

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring Semester 1993

REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA

History 901

Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon

J. B. Lee

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The American Revolution has been characterized as the "paramount event" in American history. This seminar explores its nature and impact. The usual reading load will be one book and two periodical articles per week or the equivalent. (Note: for some topics the assigned readings will be divided among class members.) Students will also receive a supplementary reading list for each weekly topic.

READINGS: Assigned readings are on three-hour reserve at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The following titles are also available at the University Bookstore.

- Bernard Bailyn, The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution (1967).
Thomas M. Doerflinger, A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise: Merchants and Economic Development in Revolutionary America (1986).
Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790 (1982).
Linda K. Kerber, Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America (1980).
Drew R. McCoy, The Last of the Fathers: James Madison and the Republican Legacy (1989).
Pauline Maier, From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776 (1972).
Gary B. Nash, Race and Revolution (1990).
R. R. Palmer, The Age of the Democratic Revolution, vol. 1: The Challenge (1959).
Alan Taylor, Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier, 1760-1820 (1990).
Gordon S. Wood, The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787 (1969).

SCHEDULE:

Jan. 20 **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Jan. 27 **A REVOLUTIONARY AGE**

- R. R. Palmer, The Age of the Democratic Revolution, vol. 1: The Challenge (1959).
Linda K. Kerber, "The Revolutionary Generation: Ideology, Politics, and Culture in the Early Republic," in The New American History, ed. Eric Foner (1990), 25-45.

Feb. 3 **THE IMPERIAL CONNECTION**

- Ian R. Christie, Wars and Revolutions: Britain, 1760-1815 (1982), 3-44.
- Ian R. Christie and Benjamin W. Labaree, Empire or Independence, 1760-1776: A British-American Dialogue on the Coming of the American Revolution (1976), 1-45.
- T.H. Breen, "An Empire of Goods: The Anglicization of Colonial America, 1690-1776," Journal of British Studies 25 (1986):467-99.
- T.H. Breen, "'Baubles of Britain': The American and Consumer Revolutions of the Eighteenth Century," Past and Present 119 (1988):73-104.
- Richard B. Sheridan, "The Domestic Economy," in Colonial British America: Essays in the New History of the Early Modern Era, ed. Jack P. Greene and J.R. Pole (1984), 43-85.
- John M. Murrin, "Political Development," in Colonial British America: Essays in the New History of the Early Modern Era, ed. Greene and Pole, 408-56.
- Jack P. Greene, "Parliament and the Colonies," Peripheries and Center: Constitutional Development in the Extended Politics of the British Empire and the United States, 1607-1788 (1986), 55-76.

Feb. 10 **COLONIAL LANDSCAPES**

- Gordon S. Wood, The Radicalism of the American Revolution (1991), 3-92.
- Jack P. Greene, "Convergence: Development of an American Society, 1720-1780," Pursuits of Happiness: The Social Development of Early Modern British Colonies and the Formation of American Culture (1988), 178-206.
- Bernard Bailyn, "The Structure of Colonial Politics," The Origins of American Politics (1967), 59-105.
- Alison G. Olson, "Eighteenth-Century Colonial Legislatures and Their Constituents," Journal of American History 79 (1992):543-67.
- Gary B. Nash, "Social Change and the Growth of Prerevolutionary Urban Radicalism," in The American Revolution: Explorations in the History of American Radicalism, ed. Alfred F. Young (1976), 3-36.
- William McLoughlin, "'Enthusiasm for Liberty': The Great Awakening as the Key to the Revolution," in Preachers and Politicians: Two Essays on the Origins of the American Revolution (1977).
- John M. Murrin, "No Awakening, No Revolution? More Counterfactual Speculations," Reviews in American History 9 (1983):161-71.

Feb. 17 **THE WORLD ACCORDING TO THE RADICAL WHIGS**

- Bernard Bailyn, The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution (1967).
- J. H. Hexter, review essay of J.G.A. Pocock's The Machiavellian Moment (1975), in History and Theory (1978), 306-37.
- Gordon S. Wood, "Rhetoric and Reality in the American Revolution," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 23 (1966):3-32.

Feb. 24 **THE GATHERING STORM**

- Pauline Maier, From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776 (1972).
- John Shy, "Boston: The Turning Point," Toward Lexington: The Role of the British Army in the Coming of the American Revolution (1965), 267-320.
- Alison G. Olson, "The London Mercantile Lobby and the Coming of the American Revolution," Journal of American History 69 (1982):21-41.
- Marc Engal and Joseph Ernst, "An Economic Interpretation of the American Revolution," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 29 (1972):3-32.

Mar. 3 **A UNIQUE MOMENT IN HUMAN HISTORY**

- Gordon S. Wood, The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787 (1969), 3-389.
- Melvin B. Endy, Jr., "Just War, Holy War, and Millennialism in Revolutionary America," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 42 (1985):3-25.
- Cecelia M. Kenyon, "The Declaration of Independence," and Merrill Jensen, "The Articles of Confederation," in [Library of Congress], Fundamental Testaments of the American Revolution (1973), 22-80.

Mar. 10 **SPRING VACATION**

Mar. 17 **FOUNDED IN BLOOD**

- Don Higginbotham, The War of American Independence: Military Attitudes, Policies, and Practice, 1763-1789 (1971), 1-28, 257-87.
- John Shy, "American Society and Its War for Independence" in Reconsiderations on the Revolutionary War: Selected Essays, ed. Don Higginbotham (1978), 72-82.
- _____, "The Military Conflict Considered as a Revolutionary War," A People Numerous and Armed: Reflections on the Military Struggle for American Independence (1976), 192-224.
- Charles Royster, A Revolutionary People at War: The Continental Army and the American Character (1979), 25-53.
- Robert Middlekauf, The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution, 1763-1789 (1982), 496-519.
- Roger A. Ekirch, "Whig Authority and Public Order in Backcountry North Carolina, 1776-1783," in An Uncivil War: The Southern Backcountry During the American Revolution, ed. Ronald Hoffman et al. (1985), 99-124.
- Richard H. Kohn, "American Generals of the Revolution: Subordination and Restraint," in Reconsiderations on the Revolutionary War: Selected Essays, ed. Higginbotham, 104-23.
- Joseph S. Tiedemann, "Patriots by Default: Queens County, New York, and the British Army, 1776-1783," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 43 (1986):35-63.
- Jean B. Lee, "Revolution, War, and Nationhood: Charles County, Maryland, 1750-1800," chaps. 5-6.
- Charles Royster, "Founding a Nation in Blood: Military Conflict and American Nationality," in Arms and Independence: The Military Character of the

American Revolution, ed. Ronald Hoffman and Peter J. Albert (1984), 25-49.
 Richard B. Morris, "The Treaty of Paris of 1783," in [Library of Congress],
Fundamental Testaments of the American Revolution (1973), 80-106.

Mar. 24

THE UNCERTAIN NATION

Gordon S. Wood, The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787 (1969), 393-615.
 Joyce O. Appleby, "Republicanism and Ideology," American Quarterly 37 (1985):
 E. Wayne Carp, "The Origins of the Nationalist Movement of 1780-1783:
 Congressional Administration and the Continental Army," Pennsylvania
 Magazine of History and Biography 107 (1983):363-92.
 Richard B. Morris, "The New Nation's First Depression," in the Forging of the
 Union, 1781-1789 (1987), 130-61.
 Jean B. Lee, "Lessons in Humility: The Revolutionary Transformation of the
 Governing Elite of Charles County, Maryland," in "The Transforming Hand
 of Revolution": Reconsidering the American Revolution as a Social
 Movement, ed. Ronald Hoffman (forthcoming 1993).

Mar. 31

LIBERTY'S DAUGHTERS

Linda K. Kerber, Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary
 America (1980).
 Ruth H. Bloch, "The Gendered Meanings of Virtue in Revolutionary America," Signs
 13 (1987):37-58.
 Linda K. Kerber, "The Paradox of Women's Citizenship in the Early Republic: The
 Case of *Martin vs. Massachusetts*, 1805," American Historical Review 97
 (1992):349-78.
 Jan Lewis, "The Republican Wife: Virtue and Seduction in the Early Republic,"
William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 44 (1987):689-721.
 Marylynn Salmon, "Republican Sentiment, Economic Change, and the Property
 Rights of Women in American Law," in Women in the Age of the American
 Revolution, ed. Ronald Hoffman and Peter J. Albert (1989), 447-75.

Apr. 7

THE PROBLEM OF SLAVERY

David B. David, The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823 (1975),
 39-83, 164-254.
 Gary B. Nash, Race and Revolution (1990), ix-87.
 William W. Freehling, "The Founding Fathers and Slavery," American Historical
 Review 77 (1972):81-93.
 Paul Finkelman, "Slavery and the Constitutional Convention: Making a Covenant
 with Death," in Beyond Confederation: Origins of the Constitution and
 American National Identity, ed. Richard Beeman, Stephen Botein, and
 Edward C. Carter III (1987), 188-225.
 Gary B. Nash, "Forging Freedom: The Emancipation Experience in the Northern
 Seaports, 1775-1820," in Slavery and Freedom in the Era of the American
 Revolution, ed. Ira Berlin and Ronald Hoffman (1982), 3-48.

Apr. 14

ENTERPRISING AMERICANS

- Thomas M. Doerflinger, A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise: Merchants and Economic Development in Revolutionary America (1986).
- John J. McCusker and Russell R. Menard, The Economy of British America, 1607-1789, 351-77.
- Edward C. Papenfuss, In Pursuit of Profit: The Annapolis Merchants in the Era of the American Revolution, 1763-1805 (1975), 169-236.
- Joyce Appleby, Capitalism and a New Social Order: The Republican Vision of the 1790s (1984).

Apr. 21

THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF RELIGION

- Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia, 1740-1790 (1982).
- Thomas E. Buckley, "Evangelicals Triumphant: The Baptists' Assault on the Virginia Glebes, 1786-1801," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 45 (1988):33-69.
- Stephen Botein, "Religious Dimensions of the Early American State," in Beyond Confederation: Origins of the Constitution and American National Identity, ed. Richard Beeman et al. (1987), 315-30.
- Nathan O. Hatch, The Democratization of American Christianity (1989), 3-46.

Apr. 28

THE REVOLUTIONARY FRONTIER

- Alan Taylor, Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier, 1760-1820 (1990).
- Andrew R. Cayton, "'Separate Interests' and the Nation-State: The Washington Administration and the Origins of Regionalism in the Trans-Appalachian West," Journal of American History 79 (1992):39-67.
- Gregory H. Nobles, "Breaking into the Backcountry: New Approaches to the Early American Frontier," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d ser., 46 (1989):641-70.

May 5

LEGACIES

- Drew R. McCoy, The Last of the Fathers: James Madison and the Republican Legacy (1989).
- James T. Kloppenberg, "The Virtues of Liberalism: Christianity, Republicanism, and Ethics in Early American Political Discourse," Journal of American History 74 (1987).
- Daniel T. Rodgers, "Republicanism: The Career of a Concept," Journal of American History 79 (1992):11-38.
- R.R. Palmer, "The Impact of the American Revolution Abroad," in [Library of Congress], The Impact of the American Revolution Abroad (1976), 4-18.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: Papers are due at the beginning of class. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no late papers will be accepted. Maximum length: 6 pages, typewritten and double-spaced.

Due Feb. 24: Assess the causes of the American Revolution.

Due Mar. 24: Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Bailyn-Wood interpretation of the Revolution.

Due Apr. 28: Assess the extent to which revolution and war transformed American society.

GRADING: 30% class discussion; 20% first paper; 25% each for the second and third papers.

INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: 11:00 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays; also by appointment. 4116 Humanities Building. Phone: 263-1661 or 263-1800.