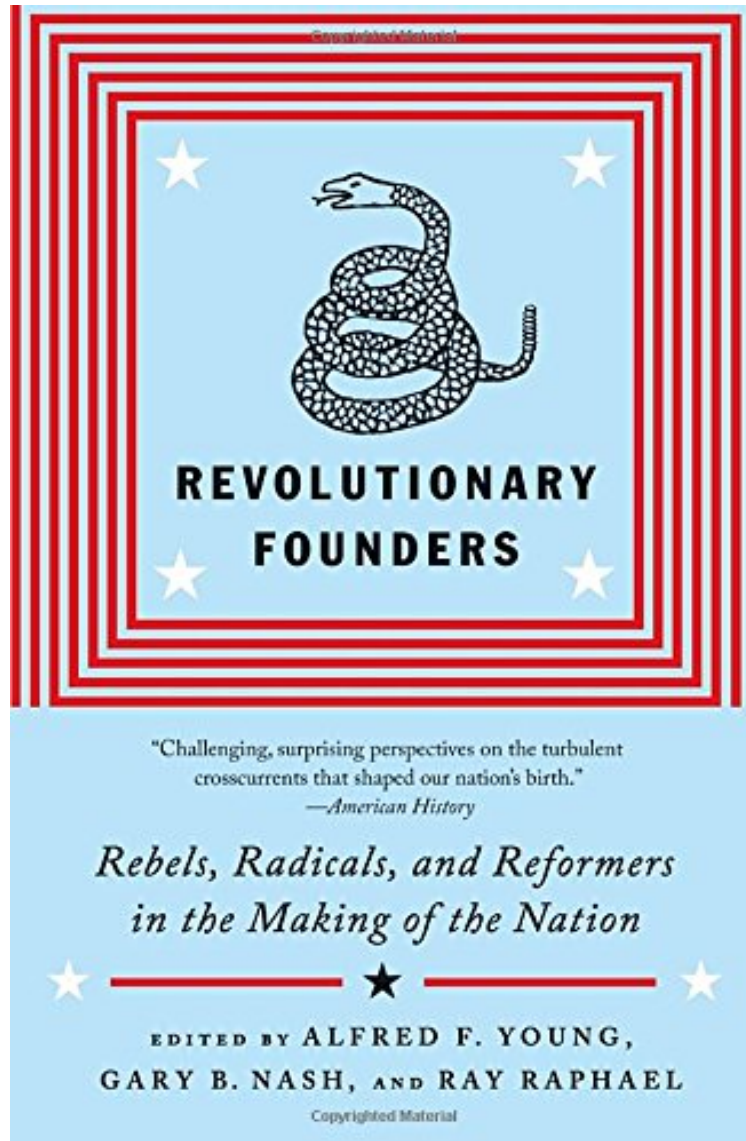


Revolutionary Founders: Rebels, Radicals, and Reformers in the Making of the Nation

Ray Raphael

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#617574 in Books Alfred F Young 2012-04-17 2012-04-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x .96 x 5.211, .95 #File Name: 0307455998464 pages Revolutionary Founders Rebels Radicals and Reformers in the Making of the Nation | File size: 47.Mb

Ray Raphael : Revolutionary Founders: Rebels, Radicals, and Reformers in the Making of the Nation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revolutionary Founders: Rebels, Radicals, and Reformers in the Making of the Nation:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The true perspective on American RevolutionsBy MattI took a Atlantic Revolutions class with one of the authors of this book. A interesting little gem that tells stories of history from a alternative perspective. I learned a lot about how I was taught a very "fairytale" version of the American Revolutions in public school. A must read for History buffs!5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding collection of essays.By gloine36Most Americans have a general idea of what the American Revolution was regardless of whether or not they understand the fine details of how it began and what followed afterwards. Few Americans know the men and women they will encounter in reading this collection of twenty-two essays penned by many of the leading historians of this period. In many ways these individuals had just as great a role in the founding of the US as the men who most consider to be Founders such as John Adams, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin. Although they are hardly known to the people of today, these individuals were the ones who helped start the Revolution, sustain it during the long years of combat, and determine the future direction of the new nation. The late Alfred F. Young, esteemed historian from Northern Illinois University begins the book with an essay on Ebenezer Mackintosh, the leader of the mobs that resisted the Stamp Act in 1765 in the streets of Boston. The tone of the book is set by this essay as Young explores the role of the common people in the Revolution. Without the support of the people there would have been no Revolution and no United States created in 1776. Yet, the people were not united in their actions nor were the men who are remembered as Founders on the national and state levels. In many cases the actions of the people led those men into supporting the Revolution. Unfortunately the common men would be forgotten or marginalized by the more well known men who took over the reins of the revolutionary effort. Men like Ebenezer Mackintosh, Timothy Bigelow, and Joseph Plumb Martin along with black men and women both free and enslaved played prominent roles in their part of the Revolution along with Native Americans. All levels of colonial society was affected by the events that took place and despite the attempts by many to prevent change on a large scale, social, political, economic, cultural, and even religious change occurred on a massive level as the Revolution set the former British colonies on a different tangent than the home country. In reading these essays the reader can begin to develop an inkling of why historians like Gordon Wood think the period of the greatest change in the US came after the Revolution during the years of the Early Republic era. These are certainly not all of the legions of forgotten patriots who put everything on the line during these years. If there is a drawback to this book it is that it doesnt weave the essays into a grand narrative of US history although after each essay there is a section for further reading detailing additional sources to explore regarding the events and people brought up in that particular essay. What is interesting is that each historian has their own input on what was going on concerning the subject their essay was about so that the reader will begin to understand there are still many differing opinions on what exactly was going on in that time and how the individuals portrayed in that essay were both reacting to and participating in it. For readers more familiar with the short topic form of literature the length of the essays here will fit them perfectly. They average 15 to 20 pages each and are compact enough to provide useful readings for both high school and college courses in addition to local historical society meetings. Even social organizations would find something to like in these essays. The essay by Richard S. Newman covers Prince Hall and the founding of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the United States which just naturally impels the reader to look up more information on that subject. The essays that deal with events following the Revolution are poignant in that they cover subjects which have been debated throughout our nations history such as taxation, the unequal distribution of wealth, religion, the relationship between federal and state government, and the role of the people within both the state and federal governments. The reader should begin to understand that these essays deal with a time that is lost to the modern world and was experiencing massive upheavals in every aspect of life from top to bottom as the people began the world over again as Thomas Paine said. The men and women in these essays were the ones that helped bring that event about as well as determining the shape of things to come for their posterity.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great social historyBy fanofhistoryThis is great social history of the war. Anyone who really wants to understand how the Revolution played out need to read this alongside the classic narratives. It really brings to life the experiences of the ordinary, forgotten people who lived and died during this period.

In twenty-two original essays, leading historians reveal the radical impulses at the founding of the American Republic. Here is a fresh, new reading of the American Revolution that gives voice and recognition to a generation of radical thinkers and doers whose revolutionary ideals outstripped those of the Founding Fathers. While the Founding Fathers advocated a break from Britain and espoused ideals of republican government, none proposed significant changes to the fabric of colonial society. Yet during this revolutionary period some people did believe that liberty meant liberty for all and that equality should be applied to political, economic, and religious spheres. Here are the stories of individuals and groups who exemplified the radical ideals of the American Revolution more in keeping with our own values today. This volume helps us to understand the social conflicts unleashed by the struggle for independence, the Revolutions achievements, and the unfinished agenda it left to future generations to confront.

"The best essays are small gems of exposition, providing both the context and detail necessary to enable readers to

recognize the important contributions of these previously unappreciated and largely unknown individuals. . . . In short, Revolutionary Founders is one step, but only one, toward a comprehensive account of the nation's origins." Mary Beth Norton, *The New York Times Book Review* In these 22 provocative essays, leading historians highlight Revolutionary-era people and movements that textbooks and standard accounts skip. . . . Revolutionary Founders aims to test the parameters of what we think we know with new and reinterpreted data and fresh theories. . . . [T]hey offer challenging, surprising perspectives on the turbulent crosscurrents that shaped our nation's birth. *American History* "[A] uniformly strong collection, [by] an impressive array of historians among them, T.H. Breen, Eric Foner, Jill Lepore and Alan Taylor. . . . Editors Young, Nash, and Raphael have solicited wisely, with each contributor adding an important dimension to the controlling theme: We cannot have too much liberty. Adds immeasurably to our understanding of the Revolution's full meaning." Kirkus "Fast-paced and readable, this remarkable book captures an American Revolution that has long been hiding in plain sight. I emerged with a new set of heroes, a fresh appreciation for complex stories, and a new sense of our own connection to a revolutionary past." Linda K. Kerber, author of *No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of Citizenship* "Revolutionary Founders brilliantly restores the struggle for social equality to the central place in the history of American Revolution, and explains how the spirit of leveling shaped the making of the new American Republic. For anyone interested in the sources of popular democracy in the United States, Revolutionary Founders is required reading." Ira Berlin, author of *The Making of African America: The Four Great Migrations* "Revolutions free the imagination, making many things seem possible that once were deemed wild visions. Revolutionary Founders introduces into the pantheon of the American Revolution those rebels, radicals, and reformers who passionately committed themselves to act on the conviction that all men are created equal." Joyce Appleby, author of *The Relentless Revolution: A History of Capitalism* About the Author Alfred F. Young was professor emeritus of history at Northern Illinois University and was a senior research fellow at the Newberry Library in Chicago. He lives in Durham, North Carolina. He passed away in 2012. Gary B. Nash is professor of history emeritus and director of the National Center for History in the Schools at UCLA. He lives in Pacific Palisades, California. Ray Raphael is the author of *A People's History of the American Revolution*, *Founding Myths*, and several other books on the nation's founding. He lives in northern California. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction To Begin the World Over Again Alfred F. Young, Ray Raphael, and Gary B. Nash "All men are created equal, our first founding document declared. Men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These truths might be self-evident, as the Declaration of Independence stated boldly, but historically they are enigmatic. A majority of the fifty-six men who subscribed to such noble thoughts enslaved other human beings. Thomas Jefferson certainly did, but he alone is not the puzzle, nor is slavery the only inconsistency. What, exactly, did Jefferson and his colleagues mean by created equal? Was a shoemaker's son, at birth, really created equal to the son of a wealthy merchant? Did women have the same unalienable rights as men? Were blacks as well as whites entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Such notions frightened most of the prominent men we think of today as the Founding Fathers. Eleven years after the Declaration, when the framers of the Constitution devised a more perfect union, they did so, in part, to prevent an excess of democracy (a phrase they repeated often) from sweeping the young nation. The framers pejoratively labeled threats to their wealth and political power as leveling and those to their political power as democratic. Political, social, and economic equality were not what the framers had in mind. The disparity between words and deeds presents a particular problem for history-proud Americans who see the founders as guiding, patriarchal exemplars of their most cherished ideals. Searching for a moral resolution to this conundrum, typical American textbooks today assert that though all people were not treated equally in America in 1776, the Declaration of Independence set high goals for equal treatment in the future. This has become our nation's standard fallback response. By treating liberty and equality as promises to future generations, we simultaneously acquit the founders of culpability and affirm our national commitment to these high goals. It's a clever remedy, but factually it does not ring true. While some of the men who commanded slave labor hoped the institution would end someday, and a handful freed their slaves in their wills, that was as far as they went. With few exceptions, the gentlemen who drafted and signed our two founding documents opposed popular democracy and social equality. Our high goals were not theirs. They did not hold fundamental values that we accept as common currency today. Although the Declaration of Independence claimed that people had the right to alter or abolish their form of government if they had exhausted all other means to express their grievances, the traditional founders did not wish to alter or abolish the institutional structures that protected their claim to rule. Once an elective government was established, traditional founders suppressed political rebellion. They did not want people to significantly alter, much less abolish, the structures they had just created. By contrast, many of their contemporaries wanted to strike at the heart of existing inequalities and radicalize governmental structures. Our protagonists in this book wanted to extend the lofty principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence to areas of life that the traditional founders never intended. These people did have a sense of the promise of the Revolution, and they wanted to fulfill it in their own time. Sharing no single agenda, they acted in the spirit of the words of Thomas Paine: We have it in our power to begin the world over again. The new nation was a blank sheet to write upon, Paine wrote,¹ and on that sheet they placed their marks. Their actions were many and varied: Common farmers, artisans, and laborers often

led the resistance to imperial policies, moving the colonies toward independence while reshaping the character of political life in North America. Slaves emancipated themselves by fleeing to freedom, then established their own viable communities. Women staked claims to equality of the sexes and to retain rights to their own property in marriage. Persecuted religious dissenters pushed for, and obtained, the free exercise of religion. Resisting the inequities of rank, soldiers carried democratic values into the military. Native Americans claimed sovereignty and fought to defend it, with a spirit of independence that paralleled that of colonists. Farmers threatened with the loss of their land resorted to collective action, including taking up arms. Printers published what they wanted, overriding attempts to repress them. Self-proclaimed democrats, turning that term of derision on its head, won the right of ordinary people to vote, hold public office, and pass judgment on their rulers. Most of these Revolutionary founders, as we call them here, were radicals in the literal sense of the word: they promoted root changes in the very structure of social or political systems. One of those fundamental changes, of course, was independence from Britain, a goal they shared with the traditional founders, but often they pushed for others. Many of these people can also be considered rebels, either because they forcibly challenged British authority or because they confronted old or new hierarchies. Finally, some might best be described as reformers who sought to change a particular feature of society while leaving others intact. Each of these rebels, radicals, and reformers moved the American Revolution in some direction the traditional founders did not want to take, extending it farther and deeper than a separation from the British Empire. They made the Revolution more revolutionary.