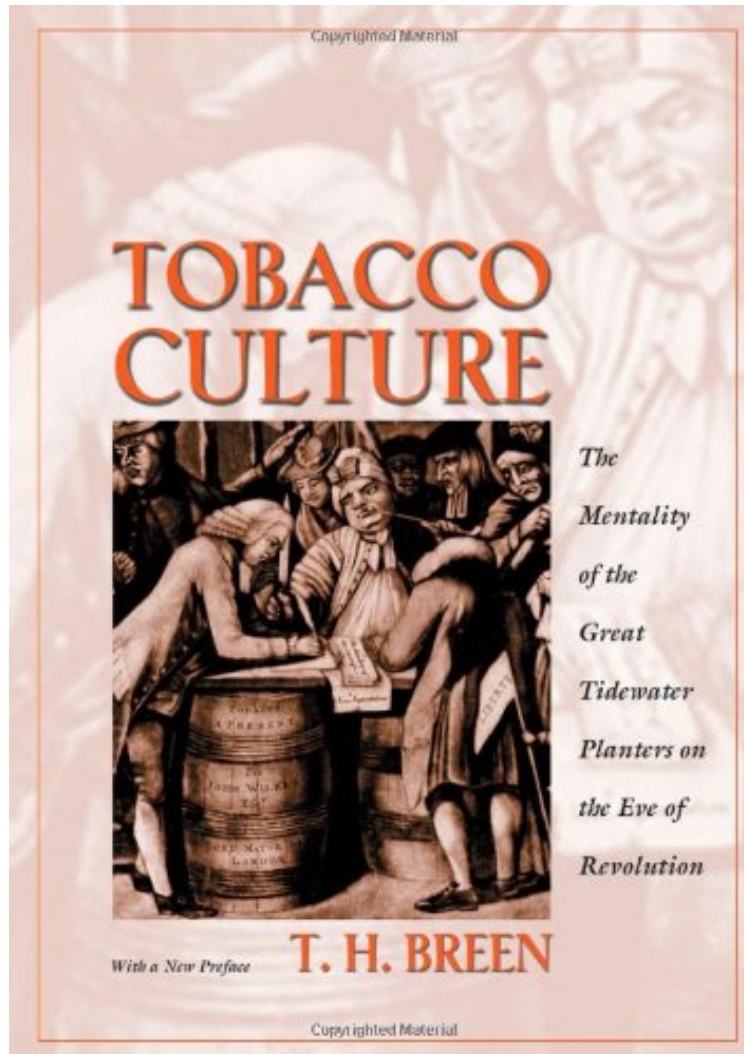


(Mobile ebook) Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution.

## **Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution.**

*T.H. Breen*

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**T.H. Breen : Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution.** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution.:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative and Insight to Early Virginia CultureBy Rebel found this book highly informative about our history of Virginia. Breen tells the history so the reader can understand the Tidewater Planters' lives, culture, and desires. Breen also explains their relationships with the merchants and Great Britain. Breen provides insight to their lives trying to stay solvent and merchants' taking advantage of a product that

got the Planters into a bondage with the Mother country which they tried to be a part of. Importantly this information the author provides to the reader they wanted betterment for the land, each other, and for the slaves. The Planters were environmentalists ahead of their time. True they were slave holders but they also showed they cared for them.<sup>3</sup> of 4 people found the following review helpful. Revolutionary capitalistsBy Harry EagarThe agricultural origins of Americans' habits of revolution, even their habits of being distinguishable as Americans are too little emphasized, but T.H. Breen's "Tobacco Culture" goes a long way to rectifying that.The situation in the mid-18th century was not the first instance of unrest on the land, only the most consequential; it was followed by similar -- but different -- upheavals that led to civil war, to Roosevelt democracy and, the revolutionary spirit atrophying as the overall wealth and stability of America grew, to the disgruntlement of the Midwestern corn/hog/cattle farmers in the 1970s.A theoretical superstructure to bring all these into a general view would be welcome, if justified, but perhaps the rebelliousness of the farmers is not as coherent a concept as I think it is. American farmer unrest is different in kind from the jacqueries and rural incendiarism in other times and places, because the American farmer was, usually, a capitalist.Never more so than in mid-century Virginia and Maryland. Indebted capitalists, but capitalists all the same. And men with social status and political power -- not the source of radical revolution in most times and places.Breen's little book emphasizes the debts, the risks, the resentments as Scottish factors gradually gained (as it seemed to the farmers) a stranglehold on the independence of the rural plutocracy. The factors, in their own minds, were rather in the position of a fashionable West End tailor whose lordly customers are so far in arrears that he dare not keep cutting coats for them. It was a complicated situation, and it is a question how well the players truly understood where they stood in it, for all their education and sophistication,Perhaps Breen understands them better than they understood themselves.He warns against looking for monocausal explanations of world-shaking changes and explicitly denies that planter debt can explain American revolutionary changes. Of course. There were patriots in the Middle Colonies and in New England who were not affected by the long decline in tobacco as a commodity. Nevertheless, "Tobacco Culture" goes on the shelf with other key volumes that help us understand the greatest political event in human history: the American Revolution.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting take on tabacco's influence in the midst of American rebellionBy KyleThe book was a bit lengthy detailing the intricacies around the staple crop, but presented a truly well thought out understanding on how tobacco affected the lives of Americans leading up to the Revolutionary war.

The great Tidewater planters of mid-eighteenth-century Virginia were fathers of the American Revolution. Perhaps first and foremost, they were also anxious tobacco farmers, harried by a demanding planting cycle, trans-Atlantic shipping risks, and their uneasy relations with English agents. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and their contemporaries lived in a world that was dominated by questions of debt from across an ocean but also one that stressed personal autonomy. T. H. Breen's study of this tobacco culture focuses on how elite planters gave meaning to existence. He examines the value-laden relationships--found in both the fields and marketplaces--that led from tobacco to politics, from agrarian experience to political protest, and finally to a break with the political and economic system that they believed threatened both personal independence and honor.

From Library JournalWhy did Virginia's great Tidewater planters figure so prominently in the movement for independence? A good part of the reason, according to Breen, is found in the values of personal honor and autonomy that the tobacco planters' culture promoted. Growing indebtedness to English merchants, which threatened such values, made many especially susceptible to "Radical Country thought." Rejecting the purely economic interpretation of the Progressive historians, and going beyond the "idealist" explanation of Bernard Baylin, Breen skillfully details the "complex interplay between ideology and experience." A rich, balanced, and judicious work that breaks new ground in the study of the American Revolution. For informed laypersons and scholars. Roy H. Tryon, Delaware State Archives, DoverCopyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Breen writes clearly and argues well. . . . Tobacco Culture is enjoyable."--Allen Boyer, New York Times"T. H. Breen's important new book attempts to explain why the great Virginia Planters embraced the Revolutionary cause with so much enthusiasm. He argues that growing indebtedness to British merchants after 1750 jeopardized the planters' traditional dominance, finally precipitating 'a major cultural crisis' in the years immediately preceding Independence. Breen's major contribution is to delineate the 'mentality' of the great planters of the period when private and public distress converged. . . . It is a superb contribution to the literature of the American Revolution."--Peter S. Onuf, William and Mary Quarterly