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21H.112 The American Revolution  
Spring 2006

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21H112. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. Fall 2003. TR 11-12:30.

Instructor: Prof. Pauline Maier.

REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Class attendance and participation in discussions, which will focus upon the readings assigned for the week.

(2) A research paper of about 15 pages in length. Papers should answer a carefully posed historical question and be based in good part upon primary sources, that is, documents that for most topics will be from the eighteenth century. The papers can focus upon any aspect of the Revolution. All topics must be approved on or before Thursday, October 30. The final papers must include footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography composed in a correct and comprehensible form. They are due on Friday, December 5, but can be turned in without penalty up through the last meeting of the class on Tuesday, December 9.

(3) A midterm in-class examination on October 16 and a scheduled final examination.

ASSIGNED BOOKS:

Anderson, Fred. A People's Army: Massachusetts Soldiers in the Seven Years War. UNC reprint paperback of 1996. ISBN 0807845760

Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison, and John Jay, The Federalist Papers, ed. Clinton Rossiter (with introduction by Charles Kesler). Mentor pb. ISBN 0451628810.

Hyneman, Charles, and Donald Lutz, eds., American Political Writing During the Founding Era. Volume I. Liberty Press paperback; Indianapolis. ISBN 0865970416.

Locke, John. Second Treatise of Government. Any unabridged edition. Recommended edition: Peter Laslett, ed., John Locke. Two Treatises of Government. Cambridge University Press paperback. ISBN 0521357306.

Maier, Pauline. From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Resistance to Britain, 1765-1776. Norton paperback. ISBN 0393308251.

Morison, Samuel Eliot. Sources and Documents Illustrating the American Revolution. Oxford University Press paperback. ISBN 0195002628.

Paine, Thomas. Common Sense. Dover Thrift Editions paperback. ISBN 0486296024.

Readings for 21H112, The American Revolution. Available for private Xeroxing in the Humanities Library.

Shy, John. A People Numerous and Armed. Revised edition, University of Michigan Press paperback. ISBN 0472064312.

Wood, Gordon S., The American Revolution: A History. Modern Library Chronicles. New York, 2002. ISBN 0-679-64057-6

READING SCHEDULE:

September 4. Introduction and Historiography.

Wood, American Revolution, xxiii-xv, 3-24.

Maier, From Resistance to Revolution, to p. 26.

September 9-11. Background: Society, Economy, Politics and Government, America and Britain.

Anderson, A People's Army, vii-xi, 3- 164, 185-210, 222-23.

September 16-18. Background, continued: Ideology. Overview of the Independence Movement.

Wood, American Revolution, 27-44.

Maier, From Resistance to Revolution, 27- 48, 51-157.

*For September 16:* Locke, Second Treatise of Government, chs. 1-4, 8-13, 17-19.

(Also Maier, 27-48)

September 23-25. Arguments and Resistance, 1764-1770.

*For September 23:* Hopkins, "Essay on Trade," 1764, in "Readings;" Hyneman and Lutz, American Political Writings, I: 45-61 (Hopkins, late 1764), 67-87 (Bland, 1766), 97-108 (Downer, 1768); Morison, Sources and Documents, 14-54 (includes Jenyns, 1765; Dulany, 1765; Dickinson, 1767-68). (NOTE: It's a good idea to pile these books in front of you and read the pamphlets in chronological order. Or you might start with Morison, which includes the pamphlets that were most influential and so lay out the basic positions of the two sides as they stood in 1765 and 1768. How did the American argument shift between Dulany and Dickinson? Then, when you read the other pamphlets, ask what changes or differences they involve. If you can identify where an author is saying what everyone is saying and focus instead on what's new, and on how the American position is developing--- the British didn't change much---, you'll be reading efficiently and intelligently. It might take some practice to get the hang of that. In whatever order you read the pamphlets, however, be sure to take notes on each immediately after finishing it or all of them will quickly melt together in your mind.)

*For September 25:* Accounts of the Stamp Act uprisings, the Sons of Liberty, and the Virginia Association of 1770 in "Readings."

September 30-October 2. From Resistance to Revolution, 1770-1776.

Wood, American Revolution, 47-62.

Maier, From Resistance to Revolution, 161-296.

Jefferson, "Summary View" (1774), in "Readings."

Morison, Sources and Documents, 100-115 (Wilson, 1774), 116-25, 137-48.

Paine, Common Sense.

(The discussion will focus on the primary sources, i.e. the last three items on the assigned readings. What distinguishes Wilson and Jefferson from Dickinson's "Farmer's Letters"? Is Paine's Common Sense a logical outgrowth of the line of argument American pamphlets had taken, so something else altogether? How exactly did Paine justify Independence? Was he convincing? Was he moving? More so than others? Why?)

October 7-9. The Declaration of Independence; Loyalism.

*Especially for October 7:* The state and local declarations of independence; the Jefferson/committee draft of the Declaration of Independence with Congress's editings, and background documents (the British Declaration of Rights of 1688/89, Jefferson's draft preamble for the Virginia constitution, which he wrote before drafting the Declaration, and the early draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (by George Mason) that appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette, June 12, 1776) in "Readings." (You might also take a look at Morison's version of the preamble to the Virginia constitution on p. 151 of Sources and Documents and see if you notice anything odd.)

*Especially for October 9:* Galloway, 1775; Chalmers, 1776, and Mary Beth Norton, "The Loyalist Critique of the Revolution," 1972, in "Readings."

October 14. Loyalism, continued, and the British View; Review.

October 16. Midterm Examination.

October 21-23. The Revolutionary War and the Peace of Paris.

Wood, American Revolution, 74-88.

Shy, A People Numerous and Armed, chapters 4, 6-8, 10, (roughly pages 81-115, 133-92, 213-44).

October 28-30. The Revolutionary War, continued; the First State Constitutions.

Wood, American Revolution, 65-70.

Morison, Sources and Documents, 148-56, 162-77 (includes the first state constitutions of Virginia and Pennsylvania, both 1776).

The New York constitution of 1777 and the Massachusetts constitution of 1780, in "Readings."

Hyneman and Lutz, American Political Writing, I: 321-27 (the Alarm, 1776), 328-39 (Braxton, 1776), 340-67 (Demophilus, 1776), 401-09 (John Adams, 1776), 455-79 (Grievances of Berkshire County, Mass., 1778), 480-522 (Essex Result, 1778). (NOTE: Pay particular attention to the Adams pamphlet. How was his proposal different from that of Thomas Paine in Common Sense?)

November 4-6. The First State Constitutions, continued; the Confederation and the 1780s.

Wood, American Revolution, 70-74, 91-150.

Morison, Sources and Documents, 178-86, 203-33.

Hyneman and Lutz, American Political Writing, I: 631-37, Virginia Memorial and Remonstrance, 1785.

*November 11: Veteran's Day; Holiday.*

November 13. The Confederation and the 1780s, continued.

James Madison's "Vices of the System," in "Readings."

Bruce W. Bugbee, Genesis of American Patent and Copyright Law (Washington, D.C., 1967), pp. 84-131, in "Readings." (NOTE: There's no reason for you to master the

details of American copyright law in the 1780s, but this material is very helpful in “getting a handle” on what was going on in the United States in the aftermath of Independence. Most U.S. history textbooks mention at most the federal copyright law of 1790, but clearly that statute emerged from a flurry of earlier activity within the states. Why, all of a sudden in the late 1780s, were American legislators so open to granting copyrights and patents to authors and inventors? What kinds of devices were being patented? What do you suppose drove people to become so inventive? Most of the proposed devices came to nothing, but notice the name of Oliver Evans, a particularly prolific inventor who designed and built a grist mill that is generally considered the first fully automated American manufacturing operation.)

November 18-20. The Philadelphia Convention of 1787 and the Constitution.

Wood, American Revolution, 151-58

Morison, 233-304, and the New Jersey Plan, which Morison does not specifically include in his excerpts from the convention's debates, in "Readings."

Begin reading The Federalist Papers, which are listed for next week.

November 25. Ratification.

Wood, American Revolution, 158-66.

Criticisms of the Constitution by R.H. Lee and George Mason, October 6 and 7, 1787, in "Readings."

The "Federalist Papers" nos. 9 and 10, on the idea of an extended republic; 30 and 31 on taxation; 39, 45, and 46 on federalism; 47 and 51 on separation of powers; 53-56 and 62 on representation and the Senate; 78 on judicial review, and 84 on a bill of rights, in Rossiter and Kesler, eds., The Federalist Papers (circa 145 pages).

Morison, Sources and Documents, 305-62 (Virginia convention debates).

Constitutional amendments proposed by the ratifying conventions of Massachusetts (February 6, 1789) and Virginia (June 27, 1788) in "Readings." (Note that these, as well as the amendments proposed by South Carolina (May 23, 1788), New Hampshire (June 21, 1788), and New York (July 26, 1788), and several other documents pertaining to the Constitution are available on the web at Yale Law School's Avalon Project. The amendments proposed by Massachusetts are, for example, at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/const/ratma.htm>.)

Kenyon, "Men of Little Faith," the William and Mary Quarterly, 3d Ser., XII (1955), 3-43, in "Readings" (also available on the web through JStor, which can be accessed through the MIT library site).

December 2-4. Ratification, Continued. Conclusion: the Revolutionary Transformation.

Irving Brant, "Madison: On the Separation of Church and State," the William and Mary Quarterly, 3d Series, III (1951), 3-24, in "Readings" (and also available through JStor).

Selections from the Adams correspondence and the writings of Judith Sargent Murray, and Jefferson, "Query XIV," from his Notes on the State of Virginia (written in 1781 and published in 1785), in "Readings."

Also Hyneman and Lutz, American Political Writing, I: 217-30 (Benjamin Rush, 1773, on slavery) 675-92 (Rush on education, 1786), 699-701 (the Worcester Speculator, 1787).

December 9. Conclusion, continued: Rights.

James Madison's proposal for a federal Bill of Rights as presented to the House of Representatives on June 8, 1789, and the set of amendments Congress finally sent to the states for ratification in September 1789, also in "Readings." The states failed to approve the first two of Congress's proposed amendments by 1791. Did the rest really constitute a "bill of rights"? Do you think the Antifederalists would have been satisfied?