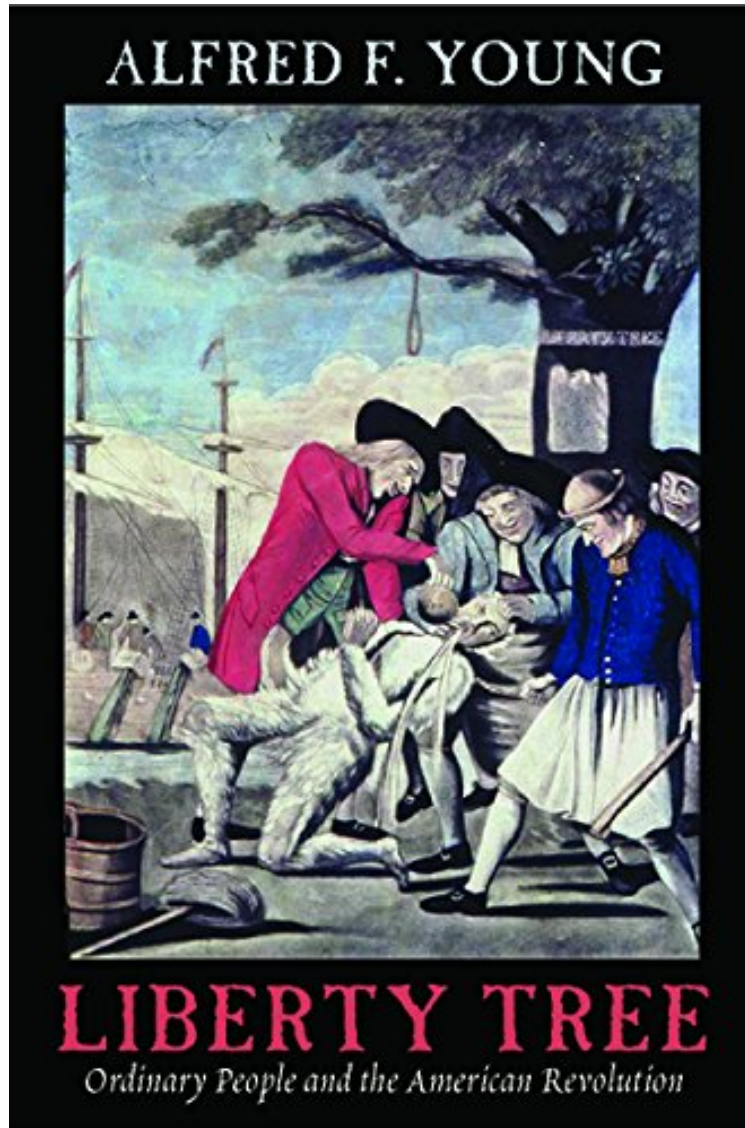


(Read free) Liberty Tree: Ordinary People and the American Revolution

# Liberty Tree: Ordinary People and the American Revolution

*Alfred F. Young*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1433549 in Books NYU Press 2006-11-06 2006-11-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.08 x 6.00l, 1.26 #File Name: 0814796869419 pages | File size: 39.Mb

**Alfred F. Young : Liberty Tree: Ordinary People and the American Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liberty Tree: Ordinary People and the American Revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good book but a bit long winded  
By Retired Marine Corps Gunny  
This is a very good book for those looking to learn more about American history, the men and women, of the American Revolution, and the reasons behind the war that ultimately created this country. That being said, the author spends a great deal of time on back stories, and on long winded diatribe which takes away from the facts that the

reader is looking for. This is not a book for the casual reader who expects to read it in a couple of evenings. However, if you are looking for some of the unknown information about how this country came into existence, this is one of the books you need on your shelf. *Semper Fi* John M. Snyder USMC Retired 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History that includes you By W. Parrow After you have had enough of reading how Washington and Adams and Jefferson saved us all and brought us life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, get the real story. Ordinary people were there first and forced their leaders to follow. Young tells that story here in a number of essays. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read By DBL This was very entertaining. A must read for all ages! I will read this again to my kids. If you want an educational but entertaining book, this is for you.

With the publication of *Liberty Tree*, acclaimed historian Alfred F. Young presents a selection of his seminal writing as well as two provocative, never-before-published essays. Together, they take the reader on a journey through the American Revolution, exploring the role played by ordinary women and men (called, at the time, people out of doors) in shaping events during and after the Revolution, their impact on the Founding generation of the new American nation, and finally how this populist side of the Revolution has fared in public memory. Drawing on a wide range of sources, which include not only written documents but also material items like powder horns, and public rituals like parades and tarring and featherings, Young places ordinary Americans at the center of the Revolution. For example, in one essay he views the Constitution of 1787 as the result of an intentional accommodation by elites with non-elites, while another piece explores the process of ongoing negotiations would-be rulers conducted with the middling sort; women, enslaved African Americans, and Native Americans. Moreover, questions of history and modern memory are engaged by a compelling examination of icons of the Revolution, such as the pamphleteer Thomas Paine and Boston's Freedom Trail. For over forty years, history lovers, students, and scholars alike have been able to hear the voices and see the actions of ordinary people during the Revolutionary Era, thanks to Young's path-breaking work, which seamlessly blends sophisticated analysis with compelling and accessible prose. From his award-winning work on mechanics, or artisans, in the seaboard cities of the Northeast to the all but forgotten liberty tree, a major popular icon of the Revolution explored in depth for the first time, Young continues to astound readers as he forges new directions in the history of the American Revolution.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . This fascinating collection of essays by Young (*The American Revolution and Beyond the American Revolution*) makes a gripping display of the American historian's efforts to construct a more inclusive, nuanced vision of the Revolutionary War era. Drawing from his work since 1980, the essays cover a wide range of topics (such as the growth of laborer class consciousness, the women of Boston and the Revolution, Oliver Cromwell as a revolutionary symbol, and recommendations for improving Boston's Freedom Trail) that showcase Young's skills in direct historical analysis as well as in deconstructing the methods and assumptions of historians and historical exhibitions. A social historian committed to rounding out our cultural memory, Young includes traditionally marginalized groups (women, the poor, the working class, African Americans and Native Americans), but is interested neither in adding token representations nor in replacing the founding fathers. Rather, Young seeks to re-imagine the Revolutionary War era holistically, and what emerges is not only a first look at key but forgotten Revolutionary players, but also a fresh look at figures like Hamilton, Revere and Adams, portrayed here with a richness and humanity lacking in more celebratory treatments. Although these are serious academic essays, Young's prose is clear and concise, and he judiciously relegates the more technical, scholarly matters to end notes. The result is a work that will be of equal interest to professional scholars and amateur historians. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. #8220t; Drawing on his unsurpassed knowledge of the American Revolution, and his powerful commitment to the idea of 'history from below,' Alfred Young gives us a stirring reminder of the role of 'the people' in the Revolution. He challenges the orthodox emphasis on the 'great men' of that time, and with vivid specificity provides an analysis which is subtle, complex, and bold. -Howard Zinn, Professor Emeritus, Boston University and author, *A People's History of the United States*; To read these eloquent essays by one of the wisest historians of our time is to be drawn into a remarkable conversation: practical, eloquent, decent, and shrewd. Behind Alfred Young's mesmerizing prose lies dazzling detective work that finds courageous people in all the fullness of their lives, who made a revolution as surely as did more famous leaders. Within the lively stories he tells is also a sharp skepticism of the ways that, over the years, tales of the Revolution have been spun to serve selfish political needs. And throughout Al Young's interpretations there sings a humane vision for our future, as readers of history, as tourists, and as citizens. -Linda K. Kerber, author of *No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of Citizenship*; Young assists the construction of a fuller historical picture of the Revolutionary American era by focusing on the common people to gain a more complete understanding of the interplay between the political and social elite and these groups. Highly recommended. -Choice This fascinating collection of essays makes a gripping display of the American historian's efforts to construct a more inclusive, nuanced vision of the Revolutionary War era. . . . A social historian committed to rounding out our cultural memory, Young includes traditionally marginalized groups (women, the poor, the working class, African Americans and Native Americans), but is interested neither in adding token

representations nor in replacing the founding fathers. Rather, Young seeks to re-imagine the Revolutionary War era holistically, and what emerges is not only a first look at key but forgotten Revolutionary players, but also a fresh look at figures like Hamilton, Revere and Adams, portrayed here with a richness and humanity lacking in more celebratory treatments. Although these are serious academic essays, Young's prose is clear and concise, and he judiciously relegates the more technical, scholarly matters to end notes. The result is a work that will be of equal interest to professional scholars and amateur historians.-Publishers Weekly

The key point that shines through all these essays is how dependent our hallowed Founding heroes were on the shifting political alliances they had to form with citizens of lower economic status in order to provide the leadership we honor them for today.-Washington Times

About the Author

Alfred F. Young is Alfred Young is Emeritus Professor of History, Northern Illinois University. His numerous books include *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution* and *Liberty Tree: Ordinary People and the American Revolution* (NYU Press).