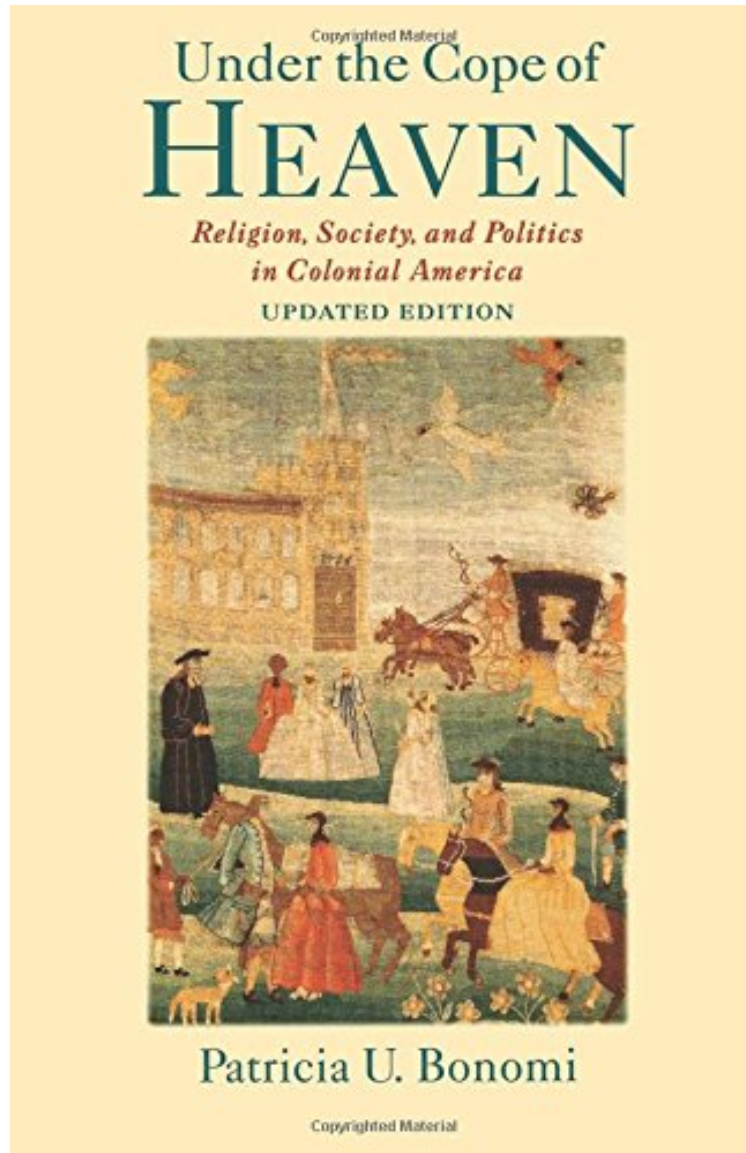


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Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America

Patricia U. Bonomi

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Patricia U. Bonomi : Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society, and Politics in Colonial America:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Answers many questions about religion and politics pre-

RevolutionBy jmartinOn p. 102, we find that the title of this book is part of a quotation of a sermon of Cotton Mather in 1713. In general, I found this book loaded with insights surrounding the question of to what extent (very) the colonies were (Protestant Christian) religious prior to the Revolution, and how much this contributed to the onset of the events which brought about the Revolution (a lot.) Two of these events were the possible advent of an Anglican bishop to the colonies, and the role of the Great Awakening as a spur to the Revolution. The colonists were mostly dissenters from Anglicanism, except for Virginia, and looked upon the imposition of a bishop as just another sign of the increasing domination from the mother country. The Great Awakening spoke to the individual's sense of faith, as opposed to its corporate dimension, and thus contributed to the proverbial American individualism. On p. 72, Bonomi cites the fact that Congregational congregations tripled from 1700-1750, thus downplaying any suggestion of religious decline. Reading Bonomi's anecdotes, the French proverb 'plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose' came to mind. So many of the trends which we believe are original to current church life, were present in colonial church life. Some of these were: not wanting ministers traveling around with no credentials, people in and out of church during the service, sleeping during sermons, almost every bride pregnant at the time of the wedding (p. 60,) and in the average congregation, 3/4 of folks in church were women. This book is well worth your time, written in a pleasant style. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy ArtAbsolutely astounding presentation in every way. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy WalkerVery helpful for my research. Insightful.

In this pathbreaking study, Patricia Bonomi argues that religion was as instrumental as either politics or the economy in shaping early American life and values. Looking at the middle and southern colonies as well as at Puritan New England, Bonomi finds an abundance of religious vitality through the colonial years among clergy and churchgoers of diverse religious background. The book also explores the tightening relationship between religion and politics and illuminates the vital role religion played in the American Revolution. A perennial backlist title first published in 1986, this updated edition includes a new preface on research in the field on African Americans, Indians, women, the Great Awakening, and Atlantic history and how these impact her interpretations.

"A splendid overview of the topic of religion in the colonial period. The book is gracefully and economically written, provocative yet respectful of opposing views...Goes far toward providing a genuinely balanced account of the role of religion in the formation of the American mind."--William and Mary QuarterlyAbout the AuthorPatricia U. Bonomi is Professor of History emeritus, New York University.