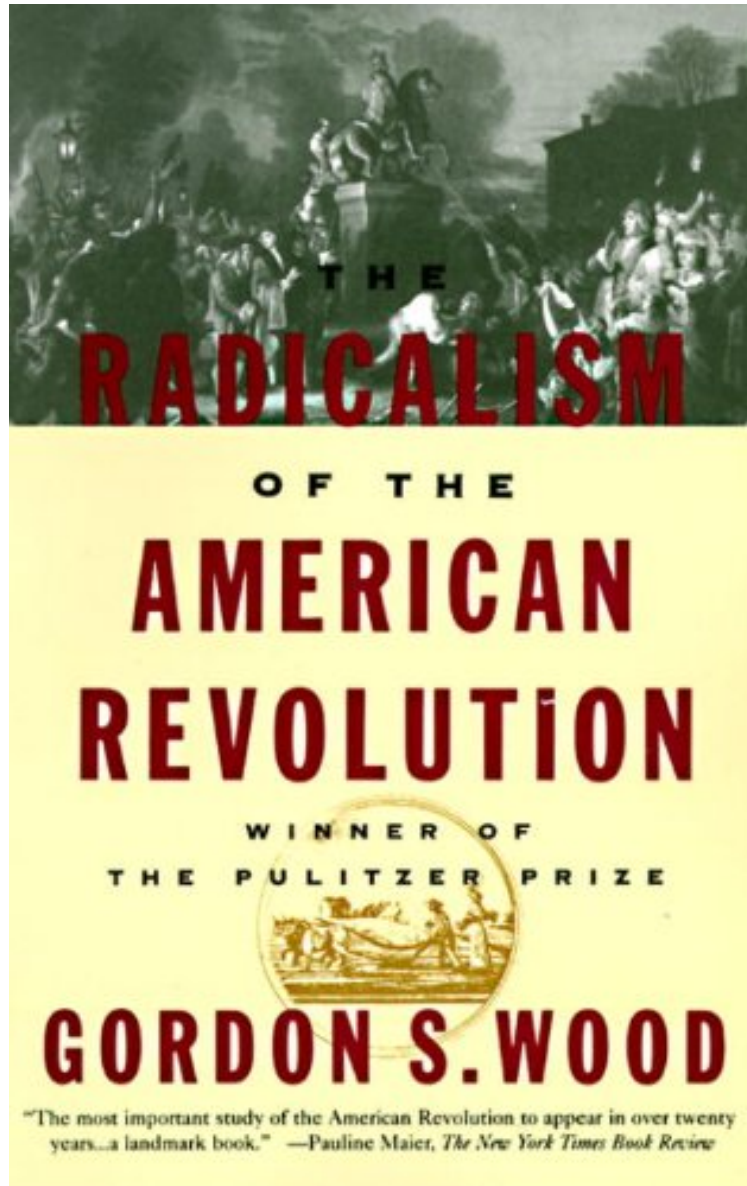


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## The Radicalism of the American Revolution

Von Gordon S. Wood

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**Von Gordon S. Wood : The Radicalism of the American Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Radicalism of the American Revolution:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Use with CautionVon Sarah SwedbergAs a student (and now a professor) of the American Revolution and the Early Republic, I had read this book not long after it was published and, more recently, used it as the cornerstone for an upper division

undergraduate course on the American Revolution. I believe this book has both strengths and weaknesses. Wood examines pre-Revolutionary society in stunning detail, but I believe that he also stretches some of his points, particularly the before-then-after conclusions that he makes. I used this book as the cornerstone for my course because it was highly controversial. I balanced Wood's analysis with works by scholars who did, or might, disagree with his premises. Therefore, I recommend this book, but I recommend that it be read cautiously, with skepticism, and that the reading is balanced by the words and works of other scholars of this era.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Gordon Wood tells a great story  
Von Ein Kunde  
Gordon Wood has written a text that is a must read for anyone with an interest in how our democracy got its start. The use of the word radicalism is not something used to sell the book. Wood argues that our American Revolution was not conservative; moreover, the ideas and concepts which led to the uprising of American colonists was unprecedented in the history of the world. This is not just a scholarly text from a Harvard educated author; this is a page turner! The reader comes to know our founding fathers in ways in which most of us have never seen them. This is an absolute must read for the amateur or professional historian. Do yourself a favor; read it!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An essential work for understanding the American Revolution  
Von Ein Kunde  
Wood argues that the American Revolution was essentially a revolution in prosperity. The revolution spurred the penetration of networks of commerce deep among the population. The traditional ties of monarchical patronage and dependence were severed. A new egalitarian society was born

Kurzbeschreibung  
In a grand and immensely readable synthesis of historical, political, cultural, and economic analysis, a prize-winning historian describes the events that made the American Revolution. Gordon S. Wood depicts a revolution that was about much more than a break from England, rather it transformed an almost feudal society into a democratic one, whose emerging realities sometimes baffled and disappointed its founding fathers.

From Kirkus  
sPerhaps, as is often noted, the American Revolution was not as convulsive or transforming as its French and Russian counterparts. Yet this sparkling analysis from Wood (History/Brown Univ.; ed., *The Rising Glory of America*, 1971) impressively argues that it was anything but conservative. Wood's contention that the Revolution was "the most radical and far-reaching event in American history" may stretch the point (did it really have more of an impact than the Civil War?). But from now on it will be hard to argue that the rebellion was a genteel event that left fundamental institutions unscathed. Wood pictures colonial society as overwhelmingly deferential--to king, to family patriarch, and to aristocrats--with "personal obligations and reciprocity that ran through the whole society." But patriots such as Adams, Jefferson, and Franklin, aspiring to become gentlemen, resented this entrenched order of patronage and kinship. Their classical republicanism stressed benevolence and government by an enlightened elite. To their dismay, however, they discovered that their rhetoric unleashed all the latent entrepreneurial and egalitarian energies of American life, which even the elaborate mechanism of the Constitution could not completely contain. Among the results, Wood says, were a new concept of the dignity of labor, improvements in the lot of women, the first significant antislavery movement, and the frank acceptance of private interest underlying the political party system. Above all, Wood suggests, the Revolution produced the messy, fractious politics of liberal democracy, dominated by ordinary people pursuing commercial interests. A provocative, highly accomplished examination of how American society was reshaped in the cauldron of revolution. -- Copyright 1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

From Library Journal  
Historians have always had problems explaining the revolutionary character of the American Revolution: its lack of class conflict, a reign of terror, and indiscriminate violence make it seem positively sedate. In this beautifully written and persuasively argued book, one of the most noted of U.S. historians restores the radicalism to what he terms "one of the greatest revolutions the world has ever known." It was the American Revolution, Wood argues, that unleashed the social forces that transformed American society in the years between 1760 and 1820. The change from a deferential, monarchical, ordered, and static society to a liberal, democratic, and commercial one was astonishing, all the more so because it took place without industrialization, urbanization, or the revolution in transportation. It was a revolution of the mind, in which the concept of equality, democracy, and private interest grasped by hundreds of thousands of Americans transformed a country nearly overnight. Exciting, compelling, and sure to provoke controversy, the book will be discussed for years to come. History Book Club main selection.- David B. Mattern, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville  
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