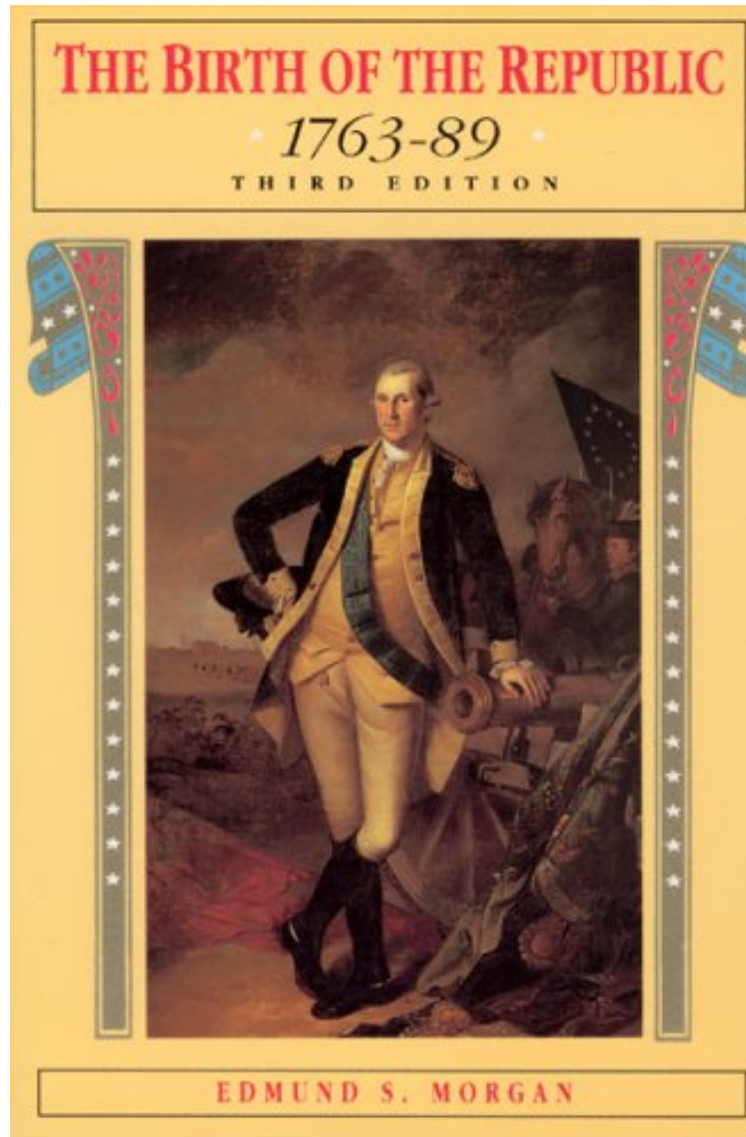


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## The Birth of the Republic, 1763-89 (The Chicago History of American Civilization)

*Edmund S. Morgan*

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**Edmund S. Morgan : The Birth of the Republic, 1763-89 (The Chicago History of American Civilization)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Birth of the Republic, 1763-89 (The Chicago History of American Civilization):

25 of 27 people found the following review helpful. 5 Stars, But Don't Buy It! By Bucherwurm Don'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 Zagari. 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 Wit  
By C. Wayne Swenson  
Professor 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 Customer  
Excellent 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 one remarkable quarter-century, thirteen quarrelsome colonies were transformed into a nation. Edmund S. Morgan's classic account of the Revolutionary period shows how the challenge of British taxation started the Americans on a search for constitutional principles to protect their freedom and eventually led to the Revolution. Morgan demonstrates that these principles were not abstract doctrines of political theory but grew instead out of the immediate needs and experiences of the colonists. They were held with passionate conviction, and incorporated, finally, into the constitutions of the new American states and of the United States. Though the basic theme of the book and his assessment of what the Revolution achieved remain the same, Morgan has updated the revised edition of *The Birth of the Republic (1977)* to include some textual and stylistic changes as well as a substantial revision of the Bibliographic Note.

About the Author  
Edward S. Morgan is Sterling Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University and past president of the Organization of American Historians. His many books include *The Puritan Family: Religion and Domestic Relations in Seventeenth-Century New England*; *The Gentle Puritan: A Life of Ezra Stiles*; *The Puritan Dilemma: The Story of John Winthrop*; *American Slavery American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia*; *The Challenge of the American Revolution*; *Inventing the People: The Rise of Popular Sovereignty in England and America*; and, with Helen M. Morgan, *The Stamp Act Crisis*.