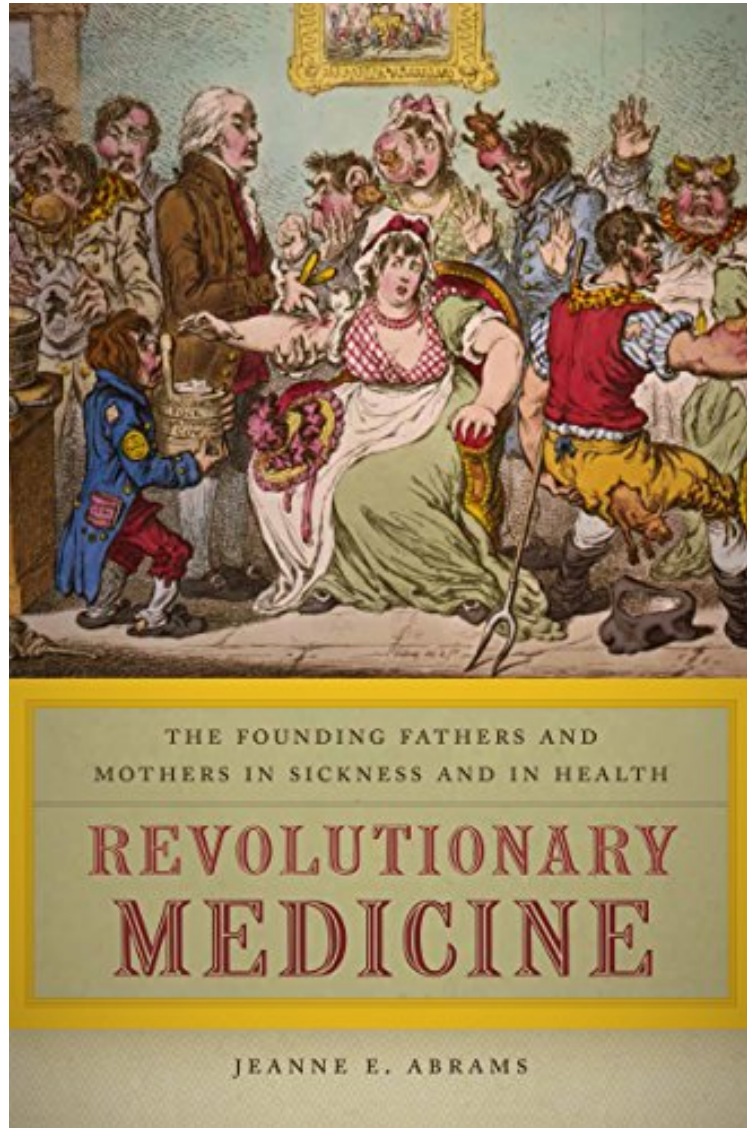


Revolutionary Medicine: The Founding Fathers and Mothers in Sickness and in Health

Jeanne E. Abrams

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Jeanne E. Abrams : Revolutionary Medicine: The Founding Fathers and Mothers in Sickness and in Health before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revolutionary Medicine: The Founding Fathers and Mothers in Sickness and in Health:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Good information. Some of the innovations were amazing for ...By C. Phillip Bush
Good information. Some of the innovations were amazing for their time. The book is made up of several sections each about medicine through the experience of one of the founding fathers/mothers. There was some repetition from section to section. C Phillip Bush, professor of health care ethics, George Mason University.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book sheds light on medical practices at around the ...By Gus
This book sheds light on medical practices at around the time of the American Revolution and it also reveals details about the life of early presidents (Washington, Adams, Jefferson) as well as other important historical figures from the period. Revolutionary Medicine is well written and will be of interest to anyone who wants to get a sense for 18th century health care in the context of the privileged class.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative
By Kindle Customer
I enjoyed reading about the founding fathers and medicines, treatments of the time. Some sections were very dry. The author researched the material very, very well.

Before the advent of modern antibiotics, one's life could be abruptly shattered by contagion and death, and debility from infectious diseases and epidemics was commonplace for early Americans, regardless of social status. Concerns over health affected the founding fathers and their families as it did slaves, merchants, immigrants, and everyone else in North America. As both victims of illness and national leaders, the Founders occupied a unique position regarding the development of public health in America. Revolutionary Medicine refocuses the study of the lives of George and Martha Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, and James and Dolley Madison away from the usual lens of politics to the unique perspective of sickness, health, and medicine in their era.

"In addition to the broad yet intensely personal health concerns Abrams describes, a key strength of Revolutionary Medicine is the humanization of the Founders. For denizens of the twenty-first century, the Founders often seem frozen as portraits on currency or entombed forever as inanimate, superhuman monuments and statues. Abrams reminds us that they were flesh-and-blood souls navigating lives in many ways similar to ours."
-North Carolina Historical Society
The strength of the book is Abrams's compilation of fascinating, gruesome, and often-tragic details of the lives of these founders, which lends them a corporeal presence that is absent from most histories."
-The Journal of American History
Contemporary debates over medical research budgets and guaranteeing health insurance for all Americans echo conversations about the necessity of good health to the well-being and prosperity of the citizenry that began at the dawn of our national history. In lucid, accessible prose, historian Jeanne E. Abrams turns to the lives and experiences of George and Martha Washington, John and Abigail Adams, James and Dolley Madison, as well as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin to illuminate conversations about health, public and private, in our republic's early years. Abrams's fine volume is a tonic for the frequent neglect of health and disease in so many histories of the early republic."
-Alan M. Kraut, author of Goldbergs War: The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader
"Revolutionary Medicine fills a significant niche. Its subject is not entirely pristine, but Abrams adds much and synthesizes masterfully. Her book deserves to be a source of reference and of reading pleasure for years to come."
-Paul Kopperman, Social History of Medicine
"Revolutionary Medicine is a 'must-read' for anyone interested in the birth of America. Upon closing Jeanne E. Abrams's wonderful book about the illnesses and health experiences of the nation's founders, you will never be able to look at Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and their peers the same way again."
-Howard Markel, author of An Anatomy of Addiction
Abrams tells the founders' stories in a lucid and engaging narrative voice. She renders their pains and pleasures with sensitivity and insight. Its pages will hold few surprises for the specialist, but any reader interested in the revolutionary era or the lives of the American founders will surely learn a great deal from Abrams's study."
-Simon Finger, Bulletin of the History of Medicine
"We know their vaunted place in history: Presidents Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison, and statesman, scientist, and pamphleteer Benjamin Franklin. But it's their work in public health and their personal battles with illness that makes this blend of political and medical history so engaging... Abrams's meticulous medical portrait of colonial times and its most powerful leaders will be fascinating reading for students of both history and medicine."
-Publishers Weekly
"As America enters a new era of health care, this timely volume recalls what medicine was like in the days of the Founding Fathers. Everything from Washington's dental woes to Jefferson's troublesome headaches and Dolley Madison's tragic encounter with yellow fever finds its way into this lively and well-researched book. In recounting battles over vaccinations, herbal remedies, the efficacy of blood-letting, and the appropriate role for government intervention in medical issues, Revolutionary Medicine reminds us that debates over health care are nothing new in America. They go back to our founders."
-Jonathan D. Sarna, author of When General Grant Expelled the Jews
Five case studies demonstrate the new nation's state of medical practice, the founders' bouts of illness and the republican ideal that individual and national health were connected—the roots, Abrams argues, of repeated attempts to rationalize our national health-care system."
-American History
One of the "Top Books for Docs" in 2013.
-Medscape
About the Author
Jeanne E. Abrams is Professor at the University Libraries and the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver, where she is also Director of the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society, and Curator of the Beck Archives, Special Collections. She is the author of

Revolutionary Medicine: The Founding Fathers and Mothers in Sickness and in Health (NYU Press, 2013).