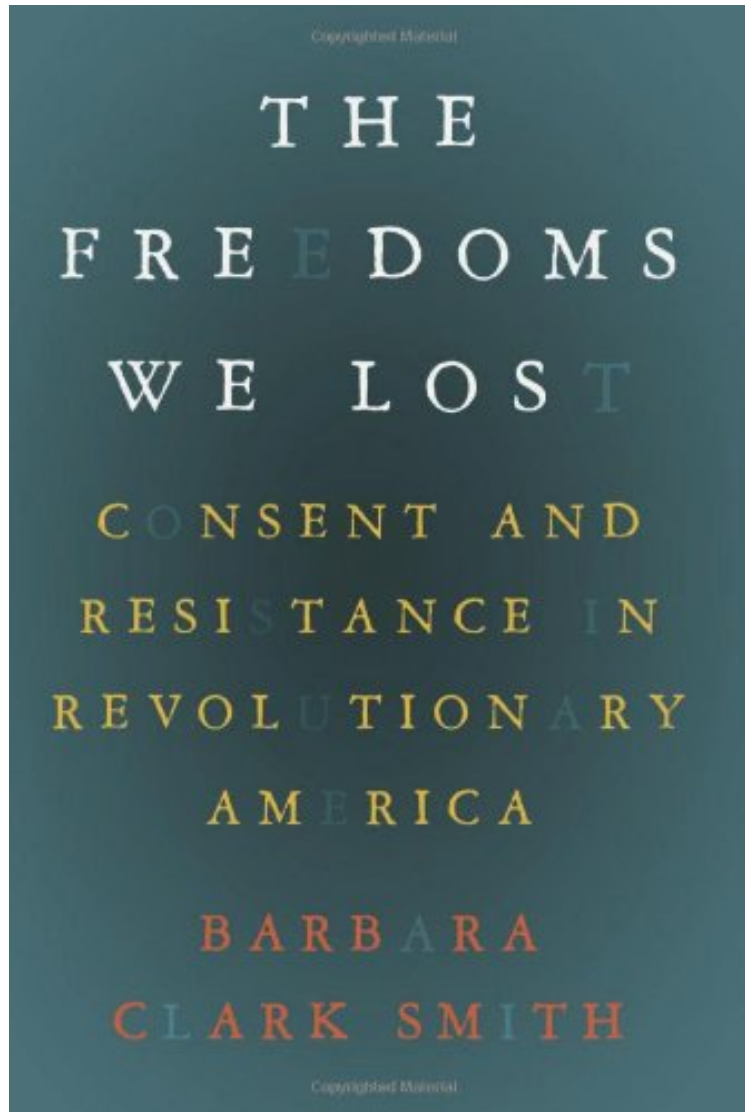


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The Freedoms We Lost: Consent and Resistance in Revolutionary America

Barbara Clark Smith

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Revolution. Too many books on the topic tell us who and what and when, and list from five to ten standard reasons why the Thirteen Colonies broke away from England. This book offers a fresh approach to "the song that never ends." Barbara Clark-Smith tells us we have been quicker to identify --and identify with--the Revolutionaries' declarations of independence than their claims of neighboring, or mutual interdependence. She views the Patriot movement as having been deeply shaped by neighborly ideals and practices, and proposes a particular interpretation of the origins of the American Revolution. What was "practiced in this Place" carried authority. She tells us that when the colonists thought of freedom, they thought of social relationships. Clark-Smith believes that in the early years, many of the revolutionary generation had a social vision grounded in the ideals of neighborhood, secured by the people's capacity to associate with one another. Patriotism meant a primary commitment to social goals, opposition to substantial economic inequalities, and limits to the ambitions of property. Perhaps what we have largely lost, is a sense of America as a community. This book is thoughtful, carefully-researched, plain vanilla. I like it. kim Burdick Stanton, Delaware 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Marjory Otoole Fascinating take on the Revolution. 0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Highly Recommended By Westley Great book. Arrived on time. The cover looked a little roughed up but to my wonderful surprise there were two covers! So I am happy. That being said what else do you want to know? This is a tremendous book and Barbra Clark Smith a significant figure in the field of history.

The Freedoms We Lost is an ambitious historical analysis of the American revolution that reinterprets the gains and losses experienced by ordinary Americans and challenges the easy narrative that subsumes the growth of freedom into the story of the American nation. Esteemed historian Barbara Clark Smith proposes that many ordinary Americans were in fact more free on the eve of Revolution than they were two decades later.

About the Author Barbara Clark Smith is the curator of political history at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Her publications include *After the Revolution* and *Revolution in Boston*, a handbook for the National Park Service Freedom Trail. She lives in Washington, D.C. This is her first trade book.