

#flo #inclass

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# 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 clothes over and over until they can make new ones themselves
  - they repealed the stamp act! franklin had a large part in it, and was recognized as such.
  - not easy to give up all these niceties!
  - rhetoric of "save your money and you will save your country"
  - stamp act shattered the shared british identity
  - end, pg 34 \*
  - colonial fantasy that america had friends in england was started
  - linked the concept of american manufacturing to colonial independence
    - but they didn't anticipate the creation of an entire new republic!
  - even after repealing stamp act the seeds of revolution and ideas of freedom had already been placed
  - were convinced: english needed the colonies more than they needed the english
    - due to the colonies consumption of goods
      - \* thus, britain can't just use their warships and overpower them. diff kind of power
  - the whole 'freedom means no debt' idea started
  - communicated and synced up across vast distance with newspapers?
    - uh, pamphlets? not newspapers?
  - social environment of: imported goods symbolize the burden of colonial dependence
  - people had role of woman to maintain state of luxury rejection?
- "forging new links with distant strangers who understood, now more than ever, how thinking about goods :"
- %%## making lists – taking names: the politicization of everyday life%%