

#flo #inclass

1 | Historiography Of The Revolution Reading Notes

Our reading: *The Marketplace of Revolution*

- argues: the american revolution should be remembered as a small event?
 - the revolution was mismatch between the strongest military power and some normal subjects
 - * ideological passions blinded them to "harsher realities"
- wonder: how did colonists overcome local jealousies and mutual ignorance, fear, clashing identities, such that leaders of the revolution could speak to strangers over a huge territory about a political vision

don't take popular mobilization for granted!

- contemporaries marvel at the level of solidarity
 - freedom-loving people being guided by great leaders, etc.
- truly extraordinary, as people say
 - mobilization was very risky!
- this reading: explains popular mobilization not from the "people's good character" perspective, but from....

1.0.1 | imagined community?

- language of shared experiences
 - radically inclusive structures of resistance
 - creating an imagined national community
 - * unanticipated at the start of the crisis!
- had to learn to trust each other
 - mutual education -> trust

people translated personal sacrifice into revolutionary ideology.

- beginning with ideology leads to discounting social conditions
 - revolutionaries stood to lose the most! how were they energized?
- pragmatic argument about studying hist.. if we raise these revolutionaries to heroes with moral superiority, then it doesn't have much significance to us
 - uh, ok. very cool.
- **we have our own ability to transform political society through collective imagination**

1.0.2 | the marketplace

- it changed!
- **consumer revolution**
 - happened in the middle of the 18th century
 - * imports were polittixized
 - * shared range of good allowed common ground to communicate about common experience
 - THIS what was gave the colonists the shared experience, which provided the *cultural resources* required to start the protests
 - goods became the foundation of trust
- invented the consumer boycott
 - first instance? I doubt that frankly
- boycott movement let people normally not allowed to be involed in politics to voice opinons? to participate
 - generated an entire new form of politics
 - woman and poor had surge of empowerment
- tom highlights: egalitarian potential of this earlier movement
 - even though once they got independence the leaders were like "actully,"
- non-importers allowed american people to reinvent the entire polivitical culture

"revolutionary politics of pursuing happiness"

1.1 | tale of the hospitable consumer: a revolutionary argument

how shared consumer experience faciliated new forms of collective political action ~tom

- imagined national community as response to oppression
- argues: we should avoid the "discovery of common cause" argument,
 - because it's about some divine luck that defys close analysis? that doesnt mean we should avoid it, but ok.
- stopping for now, quarter way through page 8 *
- continuing!

for which we would choose to live, or dare to die.

- everyone had narrow-evolded world views in their own communities?
- "invention of identity" collective act of self-discovery that happened over a decade of troubles with great britain
- the sugar act: seemed so bad that it defies explanation

- ie. how tf?
- colonies beleived that britain was wallowing in welth and luxury
 - which they were
- wait, no.. BRITAIN believed that the colonies were wallowing in luxury
- end of page ten.
- britain had 'gross' misrepresentations of american culture
- benjamin franklin was angry.
- baldwin argues:
 - economic leveling in colonies stimulated status competition
 - * this competition was primarily done through consumer goods, bought from britain.
 - * this was how they sorted in an open society?
 - * people must "make a show" more than they do in england, says baldwin
- the narrative goes:
 - england send the best of the best soldiers and welthy sons over,
 - colonies displayed riches to try and impress that were our of the leuge of reality
 - soldiers went back and informed well-connect friends in england about the "affluent consmers" in the colonies.
- this was why the parliment taxed the collonies in the first place! that's the point.
 - this was what made the sugar tax and etc seem resanable to the in-debt england.
- imbued goods with symbolic meaning
- subscription rolls
 - allowed for recoriding of the popular will
 - people ineligable to vote in the actual system were allowed in the rolls
 - the number of people on these rolls allowed them to say "we speak for the people"

the spirit of nationalism was as much a cause as a result of revolution

1.2 | strength out of Dependence: strategies of consumer resistance in an

empire of goods :CUSTOMID: strength-out-of-dependence-strategies-of-consumer-resistance-in-an-empire-of-goods

- imported goods provide powerful political leverage
- franklin argued that all the imported good were not nessasay
 - didnt need em or could make themselves
- colonies willing to forgo the 'luxery' of fashion was a bold concept
 - used to be the pride to indulge in the fashions manguactered by great britain

- changed to wear old cloathes over and over until they can make new ones themselves
- they repealed the stamp act! franklin had a large part in it, and was regonized as such.
- not easy to give up all these nicitites!
- rhetoric of "save your money and you will save your country"