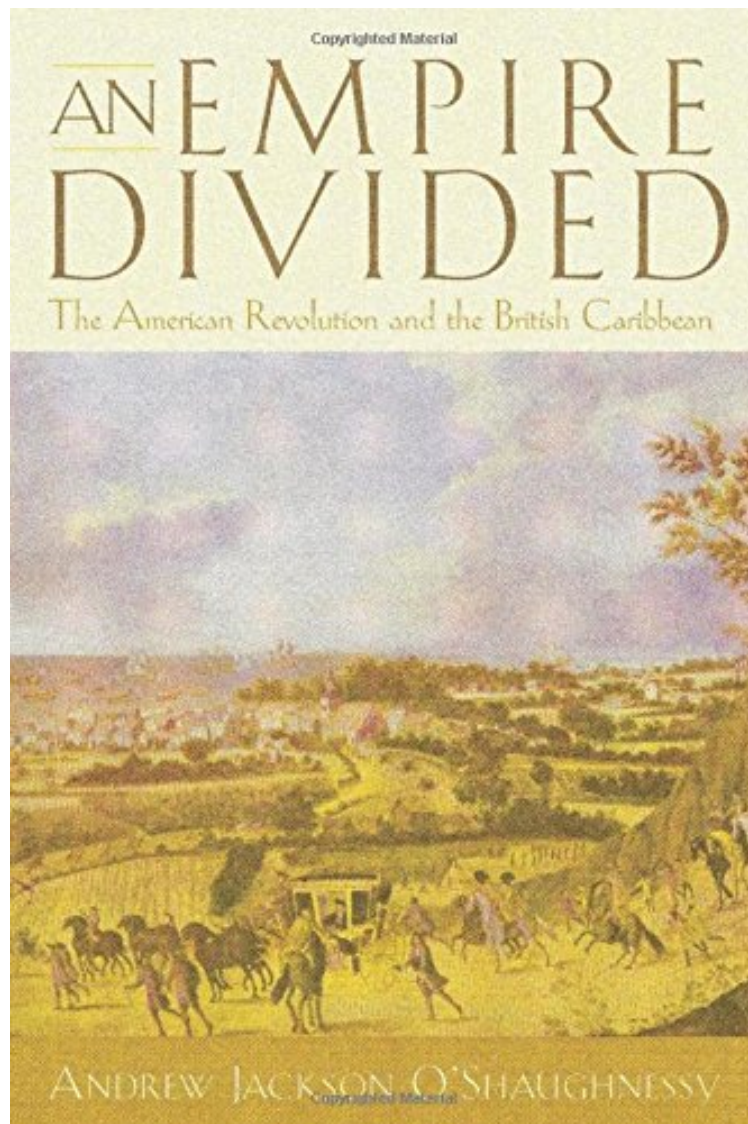


[Ebook free] An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean (Early American Studies)

An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean (Early American Studies)

Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy
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Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy : An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean (Early American Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean (Early American Studies):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. New Perspective on a Tragic Revolution By Michael in SCDr

O'Shaughnessy's book is excellently written, readable and well researched with the supporting data to make his case that the mainland and island plantation societies shared a common ethos and culture. He also explains why the mainland plantation societies tragically decided to throw in their lot with New England, a decision that ultimately doomed the South and the Caribbean and led to the rise of New England and the Mid-Atlantic. And he explains why the West Indian colonists could not join their mainland cousins in the revolution. This book and others like it have greatly altered my thinking on the American Revolution as a Southerner and a student of history. I recommend it to those with an open mind who can see past the USA civic-nationalist narrative of history. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Why Did only 13 Colonies Revolt? By Frederick J. Graboske Specialists in the history of the Revolution, its causes, and its immediate consequences have not concerned themselves with examining why the British Caribbean colonies did not join their northern brethren. There were close family and trade ties between the 2 groups of colonies and all of them had grievances against London. This book explains how the Caribbean colonies and Britain were able to resolve their differences short of revolution. It also explores the role played by the need to defend these colonies against the depredations of the French in the British imperial planning for the Revolutionary War. Very interesting and highly recommended. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Peter M. Thanks

There were 26 not 13 British colonies in America in 1776. Of these, the six colonies in the Caribbean—Jamaica, Barbados, the Leeward Islands, Grenada and Tobago, St. Vincent; and Dominica—were among the wealthiest. These island colonies were closely related to the mainland by social ties and tightly connected by trade. In a period when most British colonists in North America lived less than 200 miles inland and the major cities were all situated along the coast, the ocean often acted as a highway between islands and mainland rather than a barrier. The plantation system of the islands was so similar to that of the southern mainland colonies that these regions had more in common with each other, some historians argue, than either had with New England. Political developments in all the colonies moved along parallel tracks, with elected assemblies in the Caribbean, like their mainland counterparts, seeking to increase their authority at the expense of colonial executives. Yet when revolution came, the majority of the white island colonists did not side with their compatriots on the mainland. A major contribution to the history of the American Revolution, *An Empire Divided* traces a split in the politics of the mainland and island colonies after the Stamp Act Crisis of 1765-66, when the colonists on the islands chose not to emulate the resistance of the patriots on the mainland. Once war came, it was increasingly unpopular in the British Caribbean; nonetheless, the white colonists cooperated with the British in defense of their islands. O'Shaughnessy decisively refutes the widespread belief that there was broad backing among the Caribbean colonists for the American Revolution and deftly reconstructs the history of how the island colonies followed an increasingly divergent course from the former colonies to the north.

From Publishers Weekly O'Shaughnessy, associate professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, tells the story of the American Revolution, not from the perspective of the 13 colonies that rebelled but from that of the 13 that did not. The rich Caribbean sugar islands comprising the British West Indies. The islands were notably different from their northern neighbors, in part because they were wealthier and more valuable to the Crown. And, say, Delaware, and Britain was not willing to antagonize them in the 1760s and 1770s, even as it levied heavy taxes on the North American colonies. Additionally, O'Shaughnessy argues, sugar planters' greater dependence on slavery (the islands' black slaves outnumbered the white population) reinforced ties between the island colonies and England. Even though Britain rewarded the sugar colonies for the loyalty with restrictions on trade with America, they never opted for the kind of unified revolt that the 13 "original" American colonies did. However, according to the author, the American Revolution did have an impact on the political, social and economic character of the islands. It helped to weaken the establishment of slavery there and changed the islands' relation with the mother country. And, after the war, continental black loyalists, who supported the Tories in the revolution, settled in the sugar islands and spread not a political movement but a religious one—a syncretic, rich Afro-Christianity. With his agile political perspective, O'Shaughnessy has crafted a study that promises to reshape the way Americans think of the Revolution. (July) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "O'Shaughnessy's excellent, clearly written book is an important contribution to Caribbean and U.S. history. He successfully explains why the Caribbean colonists, far from supporting the American Revolution, preferred to keep the British empire intact. . . . Highly recommended." Choice "O'Shaughnessy's fine book is to be recommended to all who are interested in the American Revolution and in the political contours of the British Atlantic empire." American Studies "Promises to reshape the way Americans think of the Revolution." Publishers Weekly "O'Shaughnessy demonstrates in compelling detail and strong narrative why understanding the West Indies during the American Revolution is important to understanding the Revolution itself." Edward Countryman, Southern Methodist University "Succeeds admirably in restoring the British West Indies to its central place within the war that divided an empire." Georgia Historical Quarterly "A well-organized, thought-provoking, masterly narrative history." Military "The best word on a subject basic to American and Caribbean history." Kirkus "This book will enrich debates not only about white society in the West Indies or about the scope of the American Revolution but also about the nature of the British Atlantic world of the eighteenth century." Peter J.

Marshall, King's College, London"Immensely significant."John J. McCusker, Trinity UniversityAbout the AuthorAndrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy is the Saunders Director of the Robert H.Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello and Professor of History at the University of Virginia.