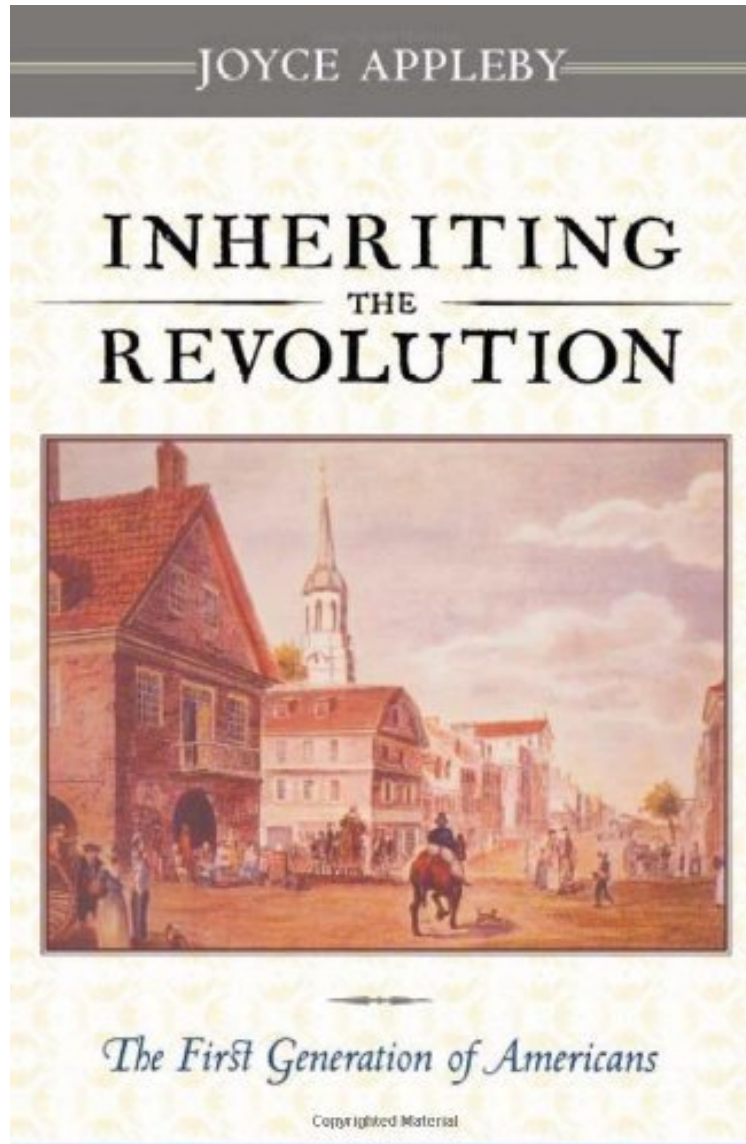


(Download) INHERITING THE REVOLUTION: The First Generation of Americans

INHERITING THE REVOLUTION: The First Generation of Americans

Von Joyce Oldham Appleby

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Von Joyce Oldham Appleby : INHERITING THE REVOLUTION: The First Generation of Americans before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised INHERITING THE REVOLUTION: The First Generation of Americans:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An

interesting assortment of information Von Fred Camfield The book's contents are an assortment of anecdotal information about individuals, comments by foreign travelers in the early United States, historical facts, and the author's analysis and interpretations. It is not a complete history. It is a commentary on the social/economic/political/religious development in the United States during the country's first half century. It was a time when people had been set loose from the law's and restrictions of England. The constitution's guarantee of freedom of religion and other freedoms caused a splintering of the church into various denominations, and a person could become a preacher simply by declaring himself as such. Likewise, people with a minimum of training (if any) could hang out shingles as doctors, attorneys, and teachers. Various entrepreneurs flourished, some successful, some not, as people struck out on their own to seek their fortunes. Schools developed as people sought education to improve their positions, and publishing boomed (partly because of the education, partly because the newly affluent bought books, and partly because of the freedom people had to publish their opinions). The author covers many aspects of the era including the split between north and south, the prejudices against African-Americans, the rise of the Baptist church, the rise of the temperance movement, and westward expansion of the nation. Many other aspects are only brushed over, such as the bloody conflicts with native Americans on the frontiers. The book barely touches on the maritime activities that brought the United States into the forefront of maritime nations (see Charles Tyng's autobiography, "Before the Wind," for an interesting account of that), and only briefly mentions the War of 1812 which occurred during that period. It is not an easy reading book as the author seems wrapped up in rhetoric and sometimes writes with an echo, i.e., repeating information or points previously made. The overly long introduction can leave a reader glassy-eyed.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Like the Revolution's Ideas, Promises More Than It Delivers Von Thomas M. Keane This is a detailed and interesting compilation of bits and pieces of information about an over-looked but important period in American history. Unfortunately, its thematically-organized chapters become repetitive by the end, and its sentences sink beneath the weight of academic jargon until one is convinced one has read the same sentence three times. At the same time, amid the repetitious treatment of some subjects, interesting topics, such as the prevalence of duelling during the period, surface briefly then are never explored in depth. More attentive editing might have helped. Beyond the structural issues, confusion arises from what appear to be typos, such as the appearances by Lewis and Louis Tappan, only one of whom can be found in the index, leaving the reader to wonder whether these are the same or different persons. If the premise were not an exploration of a relatively unfamiliar period, such lapses might be forgiven. But these oversights, when combined with an overly generous assumption regarding the reader's base of knowledge about the major historical events of the period, and an onslaught of unfamiliar, similar sounding names, can be bewildering. Finally, while it is admirable that the author attempted to explore differences in the experiences of southerners, women, and African-Americans, it would have been more enjoyable had she found a way to introduce such discussions other than inserting an awkward transition in every chapter along the lines of "For women, on the other hand . . ."

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. good material, sometimes wordy Von ltp1 Around page 20 I figured out I should skip the wordy Introduction. It would make a better Conclusion -- too abstract to follow if you don't already have some factual underpinnings. On to the rest of the book. Chapter 2 is sort of an overview. Remaining chapters cover "Enterprise", "Careers", "Distinctions" (about social status), "Intimate Relations", "Reform" (religious and moral), and "A New National Identity". The material is undeniably interesting -- dueling newspaper editors (and dueling everyone else), downtrodden young people finding their way, cultural battles between north and south, Federalists vs. republicans, the inception of careers and jobs that had not existed before... and did you know that separate right and left shoes were an invention of this recent time period? Where Appleby stocks the book with primary material, it's engaging. Where she talks in generalities, there are way too many sentences that have to be read several times to sink in. "The intense politicization of public life from political and institutional controversies accustomed Americans to public disclosure." (p. 41) Is this circular, or what? I imagine the book is most difficult for those unfamiliar with the material, a little easier for those who have some background. One other complaint: The reader is often left to wonder how things got to be as Appleby describes. For instance: "Jefferson and his supporters democratized American politics... by implementing policies that enabled people to work out the terms of their lives with minimal interference from family, church, or state." What policies? Not one example is given; there's nothing for the reader to grip. I'm intrigued by the statement but I'm left hanging. On the whole, it's a worthwhile bunch of material, and the style is sometimes engaging. Just be prepared to deal with the passages that are less engaging.

Kurzbeschreibung Born after the Revolution, the first generation of Americans inherited a truly new world--and, with it, the task of working out the terms of Independence. Anyone who started a business, marketed a new invention, ran for office, formed an association, or wrote for publication was helping to fashion the world's first liberal society. These are the people we encounter in *Inheriting the Revolution*, a vibrant tapestry of the lives, callings, decisions, desires, and reflections of those Americans who turned the new abstractions of democracy, the nation, and free enterprise into

contested realities. Through data gathered on thousands of people, as well as hundreds of memoirs and autobiographies, Joyce Appleby tells myriad intersecting stories of how Americans born between 1776 and 1830 reinvented themselves and their society in politics, economics, reform, religion, and culture. They also had to grapple with the new distinction of free and slave labor, with all its divisive social entailments; the rout of Enlightenment rationality by the warm passions of religious awakening; the explosion of small business opportunities for young people eager to break out of their parents' colonial cocoon. Few in the nation escaped the transforming intrusiveness of these changes. Working these experiences into a vivid picture of American cultural renovation, Appleby crafts an extraordinary--and deeply affecting--account of how the first generation established its own culture, its own nation, its own identity. The passage of social responsibility from one generation to another is always a fascinating interplay of the inherited and the novel; this book shows how, in the early nineteenth century, the very idea of generations resonated with new meaning in the United States.

Table of Contents: 1. Introduction 2. Responding to a Revolutionary Tradition 3. Enterprise 4. Careers 5. Distinctions 6. Intimate Relations 7. Reform 8. A New National Identity Notes

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WorldKurzbeschreibung

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