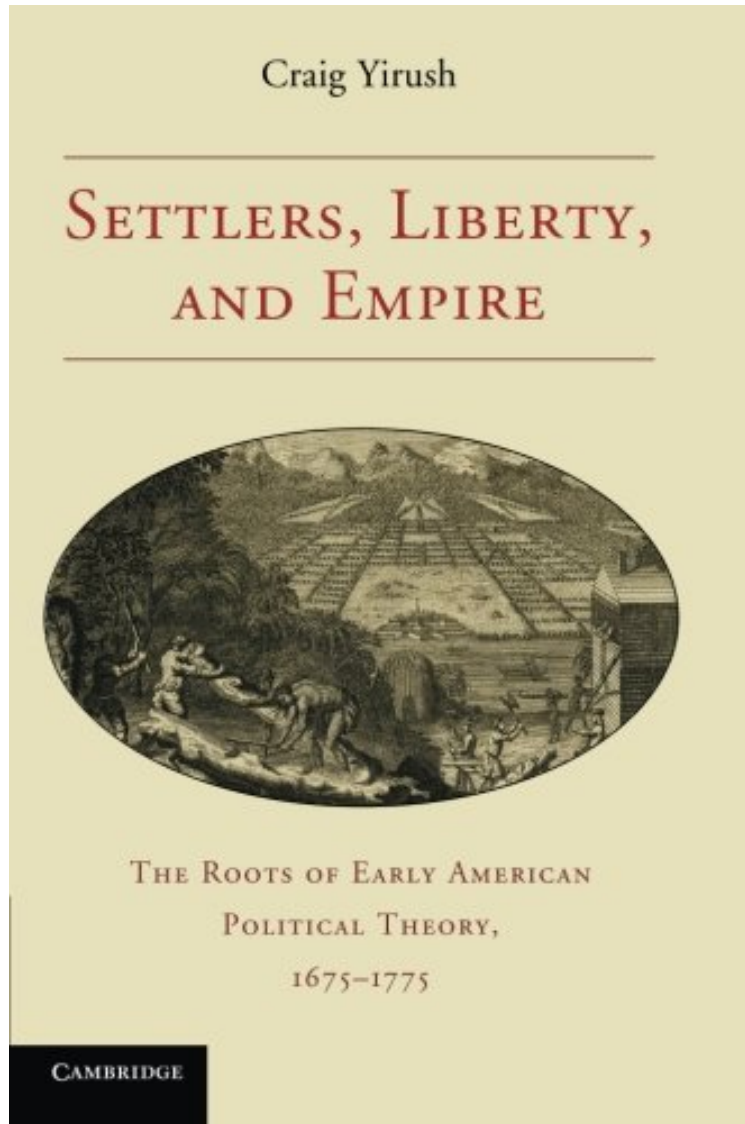


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# Settlers, Liberty, and Empire: The Roots of Early American Political Theory, 1675-1775

Craig Yirush

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**Craig Yirush : Settlers, Liberty, and Empire: The Roots of Early American Political Theory, 1675-1775** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Settlers, Liberty, and Empire: The Roots of Early American Political Theory, 1675-1775:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An intellectual history that traces the views British settlers of ...By BoboAn intellectual history that traces the views British settlers of N. America had of their relationship to the land,

Native Americans and government, in the colonies and in England, vs. the views many in England had. Briefly, the settlers felt that through their intrepid expansion into wilderness, out of which they built their communities, they were entitled to a large degree of self-government and territorial expansion, along with rights of free Englishmen. Many opposed to this view in Britain felt the settler colonies were an extension of the British domain, owing more obedience to Parliament, increasing imperial authority and frustrating settler plans to expand into Native lands. The book traces arguments on both sides as the colonies go through periods of greater and lesser imperial control leading up to the Revolution. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An intellectual history, but short enough to be palatable ... By John Rodriguez An intellectual history, but short enough to be palatable to generalists. Yirush made a solid case that North American colonials were already rationalizing their property, personal, and political prerogatives within a natural rights framework long before the Revolution. These rationalizations were often articulated without any reference to John Locke, as might be supposed by some academics. That said, Yirush's work could be a bit more engaging if he had more vividly centered the personalities who first made the various written rationales for simultaneous colonial integration and exceptionalism within the British empire. A timeline (perhaps displayed via a colonial map) and a portrait or sketch of two would have also made the work a bit more memorable, while providing visual references for the reader. A logical work to precede any Revolutionary era class. 0 of 8 people found the following review helpful. review By Andrea PSI was requires for a review but I haven't read it yet, before a review you'd need read at least a chapter

Settlers, Liberty, and Empire traces the emergence of a revolutionary conception of political authority on the far shores of the eighteenth-century Atlantic world. Based on the equal natural right of English subjects to leave the realm, claim indigenous territory, and establish new governments by consent, this radical set of ideas culminated in revolution and republicanism. But unlike most scholarship on early American political theory, Craig Yirush does not focus solely on the revolutionary era of the late eighteenth century. Instead, he examines how the political ideas of settler elites in British North America emerged in the often-forgotten years between the Glorious Revolution in America and the American Revolution against Britain. By taking seriously an imperial world characterized by constitutional uncertainty, geo-political rivalry, and the ongoing presence of powerful Native American peoples, Yirush provides a long-term explanation for the distinctive ideas of the American Revolution.

"Craig Yirush's important and timely book on the political ideas of eighteenth-century white settlers in North America reorients and reinvigorates the study of colonial British American political thought in exciting new directions, adding an imperial and Atlantic perspective to debates over republicanism and liberalism. The resulting analysis adds depth and sophistication to our understanding of British settlers' intellectual world before the American Revolution." - Trevor Burnard, University of Warwick "Settlers, Liberty, and Empire persuasively argues that the political ideas associated with the American Revolution already had a long genealogy by 1776. Craig Yirush demonstrates that the American commitment to life, liberty, and the pursuit of property did not spring forth suddenly out of an imperial crisis. Instead, he shows that these ideas, which took shape in the complex and confusing world of Britain's Atlantic empire, with its overlapping jurisdictions and contested claims to power, were nurtured by generations of settlers living with the ambiguities of Britain's imperial constitution. This is a wide-ranging and powerfully illuminating work of scholarship." - Eric Hinderaker, University of Utah "Craig Yirush's bold analysis finally provides a persuasive explanation for the distinctive amalgam of common law and natural law arguments that colonists deployed over the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Settlers, Liberty, and Empire establishes a new foundation for understanding American political thought, and historians, political scientists, legal theorists, and political philosophers will need to rethink their work in light of Yirush's argument." - Elizabeth Mancke, University of Akron "In this sophisticated intellectual history, Craig Yirush explores the great constitutional and legal debates that shaped a trans-Atlantic British empire. Yirush reveals the emergence of a colonial elite eager to remain in the empire but on their own terms, which meant having a free hand to make private property by dispossessing Indians. Deeply researched and carefully argued, Settlers, Liberty, and Empire probes the origins of American political thought." - Alan Taylor, University of California, Davis "In Settlers, Liberty, and Empire, Craig Yirush offers a bracing picture of pre-Revolutionary British North Americans as laborers, rights-bearers, and pamphlet-writers . . . Yirush's book is a valuable contribution to Atlantic history, the legal history of settlement, and early American constitutional history. -Alison LaCroix, Commonplace "The discovery at the heart of Settlers, Liberty, and Empire--and the achievement that centers the book securely between past and present--is its redating of the prerevolutionary tipping point backward in time from 1760-76 to the early and mid-eighteenth century (the 1720s to the 1750s). During the quarter century leading up to . . . the prerevolutionary era, Yirush demonstrates, a deposit of political ideas generated by Restoration politics and by the Revolution of 1688 acquired critical mass." -Robert M. Calhoon, H-Albion About the Author Craig Yirush is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of California at Los Angeles. He is the author of several articles and book chapters focusing on early American political and legal ideas. Professor Yirush previously served as a Library Associates Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library and a Fellow at Harvard University's Charles Warren

