

american revolutions alan taylor

american revolutions alan taylor represents a critical perspective on the transformative conflicts that shaped the future United States, as explored by the renowned historian Alan Taylor. His work delves deeply into the complex causes, diverse participants, and wide-ranging consequences of the American Revolutionary era. By focusing not only on the well-known battles and political upheavals but also on the social, cultural, and economic dimensions, Taylor offers a comprehensive understanding of this pivotal period. This article examines his interpretations, scholarly contributions, and the broader context of the American revolutions as articulated in his writings. Through an exploration of his thematic emphases and historiographical impact, readers can gain valuable insights into the multifaceted nature of American independence and its aftermath. The discussion will also highlight the revolutionary dynamics beyond the conventional narratives, emphasizing the diverse experiences of various groups involved. This overview sets the stage for a detailed analysis structured in the following sections.

- Alan Taylor's Historical Approach to the American Revolutions
- Key Themes in Alan Taylor's Interpretation
- The Diverse Participants in the American Revolutions
- Impact of the American Revolutions on Indigenous Peoples and Slaves
- Alan Taylor's Contribution to Revolutionary Historiography
- Legacy and Modern Relevance of Taylor's Work

Alan Taylor's Historical Approach to the American Revolutions

Alan Taylor employs a nuanced and inclusive historical methodology to examine the American revolutions, challenging traditional narratives centered solely on elite colonial leaders and military campaigns. His approach integrates social, cultural, and economic factors, situating the revolutions within a broader Atlantic context. Taylor emphasizes the multiplicity of revolutions rather than a singular event, considering the varied regional and demographic experiences that shaped the revolutionary era. This perspective allows for a more complex understanding of the conflicts and transformations that occurred between 1763 and 1815.

Contextualizing the Revolutionary Period

Taylor situates the American revolutions within the larger imperial struggles among European powers, particularly the British, French, and Spanish empires. He highlights how global conflicts influenced colonial policies and local responses, which contributed to revolutionary tensions. By examining the

interplay between local grievances and international dynamics, Taylor provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the revolutionary period's complexity.

Interdisciplinary Sources and Perspectives

Utilizing diverse sources such as legal documents, personal letters, and material culture, Taylor reconstructs the experiences of a broad spectrum of individuals. His interdisciplinary approach incorporates perspectives from social history, anthropology, and economic history to enrich the narrative. This methodology enhances the depth of analysis regarding the causes and consequences of the American revolutions.

Key Themes in Alan Taylor's Interpretation

Alan Taylor's scholarship identifies several key themes that define the American revolutions, moving beyond political independence to emphasize social upheaval, contested identities, and shifting power structures.

Revolution as a Social and Cultural Transformation

Taylor portrays the American revolutions as a series of social revolutions that disrupted established hierarchies and cultural norms. He explores how different groups sought to renegotiate their roles within society, including women, enslaved people, and indigenous populations. This theme underscores the revolutions' profound impact on American society beyond political institutions.

Conflict and Violence in Multiple Arenas

Violence is a recurring element in Taylor's analysis, not only in battlefield confrontations but also in civil conflicts, loyalist reprisals, and frontier skirmishes. He argues that the revolutionary era was marked by widespread instability and competing visions for America's future, contributing to an environment of uncertainty and transformation.

Economic Motivations and Consequences

Taylor emphasizes the role of economic interests, such as control over land, trade, and labor systems, in fueling revolutionary tensions. He also examines how the wars disrupted traditional economies and created opportunities for new elites to emerge, reshaping the economic landscape of the emerging nation.

The Diverse Participants in the American Revolutions

One of the hallmarks of Alan Taylor's work is his focus on the broad array of participants involved in the American revolutions, highlighting the complexity of allegiances and motivations across the colonies.

Patriots, Loyalists, and Neutral Parties

Taylor explores the divisions between patriots advocating independence, loyalists maintaining allegiance to the British Crown, and those attempting to remain neutral. He details the social, economic, and regional factors influencing individuals' choices, illustrating that revolutionary loyalty was far from monolithic.

Women's Roles and Contributions

Women's participation in the revolutions, often overlooked in traditional histories, receives considerable attention in Taylor's narrative. He documents their involvement in boycotts, espionage, and maintaining households amid wartime disruptions, underscoring their critical roles in sustaining revolutionary efforts.

Enslaved Africans and African Americans

Taylor highlights the complex experiences of enslaved Africans and free African Americans during the revolutionary period. Many sought freedom by supporting British forces, while others aligned with patriot causes, reflecting divergent strategies for emancipation and survival within a tumultuous context.

Impact of the American Revolutions on Indigenous Peoples and Slaves

Alan Taylor's analysis extends to the profound effects of the American revolutions on indigenous populations and enslaved individuals, groups often marginalized in mainstream historical accounts.

Displacement and Conflict Among Indigenous Nations

Taylor examines how the revolutionary wars intensified struggles over land and sovereignty for indigenous nations. Many Native American groups allied with the British, hoping to curtail colonial expansion, but ultimately faced displacement and loss of territory as a result of the postwar settlements.

Revolutionary Promises and the Reality of Slavery

Despite revolutionary rhetoric about liberty and equality, Taylor documents the persistence and even expansion of slavery in some regions. He analyzes how enslaved people navigated the contradictions of the era, leveraging revolutionary upheaval to seek freedom through various means.

Social and Political Transformations

The disruptions wrought by the revolutions led to changes in indigenous governance and social structures, as well as shifts in the institution of slavery. Taylor's work reveals how these transformations were integral to the broader processes of nation-building and identity formation in early America.

Alan Taylor's Contribution to Revolutionary Historiography

Alan Taylor has significantly influenced the study of the American revolutions through his expansive and critical historiographical contributions, challenging established narratives and opening new avenues of inquiry.

Redefining the Scope of Revolutionary History

Taylor's scholarship broadens the scope of revolutionary history beyond political elites and military events to include diverse social groups and geographic regions. His Atlantic world perspective situates the American experience within global imperial contestations, enriching understanding of the period.

Innovative Use of Sources and Narratives

By incorporating a wide range of primary sources and adopting interdisciplinary methods, Taylor reconstructs a multifaceted narrative that captures the complexities of the revolutionary era. His work serves as a model for integrating social, economic, and cultural histories into political narratives.

Recognition and Awards

- Winner of multiple Pulitzer Prizes for History
- Recipient of the Bancroft Prize
- Influential author of several best-selling historical monographs

Legacy and Modern Relevance of Taylor's Work

The ongoing relevance of Alan Taylor's interpretations of the American revolutions lies in their capacity to inform contemporary discussions about American identity, social justice, and historical memory.

Informing Contemporary Debates

Taylor's emphasis on inclusivity and complexity provides a framework for addressing enduring questions about race, citizenship, and power in the United States. His scholarship encourages a critical examination of national myths and recognition of marginalized voices.

Educational Impact

His works are widely used in academic settings, shaping curricula on American history and inspiring new generations of historians to adopt broader analytical lenses. Taylor's accessible yet rigorous style makes his scholarship influential both inside and outside academia.

Future Directions in Revolutionary Studies

The paradigms established by Taylor continue to guide future research, encouraging historians to explore underrepresented perspectives and transnational contexts. His contributions lay the groundwork for a more holistic understanding of the revolutionary era's enduring significance.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Alan Taylor in the context of American history?

Alan Taylor is a prominent American historian known for his works on early American history, including the colonial period and the American Revolution.

What is Alan Taylor's perspective on the American Revolution?

Alan Taylor views the American Revolution as a complex and multifaceted conflict involving various groups and interests, not just a straightforward fight for independence.

Which book by Alan Taylor focuses on the American Revolution?

Alan Taylor's book 'The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832' explores themes related to the American Revolution and its impact on slavery and society.

How does Alan Taylor describe the role of Native Americans in the American Revolution?

Alan Taylor emphasizes that Native Americans played a crucial and often overlooked role during the American Revolution, with many tribes navigating alliances between British and American forces.

What distinguishes Alan Taylor's approach to the American Revolution from traditional narratives?

Taylor's approach is distinguished by his focus on the diverse experiences of marginalized groups, including Native Americans, African Americans, and women, during the revolution.

Has Alan Taylor received any awards for his work on American history?

Yes, Alan Taylor has received several awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2014 for his book 'The Internal Enemy.'

What themes does Alan Taylor explore in relation to the American Revolution?

Taylor explores themes such as slavery, indigenous resistance, social upheaval, and the broader Atlantic world context of the American Revolution.

How does Alan Taylor's work contribute to our understanding of the American Revolution's impact on slavery?

Taylor reveals how the revolution intensified debates about slavery, led to both increased repression and opportunities for enslaved people, and shaped the future of African Americans.

Can Alan Taylor's interpretations be found in academic courses on the American Revolution?

Yes, Alan Taylor's scholarship is widely used in university courses to provide a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of the American Revolution.

Where can one find more information about Alan Taylor's research on the American Revolution?

More information can be found in Alan Taylor's published books, academic articles, and lectures available through university libraries and online educational platforms.

Additional Resources

1. *The American Revolution: A Concise History* by Alan Taylor

This book offers a succinct yet comprehensive overview of the American Revolution, emphasizing the complexities and multiple perspectives involved. Alan Taylor explores the social, political, and military aspects of the war, highlighting the experiences of ordinary people as well as key leaders. The book provides a balanced narrative that challenges traditional heroic myths.

2. *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804* by Alan Taylor

In this expansive work, Taylor reinterprets the American Revolution as a series of interconnected

revolutions across the continent, affecting Native Americans, African Americans, and European settlers alike. He broadens the scope beyond the thirteen colonies to include the wider Atlantic world, offering fresh insights into the causes and consequences of the conflict.

3. *Liberty Men and Great Proprietors: The Revolutionary Settlement on the Maine Frontier, 1760-1820* by Alan Taylor

This book delves into the post-revolutionary period in Maine, exploring how land ownership and settlement patterns shaped the new American society. Taylor examines the tensions between landowners and settlers and the impact of revolutionary ideals on frontier communities. It provides a localized yet revealing case study of revolutionary change.

4. *The Divided Ground: Indians, Settlers, and the Northern Borderland of the American Revolution* by Alan Taylor

Taylor focuses on the northern borderland region during the Revolution, where Native American tribes, British settlers, and American revolutionaries clashed. The book highlights the complex alliances and conflicts that characterized the war in this contested space, illustrating the broader struggles over land and sovereignty.

5. *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic* by Alan Taylor

This biography of William Cooper, founder of Cooperstown, New York, explores the political and social dynamics of the early American republic. Taylor shows how Cooper's life reflected broader revolutionary themes such as power, persuasion, and community-building on the frontier. The work sheds light on the challenges of creating a new nation.

6. *Colonial America: A Very Short Introduction* by Alan Taylor

Though broader than just the Revolution, this brief introduction covers the colonial period leading up to the American Revolution. Taylor provides key context about colonial society, economy, and politics, setting the stage for understanding the revolutionary upheaval. It is an accessible starting point for readers new to the subject.

7. *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* by Alan Taylor

This comprehensive history traces the settlement of North America by Europeans, highlighting the diverse peoples and cultures involved. Taylor's narrative includes the background to the American Revolution, showing how colonial developments created the conditions for rebellion. The book offers a wide lens on the origins of America.

8. *How America Began: The Revolutionary Experience* by Alan Taylor

Taylor examines the transformative period of the Revolution, focusing on how it reshaped American identity and institutions. The book discusses the ideological and practical changes that emerged from the conflict, including shifts in governance, social order, and rights. It emphasizes the Revolution as a foundational moment in American history.

9. *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, & Indian Allies* by Alan Taylor

While centered on the War of 1812, this book connects the aftermath of the American Revolution to ongoing conflicts over identity and allegiance. Taylor explores how revolutionary legacies influenced the loyalties and divisions during this later war. It provides important context for understanding the long-term impact of the Revolution on North America.

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american revolutions alan taylor: American Revolutions Alan Taylor, 2016-09-06 Alan Taylor is featured in THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, a film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt on PBS Excellent...deserves high praise. Mr. Taylor conveys this sprawling continental history with economy, clarity, and vividness. —Brendan Simms, Wall Street Journal The American Revolution is often portrayed as a high-minded, orderly event whose capstone, the Constitution, provided the nation its democratic framework. Alan Taylor, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, gives us a different creation story in this magisterial history. The American Revolution builds like a ground fire overspreading Britain's colonies, fueled by local conditions and resistant to control. Emerging from the continental rivalries of European empires and their native allies, the revolution pivoted on western expansion as well as seaboard resistance to British taxes. When war erupted, Patriot crowds harassed Loyalists and nonpartisans into compliance with their cause. The war exploded in set battles like Saratoga and Yorktown and spread through continuing frontier violence. The discord smoldering within the fragile new nation called forth a movement to concentrate power through a Federal Constitution. Assuming the mantle of "We the People," the advocates of national power ratified the new frame of government. But it was Jefferson's expansive "empire of liberty" that carried the revolution forward, propelling white settlement and slavery west, preparing the ground for a new conflagration.

american revolutions alan taylor: American Republics: A Continental History of the United States, 1783-1850 Alan Taylor, 2021-05-18 Winner of the 2022 New-York Historical Society Book Prize in American History A Washington Post and BookPage Best Nonfiction Book of the Year From a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, the powerful story of a fragile nation as it expands across a contested continent. In this beautifully written history of America's formative period, a preeminent historian upends the traditional story of a young nation confidently marching to its continent-spanning destiny. The newly constituted United States actually emerged as a fragile, internally divided union of states contending still with European empires and other independent republics on the North American continent. Native peoples sought to defend their homelands from the flood of American settlers through strategic alliances with the other continental powers. The system of American slavery grew increasingly powerful and expansive, its vigorous internal trade in Black Americans separating parents and children, husbands and wives. Bitter party divisions pitted elites favoring strong government against those, like Andrew Jackson, espousing a democratic populism for white men. Violence was both routine and organized: the United States invaded Canada, Florida, Texas, and much of Mexico, and forcibly removed most of the Native peoples living east of the Mississippi. At the end of the period the United States, its conquered territory reaching the Pacific, remained internally divided, with sectional animosities over slavery growing more intense. Taylor's elegant history of this tumultuous period offers indelible miniatures of key characters from Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Margaret Fuller. It captures the high-stakes political drama as Jackson and Adams, Clay, Calhoun, and Webster contend over slavery, the economy, Indian removal, and national expansion. A ground-level account of American industrialization conveys the everyday lives of factory workers and immigrant families. And the immersive narrative puts us on the streets of Port-au-Prince, Mexico City, Quebec, and the Cherokee capital, New Echota. Absorbing and chilling, *American Republics* illuminates the continuities between our own social and political divisions and the events of this formative period.

american revolutions alan taylor: American Civil Wars Alan Taylor, 2024-05-21 A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2024 A masterful history of the Civil War and its reverberations across the continent by a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner. In a fast-paced narrative of soaring ideals and sordid politics, of civil war and foreign invasion, the award-winning historian Alan Taylor presents a pivotal twenty-year period in which North America's three largest countries—the United States, Mexico, and Canada—all transformed themselves into nations. The American Civil War stands at the center of the story, its military history and the drama of emancipation the highlights. Taylor relies on vivid characters to carry the story, from Joseph Hooker, whose timidity in crisis was exploited by Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson in the Union defeat at Chancellorsville, to Martin Delany and Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Black abolitionists whose critical work in Canada and the United States advanced emancipation and the enrollment of Black soldiers in Union armies. The outbreak of the Civil War created a continental power vacuum that allowed French forces to invade Mexico in 1862 and set up an empire ruled by a Habsburg archduke. This inflamed the ongoing power struggle between Mexico's Conservatives—landowners, the military, the Church—and Liberal supporters of social democracy, led ably by Benito Juarez. Along the southwestern border Mexico's Conservative forces made common cause with the Confederacy, while General James Carleton violently suppressed Apaches and Navajos in New Mexico and Arizona. When the Union triumph restored the continental balance of power, French forces withdrew, and Liberals consolidated a republic in Mexico. Canada was meantime fending off a potential rupture between French-speaking Catholics in Quebec and English-speakers in Ontario. When Union victory raised the threat of American invasion, Canadian leaders pressed for a continent-wide confederation joined by a transcontinental railroad. The rollicking story of liberal ideals, political venality, and corporate corruption marked the dawn of the Gilded Age in North America.

american revolutions alan taylor: American Revolutions in the Digital Age Nora Slonimsky, Mark Boonshoft, Ben Wright, 2024-08-15 The interdisciplinary essays in *American Revolutions in the Digital Age* explore what digital tools can tell us about the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century United States and reveal how an understanding of the American past can make sense of our digital present. By employing a host of innovative digital research methods, these authors challenge long-held assumptions about the American past. In addition, this collection uniquely demonstrates how contemporary anxieties about an array of topics, including media disinformation, patriarchy, economic inequality, and public memory, can be better understood through careful considerations of early American history. Open Access edition funded by Iona University

american revolutions alan taylor: Writing Early American History Alan Taylor, 2005 How is American history written? Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alan Taylor answers this question in this collection of his essays from *The New Republic*, where he explores the writing of early American history.

american revolutions alan taylor: The American Revolution David K. Allison, Larrie D. Ferreiro, 2018-11-06 An illustrated collection of essays that explores the international dimensions of the American Revolution and its legacies in both America and around the world *The American Revolution: A World War* argues that contrary to popular opinion, the American Revolution was not just a simple battle for independence in which the American colonists waged a David versus Goliath fight to overthrow their British rulers. Instead, the essays in the book illustrate how the American Revolution was a much more complicated and interesting conflict. It was an extension of larger skirmishes among the global superpowers in Europe, chiefly Britain, Spain, France, and the Dutch Republic. Amid these ongoing conflicts, Britain's focus was often pulled away from the war in America as it fought to preserve its more lucrative colonial interests in the Caribbean and India. The book, the illustrated companion volume to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History exhibition of the same name, touches on this and other topics including overseas empires, economic rivalries, supremacy of the seas, European diplomacy, and more. Together the book's incisive text, full-color images, and topical sidebars underscore that America's fight for independence is most

clearly comprehended as one of the first global struggles for power.

american revolutions alan taylor: *The Long American Revolution and Its Legacy* Lester D. Langley, 2019-10-01 This book brings together Lester D. Langley's personal and professional link to the long American Revolution in a narrative that spans more than 150 years and places the Revolution in multiple contexts—from the local to the transatlantic and hemispheric and from racial and gendered to political, social, economic, and cultural perspectives. It offers a reminder that we are an old republic but a young nation and shows how an awareness of that dynamic is critical to understanding our current political, cultural, and social malaise. The United States of America is still a work in progress. A descendant on his father's side from a long line of Kentuckians, Langley grew up torn between a father who embodied the idea of the Revolution's poor white male driven by economic self-interest and racial prejudices and a devoted and pious mother who saw life and history as a morality play. The author's intellectual and professional "encounter" with the American Revolution came in the 1960s as a young historian specializing in U.S. foreign relations and Latin American history, an era when the U.S. encounter with the revolution in Cuba and with the civil rights movement at home served as a reminder of the lasting and troublesome legacy of a long American Revolution. In a sweeping account that incorporates both the traditional, iconic literature on the Revolution and more recent works in U.S., Canadian, Latin American, Caribbean, and Atlantic world history, Langley addresses fundamental questions about the Revolution's meaning, continuing relevance, and far-reaching legacy.

american revolutions alan taylor: *The Enslaved and Their Enslavers* Edward Pearson, 2023-09-19 In *The Enslaved and Their Enslavers*, Edward Pearson offers a sweeping history of slavery in South Carolina, from British settlement in 1670 to the dawn of the Civil War. For enslaved peoples, the shape of their daily lives depended primarily on the particular environment in which they lived and worked, and Pearson examines three distinctive settings in the province: the extensive rice and indigo plantations of the coastal plain; the streets, workshops, and wharves of Charleston; and the farms and estates of the upcountry. In doing so, he provides a fine-grained analysis of how enslaved laborers interacted with their enslavers in the workplace and other locations where they encountered one another as plantation agriculture came to dominate the colony. *The Enslaved and Their Enslavers* sets this portrait of early South Carolina against broader political events, economic developments, and social trends that also shaped the development of slavery in the region. For example, the outbreak of the American Revolution and the subsequent war against the British in the 1770s and early 1780s as well as the French and Haitian revolutions all had a profound impact on the institution's development, both in terms of what enslaved people drew from these events and how their enslavers responded to them. Throughout South Carolina's long history, enslaved people never accepted their enslavement passively and regularly demonstrated their fundamental opposition to the institution by engaging in acts of resistance, which ranged from vandalism to arson to escape, and, on rare occasions, organizing collectively against their oppression. Their attempts to subvert the institution in which they were held captive not only resulted in slaveowners tightening formal and informal mechanisms of control but also generated new forms of thinking about race and slavery among whites that eventually mutated into pro-slavery ideology and the myth of southern exceptionalism.

american revolutions alan taylor: *The Punishment Monopoly* Pem Davidson Buck, 2019-11-22 Examines the roots of white supremacy and mass incarceration from the vantage point of history Why, asks Pem Davidson Buck, is punishment so central to the functioning of the United States, a country proclaiming "liberty and justice for all"? *The Punishment Monopoly* challenges our everyday understanding of American history, focusing on the constructions of race, class, and gender upon which the United States was built, and which still support racial capitalism and the carceral state. After all, Buck writes, "a state, to be a state, has to punish ... bottom line, that is what a state and the force it controls is for." Using stories of her European ancestors, who arrived in colonial Virginia in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and following their descendants into the early nineteenth century, Buck shows how struggles over the right to punish, backed by the

growing power of the state governed by a white elite, made possible the dispossession of Africans, Native Americans, and poor whites. Those struggles led to the creation of the low-wage working classes that capitalism requires, locked in by a metastasizing white supremacy that Buck's ancestors, with many others, defined as white, helped establish and manipulate. Examining those foundational struggles illuminates some of the most contentious issues of the twenty-first century: the exploitation and detention of immigrants; mass incarceration as a central institution; Islamophobia; white privilege; judicial and extra-judicial killings of people of color and some poor whites. The Punishment Monopoly makes it clear that none of these injustices was accidental or inevitable; that shifting our state-sanctioned understandings of history is a step toward liberating us from its control of the present.

american revolutions alan taylor: *The Indian World of George Washington* Colin G. Calloway, 2018-03-09 George Washington's place in the foundations of the Republic remains unrivalled. His life story--from his beginnings as a surveyor and farmer, to colonial soldier in the Virginia Regiment, leader of the Patriot cause, commander of the Continental Army, and finally first president of the United States--reflects the narrative of the nation he guided into existence. There is, rightfully, no more chronicled figure. Yet American history has largely forgotten what Washington himself knew clearly: that the new Republic's fate depended less on grand rhetoric of independence and self-governance and more on land--Indian land. Colin G. Calloway's biography of the greatest founding father reveals in full the relationship between Washington and the Native leaders he dealt with intimately across the decades: Shingas, Tanaghrisson, Guyasuta, Attakullakulla, Bloody Fellow, Joseph Brant, Cornplanter, Red Jacket, and Little Turtle, among many others. Using the prism of Washington's life to bring focus to these figures and the tribes they represented--the Iroquois Confederacy, Lenape, Miami, Creek, Delaware--Calloway reveals how central their role truly was in Washington's, and therefore the nation's, foundational narrative. Calloway gives the First Americans their due, revealing the full extent and complexity of the relationships between the man who rose to become the nation's most powerful figure and those whose power and dominion declined in almost equal degree during his lifetime. His book invites us to look at America's origins in a new light. *The Indian World of George Washington* is a brilliant portrait of both the most revered man in American history and those whose story during the tumultuous century in which the country was formed has, until now, been only partially told.

american revolutions alan taylor: Creating a More Perfect Slaveholders' Union Peter Radan, 2023-10-27 In *Texas v. White* (1869), the Supreme Court ruled that the unilateral secession of a state from the Union was unconstitutional because the Constitution created "an indestructible Union, composed of indestructible States." The Court ruled "there was no place for reconsideration, or revocation, except through revolution, or through consent of the States." In his iconoclastic work, Peter Radan demonstrates why the Court's ruling was wrong and why, on the basis of American constitutional law in 1860-1861, the unilateral secessions of the Confederate states were lawful on the grounds that the United States was forged as a "slaveholders' Union. *Creating a More Perfect Slaveholders' Union* addresses two constitutional issues: first, whether the states in 1860 had a right to secede from the Union, and second, what significance slavery had in defining the constitutional Union. These two matters came together when the states seceded on the grounds that the system of government they had agreed to--namely, a system of human enslavement--had been violated by the incoming Republican administration. The legitimacy of this secession was anchored, as Radan demonstrates, in the compact theory of the Constitution, which held that because the Constitution was a compact between the member states of the Union, breaches of its fundamental provisions gave affected states the right to unilaterally secede from the Union. In so doing the Confederate states sought to preserve and protect their peculiar institution by forming a more perfect slaveholders' Union. *Creating a More Perfect Slaveholders' Union* stands as the first and only systematic analysis of the legal arguments mounted for and against secession in 1860-1861 and reshapes how we understand the Civil War and, consequently, the history of the United States more generally.

american revolutions alan taylor: The Brethren Brendan McConville, 2021-09-28 In 1777, North Carolina farmers planned a coup against local patriots. Brendan McConville shows they were motivated not by Crown loyalty but by love of individual and religious liberty—as they understood them. Complicating revolutionary narratives, the plotters feared American independence would usher in the very tyranny it claimed to contest.

american revolutions alan taylor: The Referendum and Other Essays on Constitutional Politics Matt Qvortrup, 2019-05-02 Until recently, referendums were little used. After the Scottish independence and Brexit referendums, they have come to the fore as a mechanism with the potential to disrupt the status quo and radically change political direction. This book looks at the historical development of the referendum, its use in different jurisdictions, and the types of constitutional questions it seeks to address. Written in an engaging style, the book offers a clear, objective overview of this important political and constitutional tool.

american revolutions alan taylor: A Political History of the USA Bruce Kuklick, 2019-09-27 This book is an engaging account of US history from the first European contact with the 'New World' to the election of Donald Trump in 2016. Bruce Kuklick's straightforward yet authoritative narrative takes students through the complexities of US history without oversimplifying or requiring prior knowledge. Placing politics in the context of religious culture and exploring America's assertive expansion throughout history, *A Political History of the USA* is supported by wide-ranging examples, vivid extracts from primary sources, maps and illustrations which illuminate the main text. The historical narrative it presents is concise, nuanced and sharply drawn. Offering a compelling yet balanced account of US political, cultural and religious history, this is essential reading for undergraduate students of History and American Studies. New to this Edition: - More emphasis on the religious dimensions of the American story, explaining the continuing relevance of evangelical Christians - A new chapter on the period since 2008 - Incorporation of new research - Discussion of the paradox of modernism and religion in America - A revised bibliography, including more 'classic' works

american revolutions alan taylor: Revolutionary Things Ashli White, 2023-06-20 How objects associated with the American, French, and Haitian revolutions drew diverse people throughout the Atlantic world into debates over revolutionary ideals “By excavating the power of material objects and visual images to express the fervor and fear of the revolutionary era, Ashli White brings us closer to more fully embodied, more fully human, figures.”—Richard Rabinowitz, author of *Objects of Love and Regret: A Brooklyn Story* “In this important, innovative book, Ashli White moves nimbly between North America, Europe, and the Caribbean to capture the richness and complexity of material culture in the Age of Revolutions.”—Michael Kwass, Johns Hopkins University Historian Ashli White explores the circulation of material culture during the American, French, and Haitian revolutions, arguing that in the late eighteenth century, radical ideals were contested through objects as well as in texts. She considers how revolutionary things, as they moved throughout the Atlantic, brought people into contact with these transformative political movements in visceral, multiple, and provocative ways. Focusing on a range of objects—ceramics and furniture, garments and accessories, prints, maps, and public amusements—White shows how material culture held political meaning for diverse populations. Enslaved and free, women and men, poor and elite—all turned to things as a means to realize their varied and sometimes competing visions of revolutionary change.

american revolutions alan taylor: Republic and Empire Trevor Burnard, Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, 2025-09-16 A fresh look at the American Revolution as a major global event At the time of the American Revolution (1765-83), the British Empire had colonies in India, Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Canada, Ireland, and Gibraltar. The thirteen rebellious American colonies accounted for half of the total number of provinces in the British world in 1776. What of the loyal half? Why did some of Britain's subjects feel so aggrieved that they wanted to establish a new system of government, while others did not rebel? In this authoritative history, Trevor Burnard and Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy show that understanding the long-term causes of the American

Revolution requires a global view. As much as it was an event in the history of the United States, the American Revolution was an imperial event produced by the upheavals of managing a far-flung set of imperial possessions during a turbulent period of reform. By looking beyond the familiar borders of the Revolution and considering colonies that did not rebel--Quebec, Nova Scotia, Bermuda, India, the British Caribbean, Senegal, and Ireland--Burnard and O'Shaughnessy go beyond the republican, liberal, and democratic aspects of the emerging American nation, providing a broader history that transcends what we think we know about the Revolution.

american revolutions alan taylor: Ireland and America Patrick Griffin, Francis D. Cogliano, 2021-07-07 Looking at America through the Irish prism and employing a comparative approach, leading and emerging scholars of early American and Atlantic history interrogate anew the relationship between imperial reform and revolution in Ireland and America, offering fascinating insights into the imperial whole of which both places were a part. Revolution would eventually stem from the ways the Irish and Americans looked to each other to make sense of imperial crisis wrought by reform, only to ultimately create two expanding empires in the nineteenth century in which the Irish would play critical roles. Contributors Rachel Banke, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy * T. H. Breen, University of Vermont * Trevor Burnard, University of Hull * Nicholas Canny, National University of Ireland, Galway * Christa Dierksheide, University of Virginia * Matthew P. Dziennik, United States Naval Academy * S. Max Edelson, University of Virginia * Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University * Eliga Gould, University of New Hampshire * Robert G. Ingram, Ohio University * Peter S. Onuf, University of Virginia * Andrew J. O'Shaughnessy, International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello * Jessica Choppin Roney, Temple University * Gordon S. Wood, Brown University

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