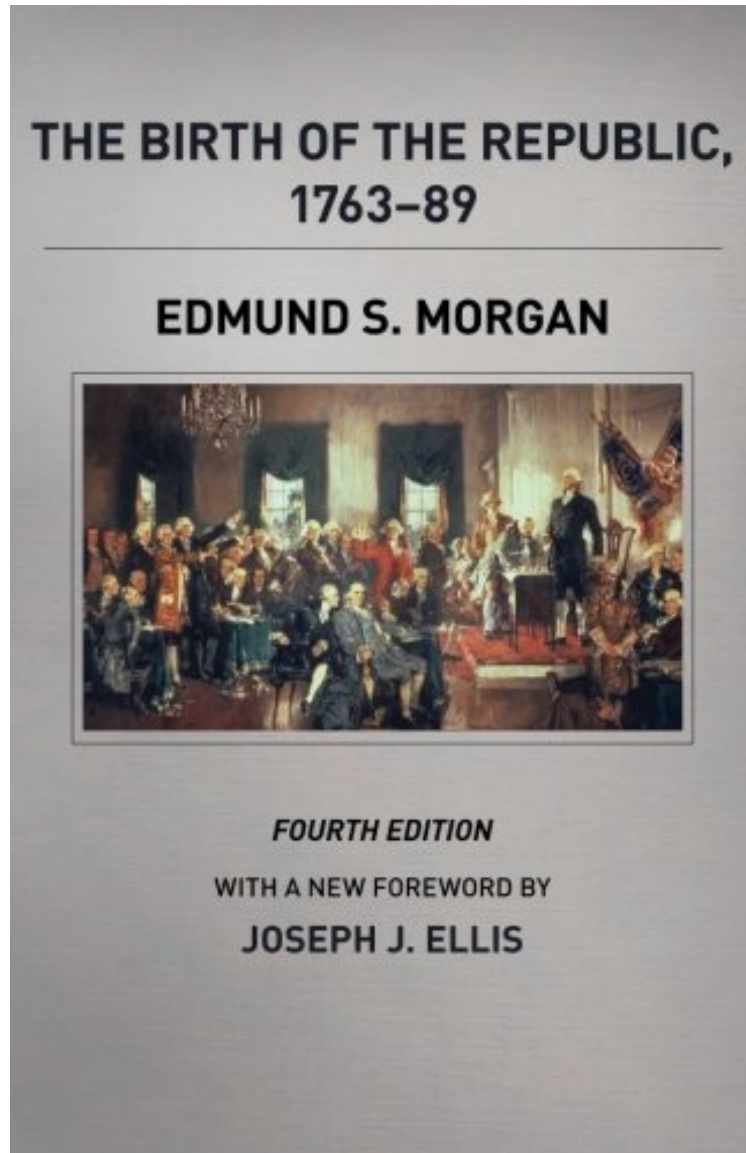


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## The Birth of the Republic, 1763-89, Fourth Edition (The Chicago History of American Civilization)

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25 of 27 people found the following review helpful. 5 Stars, But Don't Buy It!By BucherwurmDon't buy it if you have the 1992 third edition of this book. Word for word the text is the same as the 3rd edition. Well, what's new then? A 3 and 1/2 page introduction by Joseph Ellis, and at the end a brief essay on the scholarship of the American Revolution by Rosemarie Zagarri. Not even the bibliography has been updated for this "edition". It even states in the book that the text hasn't been changed.I won't write a review of the text. There are many fine reviews that you can read for the 3rd edition, and I mostly agree with the four and five star reviews. It's a great, although brief book on the political aspects of the history of the period. My only qualification is that if you are truly interested in the Revolutionary era you need more books than just this one. Unfortunately the 20 year old bibliography isn't an awful lot of help...although there are some still in print classics listed by authors such as Bailyn (Ideological Origins of the American Revolution), Fischer (Albion's Seed), Wood (Radicalism of the American Revolution), Middlekauff (The Glorious Cause), and others.I am really concerned about the ethics of a growing trend among publishers who have become too enamored of words like "new", "revised" and "anniversary" placed in front of "edition" when there really has been no modification of the text.If you don't own any edition of this book, then by all means buy it. If you have the 3rd edition my recommendation is to save some money, and don't buy it.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brevity is the Soul of WitBy C. Wayne SwensonProfessor Morgan, in *The Birth of the Republic (1763-1789)*, provides a wonderfully brief, yet remarkably informative, primer describing the founding events of United States history. Beginning with the armed confrontation on Lexington Green between British regulars and American militia, Professor Morgan eloquently traces the pivotal events of United States history up to the ratification of the United States' Constitution. Included are discussions on the Stamp Act crisis, the Townsend Act, the Quartering Act, the Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party. Also included are discussions on the Colonists' political philosophies ("equal rights and equal men"), their experiences with government after the Revolutionary War, and the impetus for and events surrounding the creation of a Federal Constitution.This book is, by far, the most concise and informative survey of this critical period in American history. I most highly recommend it as the point to begin an understanding of this remarkable historical period! Balanced, well-written, and a delight to read, it is unquestionably a classic study!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well worth the read.By CustomerExcellent book on the period. It's not about the Revolutionary War, but rather the cause and effects of people and events that led up to the war, and all that followed including the Constitutional Convention. Morgan neither deifies nor demonizes the players of the period, contrary to the popular trend today. If you want the undistorted, unbiased history surrounding the American Revolution, this is a great book. Easy to read, no flowery or emphatic declarations of good or bad, right or wrong, nor does it gloss over the facts. Well worth the read.

In *The Birth of the Republic, 1763-1789*, Edmund S. Morgan shows how the challenge of British taxation started Americans on a search for constitutional principles to protect their freedom, and eventually led to the Revolution. By demonstrating that the founding fathers' political philosophy was not grounded in theory, but rather grew out of their own immediate needs, Morgan paints a vivid portrait of how the founders' own experiences shaped their passionate convictions, and these in turn were incorporated into the Constitution and other governmental documents. *The Birth of the Republic* is the classic account of the beginnings of the American government, and in this fourth edition the original text is supplemented with a new foreword by Joseph J. Ellis and a historiographic essay by Rosemarie Zagarri.

No better brief chronological introduction to the period can be found than Edmund S. Morgan's *The Birth of the Republic: 1763-1789*.