

The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution

Bernard Bailyn

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Bernard Bailyn : The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good content, not the easiest of reads, wish it had been longerBy Robert T. CooperI am reviewing the Kindle edition.I go this book as part of Judge Napolitano's History 101 course for FreedomWorks University. The book focuses on the development of thought amongst the early American public, particularly as perceived through the prolific pamphlets published during those times. The best part of the books is its summary of those thoughts and the tracing of the development.However, as a single book by a single author (as opposed to an anthology or collection of writings), I occasionally got bogged down in the reading. It was my interest in the subject that helped me to keep going. I don't know whether the presentation could have been made any clearer or could have been made to flow better, but if you decide to tackle this volume, you may experience some of the same.The other point I wished to make is somewhat of the opposite nature. After only a comparatively few chapters, suddenly the book was over. In the Kindle edition, a huge chunk of the book is made up of notes and index. In a paper edition, I would have been following the notes as I read and would have realized the proportions of the main text. It was simply unexpected on my part.Having said all of that, I still think the person with a keen interest in the subject will appreciate the book and will probably have a greater desire to try to wade through many of the pamphlets cited in the volume.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Stunning Accomplishment!By C. Wayne SwensonBrilliant. Provocative. Complex. Illuminating. The list of favorable adjectives applicable to Professor Bailyn's seminal work is nearly infinite. Subsequent to an exhaustive examination of colonial literature, namely pamphlets,

Professor Bailyn describes the evolution of colonial ideology which, he argues, led directly to the American Revolution. Professor Bailyn begins with an introduction to the ideological sources which shaped and developed colonial revolutionary thought. He describes, at length, the impact of 17th and 18th century opposition writing in England upon colonial ideology, especially "Whig" ideology. He then details how the American press widely distributed this ideology throughout the colonies. In addition, Professor Bailyn highlights the importance of classical Roman thought and English common law upon the colonists' revolutionary thinking. Professor Bailyn contends that the combination of these libertarian sources provided the spark for the "shot heard round the world. An extremely complex examination, albeit imminently readable, the Ideological Origins of the American Revolution is a most read for serious study of the reasons for the colonists' decision to break away from the patronage of the British Empire.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Although heavily argued during this, its fiftieth anniversary, ...By David DareAlthough heavily argued during this, its fiftieth anniversary, I think it is still remarkably valuable to read. Even Prof. Bailyn's preface to this edition in 2017 makes it worth it alone, to see how he feels after re-reading it. For \$16, if you don't have it, grab it.

The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution, awarded both the Pulitzer and the Bancroft prizes, has become a classic of American historical literature. Hailed at its first appearance as the most brilliant study of the meaning of the Revolution to appear in a generation, it was enlarged in a second edition to include the nationwide debate on the ratification of the Constitution, hence exploring not only the Founders initial hopes and aspirations but also their struggle to implement their ideas in constructing the national government. Now, in a new preface, Bernard Bailyn reconsiders salient features of the book and isolates the Founders profound concern with power. In pamphlets, letters, newspapers, and sermons they returned again and again to the problem of the uses and misuses of power the great benefits of power when gained and used by popular consent and the political and social devastation when acquired by those who seize it by force or other means and use it for their personal benefit. This fiftieth anniversary edition will be welcomed by readers familiar with Bailyn's book, and it will introduce a new generation to a work that remains required reading for anyone seeking to understand the nations historical roots.

"One cannot claim to understand the Revolution without having read this book." ---New York Times
About the Author Bernard Bailyn is Adams University Professor, Emeritus, and Director of the International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, Harvard University. He is the author of numerous books, including The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution (Pulitzer and Bancroft Prizes) and The Ordeal of Thomas Hutchinson (National Book Award), both published by Harvard.