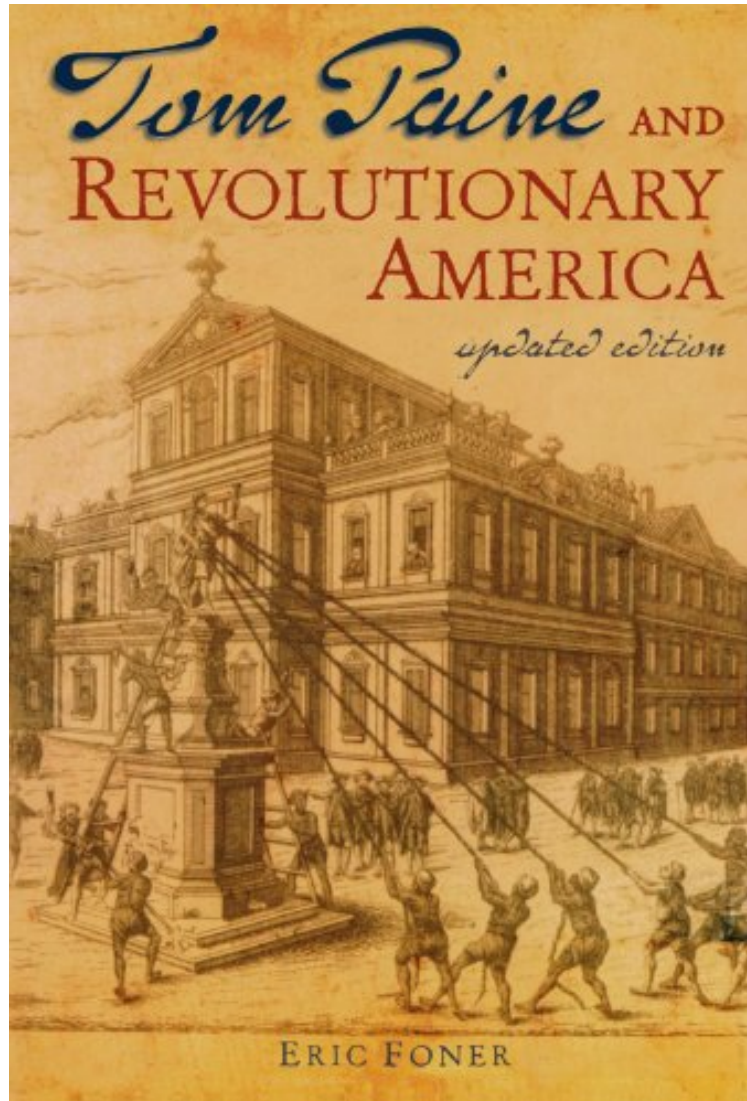


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Tom Paine and Revolutionary America

Eric Foner

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Eric Foner : Tom Paine and Revolutionary America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tom Paine and Revolutionary America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Biography of Thomas Paine and Revolutionary America By RDD In "Tom Paine and Revolutionary America", Eric Foner examines the social and intellectual world in which the titular Revolution-era writer lived and worked. Unlike other biographies of Paine, Foner focuses on the larger schools of thought and philosophical movements in Revolutionary America rather than presenting Paine as operating in a vacuum. Foner draws upon Paine's own writing as well as other political broadsides from the era.

Perhaps the most interesting part of Foner's biography is his lengthy epilogue, in which he examines Paine's work following the American Revolution and the controversy that surrounded his writing after he returned from France. Foner's work will appeal to academic historians while remaining readable enough for non-historians as well. 29 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Paine in the context of his time. By frumiousBI had bought this book because I wanted to learn more about Tom Paine. Paine is one of those historical characters who keeps popping up on the edges of discussion, and about whom I knew very little. I became a lot more aware of him through my media studies, given that he was one of the first radical figures to use media effectively as a weapon. In any case, this isn't a biography of Paine, and assumes that the reader already knows (or isn't interested in) many biographical details. The book is more about Paine's reception by the society of the time, with a focus on issues such as the role of artisans, balanced government, republicanism, and free markets. It tracks how Paine was received as political pamphleteer not only in the revolutionary US, but also in the UK and revolutionary France. I think that the book would have meant a lot more to me if I'd already had more background, but the chapter notes did a good job of pointing me to the best books for further reading. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tom Paine Who? By Dennis R. Johnson While the book provided considerable insight into other Radical revolutionary leaders it provided little, other than the writings of Paine, on Paine himself. I was hoping for some insight into his reasons and thought process which developed into the concepts he outlined in his writings. In this I was disappointed. However I would recommend this book for the missing history it provided, history missing from school curriculum. An omission I feel is damaging to educating in this country

Since its publication in 1976, *Tom Paine and Revolutionary America* has been recognized as a classic study of the career of the foremost political pamphleteer of the Age of Revolution, and a model of how to integrate the political, intellectual, and social history of the struggle for American independence. Foner skillfully brings together an account of Paine's remarkable career with a careful examination of the social worlds within which he operated, in Great Britain, France, and especially the United States. He explores Paine's political and social ideas and the way he popularized them by pioneering a new form of political writing, using simple, direct language and addressing himself to a reading public far broader than previous writers had commanded. He shows which of Paine's views remained essentially fixed throughout his career, while directing attention to the ways his stance on social questions evolved under the pressure of events. This enduring work makes clear the tremendous impact Paine's writing exerted on the American Revolution, and suggests why he failed to have a similar impact during his career in revolutionary France. It also offers new insights into the nature and internal tensions of the republican outlook that helped to shape the Revolution. In a new preface, Foner discusses the origins of this book and the influences of the 1960s and 1970s on its writing. He also looks at how Paine has been adopted by scholars and politicians of many stripes, and has even been called the patron saint of the Internet.

"Foner provides a striking picture of the strength and limitations of the radicalism that helped to form the United States."--*The New Republic* "One of the most important studies ever published on Paine...[with] superb analyses of the artisanal world in which Paine moved in Philadelphia, Paine's crucial role in the movement for American independence, and his subsequent career as 'an artisan of words' in the political and military affairs of the new nation."--*English Historical* "Foner breathes life into the Philadelphia of the 1770s, using the tools of a social and economic historian....[His] clear, informative book takes an important step in cementing Paine's place as a crucial American and international thinker."--*The Christian Science Monitor* About the Author Eric Foner is at Columbia University.