

Pamphlets of the American Revolution, 1750-1765 (John Harvard Library)

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This is the first volume of a four-volume set that will reprint in their entirety the texts of 72 pamphlets relating to the Anglo-American controversy that were published in America in the years 1750-1776. They have been selected from the corpus of the pamphlet literature on the basis of their importance in the growth of American political and social ideas, their role in the debate with England over constitutional rights, and their literary merit. All of the best known pamphlets of the period, such as James Otis' *Rights of the British Colonies* (1764), John Dickinson's *Farmer's Letters* (1768), and Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* (1776) are to be included. In addition there are lesser known ones particularly important in the development of American constitutional thought: Stephen Johnson's *Some Important Observations* (1766), John Joachim Zubly's *An Humble Enquiry* (1769), Ebenezer Baldwin's *An Appendix Stating the Heavy Grievances* (1774), and *Four Letters on Interesting Subjects* (1776). There are also pamphlets illustrative of the sheer vituperation of the Revolutionary polemics, and others selected for their more elevated literary merit. Both sides of the Anglo-American dispute and all genres of expression--poetry, dramatic dialogues, sermons, treatises, documentary collections, political "position papers"--that appeared in this form are included.

Each pamphlet is introduced by an essay written by the editor containing a biographical sketch of the author of the document, an analysis of the circumstances that led to the writing of it, and an interpretation of its contents. The texts are edited for the convenience of the modern reader according to a scheme that preserves scrupulously the integrity of every word written but that frees the text from the encumbrances of 18th-century printing practices. All references to writings, people, and events that are not obvious to the informed modern reader are identified in the editorial apparatus and where necessary explained in detailed notes.

This first volume of the set contains the texts of 14 pamphlets through the year 1765. It presents, in addition, a book-length General Introduction by Mr. Bailyn on the ideology of the American Revolution. In the seven chapters of this essay the ideological origins and development of the Revolutionary movement are analyzed in the light of the study of the pamphlet literature that went into the preparation of these volumes. Mr. Bailyn explains that close analysis of this

literature allows one to penetrate deeply into the colonists' understanding of the events of their time; to grasp more clearly than is otherwise possible the sources of their ideas and their motives in rebelling; and, above all, to see the subtle, fundamental transformation of 18th-century constitutional thought that took place during these years of controversy and that became basic doctrine in America thereafter.

Mr. Bailyn stresses particularly the importance in the development of American thought of the writings of a group of early 18th-century English radicals and opposition politicians who transmitted to the colonists most directly the 17th-century tradition of anti-authoritarianism born in the upheaval of the English Civil War. In the context of this 17th- and early 18th-century tradition one sees the political importance in the Revolutionary movement of concepts the 20th century has generally dismissed as mere propaganda and rhetoric: "slavery," "conspiracy," "corruption." It was the meaning these concepts imparted to the events of the time, Mr. Bailyn suggests, as well as the famous Lockean notions of natural rights and social and governmental compacts, that accounts for the origins and the basic characteristics of the American Revolution.

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Editorial Review

Review
With this reading of the American Revolutionary experience, the editor has substantially and profoundly altered the nature and direction of the inquiry on the American Revolution. In the process he has also erected a new framework for interpreting the entire first half-century of American national history. His edition of the pamphlets is a significant addition to the literature on the American Revolution; his general introduction is a landmark in American historiography. (*American Quarterly*)

Each pamphlet is introduced by a long editorial note that sketches the life of the author (or putative author), establishes the context of the documents, interprets it, and evaluates its influence. The texts, while modernized, are scrupulously handled and annotated...The principal elements of Bailyn's interpretation...are analyzed with remarkable subtlety and penetration...the most enlightened interpretation of Revolutionary ideology to appear in many years. (*American Historical Review*)

The two-hundred page introductory essay of the editor, drawing upon a vast body of literature, is an interpretive summation of the political ideas of the entire period, and it is a distinguished achievement. Mr. Bailyn writes with the authority and integrity that derive from a thorough mastery of the material. His meticulous scholarship is matched with perceptive analysis, and the result is an illuminating survey of Revolutionary thought. (*New York Review of Books*)

About the Author
Bernard Bailyn is Adams University Professor, Emeritus, and James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History, Emeritus, at Harvard University.

Users Review

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Amy Rodriguez:

This Pamphlets of the American Revolution, 1750-1765 (John Harvard Library) book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This specific Pamphlets of the American Revolution, 1750-1765 (John Harvard Library) without we comprehend teach the one who reading it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't be worry Pamphlets of the American Revolution, 1750-1765 (John Harvard Library) can bring if you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even telephone. This Pamphlets of the American Revolution, 1750-1765 (John Harvard Library) having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

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