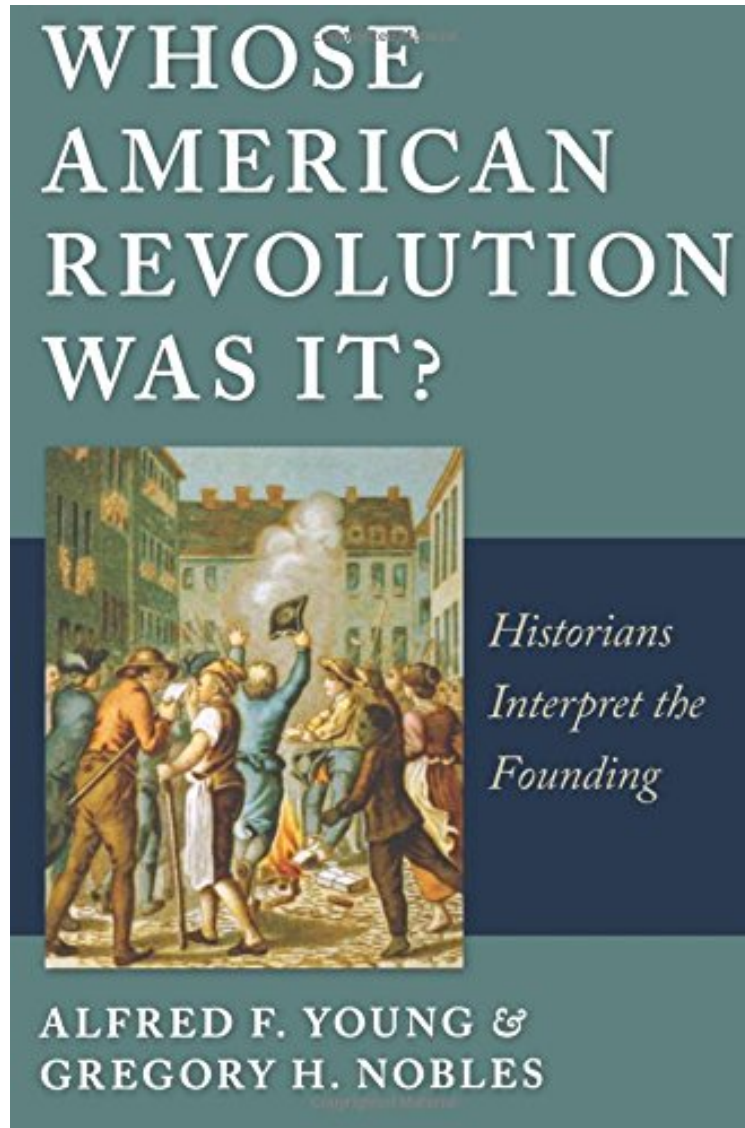


Whose American Revolution Was It?: Historians Interpret the Founding

Alfred F. Young, Gregory Nobles

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Alfred F. Young, Gregory Nobles : Whose American Revolution Was It?: Historians Interpret the Founding before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whose American Revolution Was It?: Historians Interpret the Founding:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly easy to read for such useful analysis By Robert B Have you ever wondered why history of the American Revolution is so bland in high school, but becomes interesting when

you read different history books? In Part I of this book, the author gives an easy to read and understand analysis of the trends in historiography of the American Revolution since the late 1800's, and how it has changed over time. Particularly interesting is an account of how history of the Revolution's telling is influenced by WWII and the Cold war. According to the author, Total War mobilizes even scholars. This is an excellent book to read if you are a fan of the revolution, and are aware that scholars analyze events, ideology, markets, etc. surrounding the Revolution in different ways. If you are looking to explore particular issues, such as the condition of more ordinary people or pre-Revolutionary markets, how social conditions may have been influenced, etc., you will get from this book a rich bibliography. Not only a bibliography, in part II of the book, the author gives consideration to "bottom-up history" and less often mentioned groups' experience such as women, enslaved and free African-Americans, and Native Americans. Probably not the best book if you just want an overview of the American Revolution. Gordon Wood is one of the finest authors I have read that also treats history in a "bottom - up" manner if you are not interested in historiography.

The meaning of the American Revolution has always been a much-contested question, and asking it is particularly important today: the standard, easily digested narrative puts the Founding Fathers at the head of a unified movement, failing to acknowledge the deep divisions in Revolutionary-era society and the many different historical interpretations that have followed. *Whose American Revolution Was It?* speaks both to the ways diverse groups of Americans who lived through the Revolution might have answered that question and to the different ways historians through the decades have interpreted the Revolution for our own time. As the only volume to offer an accessible and sweeping discussion of the period's historiography and its historians, *Whose American Revolution Was It?* is an essential reference for anyone studying early American history. The first section, by Alfred F. Young, begins in 1925 with historian J. Franklin Jameson and takes the reader through the successive schools of interpretation up to the 1990s. The second section, by Gregory H. Nobles, focuses primarily on the ways present-day historians have expanded our understanding of the broader social history of the Revolution, bringing onto the stage farmers and artisans, who made up the majority of white men, as well as African Americans, Native Americans, and women of all social classes.

"Young and Nobles characterizations of their often quirky protagonists are so vivid and so witty that to me, *Whose American Revolution Was It?* felt less like reading a book than like watching a play.