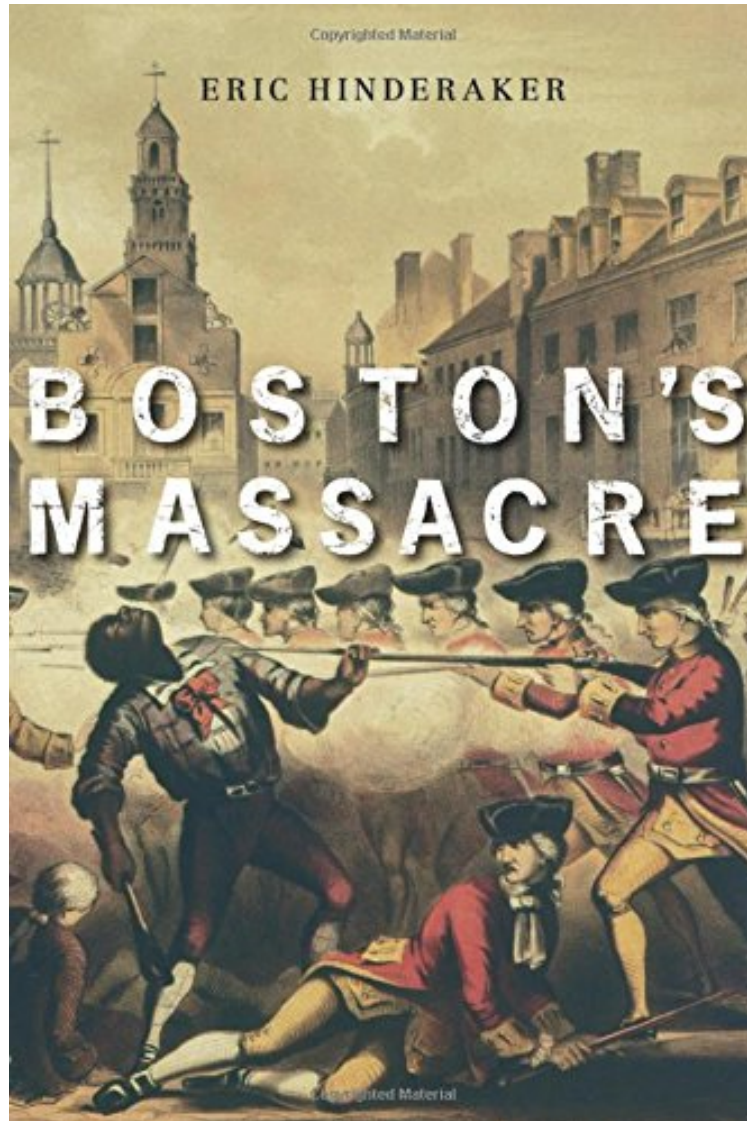


## Bostons Massacre

*Eric Hinderaker*

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#118671 in Books Hinderaker Eric 2017-03-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x 1.30 x 5.80l, #File Name: 0674048334384 pages Boston s Massacre | File size: 36.Mb

**Eric Hinderaker : Bostons Massacre** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bostons Massacre:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, covering some usually overlooked aspects of the story By Student of the Revolution Excellent, covering some usually overlooked aspects of the story. A good supplement to Zobel's Boston Massacre, still the best and most complete telling, particularly for the trial. Hinderaker doesn't attempt to duplicate Zobel in that aspect. Read them both. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. only four men

killed, but even five men massacred? By Hung-Tak Lee Hinderaker's book serves as an indication to what could and easily have happened in our dealings with historic events, easily falsifiable narratives, and with memory lapses and selective perceptions that interfere with our understanding of even a minor incident. No one would deny the 1770 horrid massacre in Boston sparked a flame of resistance, but when it gets compared with the Kent State incident and even gets spilled over to the 1989 Tiananmen Square protest, the "Boston Massacre" loses much of its historical importance. 3 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Interesting read, but a trifle rambling. By Dave Bridge I haven't finished reading this exploration of a famous event in American history, but my initial reaction - after about 100 pages - is 1) the typeface is too small to make reading a comfortable experience, even for someone with 20/20 vision; 2) it seems to range very far afield in setting the stage for this seminal event in pre-Revolutionary War America. I guess that was probably necessary to write an entire book devoted to this one event, but after awhile you begin to forget what the title subject actually was. For history buffs like myself, that may not be much of a problem, but for others I think it will have trouble maintaining the reader's interest. Perhaps that doesn't really matter since history buffs are obviously the most likely readers of such a book, but the way things are in America today, a better and more widespread understanding of the nation's history seems vital if we are to salvage the republic the Founders created, long under siege by Progressivism. As Ben Franklin trenchantly observed, that may be a task beyond our capabilities ("A republic, if you can keep it"), but then, as Alexander Pope observed, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast".

On the night of March 5, 1770, British soldiers fired into a crowd gathered in front of Boston's Custom House, killing five people. Denounced as an act of unprovoked violence and villainy, the event that came to be known as the Boston Massacre is one of the most familiar incidents in American history, yet one of the least understood. Eric Hinderaker revisits this dramatic episode, examining in forensic detail the facts of that fateful night, the competing narratives that molded public perceptions at the time, and the long campaign afterward to transform the tragedy into a touchstone of American identity. When Parliament stationed two thousand British troops in Boston beginning in 1768, resentment spread rapidly among the populace. Steeped in traditions of self-government and famous for their Yankee independence, Bostonians were primed to resist the imposition. Living up to their reputation as Britain's most intransigent North American community, they refused compromise and increasingly interpreted their conflict with Britain as a matter of principle. Relations between Britain and the North American colonies deteriorated precipitously after the shooting at the Custom House, and it soon became the catalyzing incident that placed Boston in the vanguard of the Patriot movement. Fundamental uncertainties about the night's events cannot be resolved. But the larger significance of the Boston Massacre extends from the era of the American Revolution to our own time, when the use of violence in policing crowd behavior has once again become a pressing public issue.

In Boston's Massacre, Eric Hinderaker brilliantly unpacks the creation of competing narratives around a traumatic and confusing episode of violence. With deft insight, careful research, and lucid writing, Hinderaker shows how the bloodshed in one Boston street became pivotal to making and remembering a revolution that created a nation. (Alan Taylor, author of *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804*) Seldom does the book appear that compels its readers both to rethink a signal event in American history and reexamine powerful assumptions about historical knowledge itself. Its even rarer for an author to accomplish so formidable a feat in prose of sparkling clarity and grace. But this is such a book, and Eric Hinderaker just such an author: Boston's Massacre is a gem. (Fred Anderson, author of *Crucible of War: The Seven Years War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*) Hinderaker illuminates the events of March 5, 1770, from a host of unexpected angles, from its military origins and the possibility of an additional shooter, to the Kent State comparison that thrust itself upon the nation two hundred years later. (Woody Holton, author of *Abigail Adams*) Eric Hinderaker widens our understanding of the Boston Massacre and the origins of the American Revolution. By setting this stirring event in the context of New England's involvement in Britain's colonial wars, and by depicting the occupying British army as a social force of considerable power, this elegant book gives us a far richer account of how military occupation pushed Boston into rebellion. (Mark A. Peterson, author of *The Price of Redemption: The Spiritual Economy of Puritan New England*) In his examination of the 1770 Boston Massacre, Hinderaker deftly explores the characters of British leaders, American administrators, and those who stirred what many considered a mob. The author ably exposes the symbolic import of the massacre as it defined the limits of legitimate authority and of legitimate popular protest. (Kirkus 2017-01-01) Hinderaker claims no definitive version of the event, instead offering a thoughtful meditation on the episode's significance for shared American identity and memory. Untangling the complex circumstances under which Britain stationed thousands of troops in Boston in the peacetime of 1768, Hinderaker maps the colonial anxieties regarding imperial control that came to a head with the shootings. He ends with a provocative reflection on the massacre's symbolic resonance with more recent examples of police brutality, making this book important reading for anyone interested in questions regarding the limits of authority and protest. (Publishers Weekly 2017-01-30) Readers are left with a nuanced understanding of the way we shape historical narratives after any major event. A compelling and well-researched

account of the Boston Massacre, for readers seeking more refined studies of early American history. (Jessica Holland Library Journal 2017-02-01) Fascinating Hinderaker's meticulous research shows that the Boston Massacre was contested from the beginning. The Boston Massacre's contested meanings have plenty to tell us about America's identity, past and present. (Mark Spencer Wall Street Journal 2017-03-10) Using the Boston Massacre as a case study, [Hinderaker] highlights how moments of extreme intensity shape an observer's understanding of that moment and the subsequent narratives that followed. (M. A. Byron Choice 2017-08-01) About the Author Eric Hinderaker is Professor of History at the University of Utah.