

A MACAT ANALYSIS

BERNARD BAILYN'S

THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION





An Analysis of

Bernard Bailyn's

**The Ideological Origins
of the American
Revolution**

Joshua Specht
With
Etienne Stockland



Copyright © 2017 by Macat International Ltd
24:13 Coda Centre, 189 Munster Road, London SW6 6AW.

Macat International has asserted its right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as the copyright holder of this work.

The print publication is protected by copyright. Prior to any prohibited reproduction, storage in a retrieval system, distribution or transmission in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, permission should be obtained from the publisher or where applicable a license permitting restricted copying in the United Kingdom should be obtained from the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd, Barnard's Inn, 86 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1EN, UK.

The ePublication is protected by copyright and must not be copied, reproduced, transferred, distributed, leased, licensed or publicly performed or used in any way except as specifically permitted in writing by the publishers, as allowed under the terms and conditions under which it was purchased, or as strictly permitted by applicable copyright law. Any unauthorised distribution or use of this text may be a direct infringement of the authors and the publishers' rights and those responsible may be liable in law accordingly.

www.makat.com
info@makat.com

Cover illustration: Etienne Giffillan

Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.
Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data is available upon request.

ISBN 978-1-912302-43-7 (hardback)
ISBN 978-1-912128-47-1 (paperback)
ISBN 978-1-912281-31-2 (e-book)

Notice

The information in this book is designed to orientate readers of the work under analysis, to elucidate and contextualise its key ideas and themes, and to aid in the development of critical thinking skills. It is not meant to be used, nor should it be used, as a substitute for original thinking or in place of original writing or research. References and notes are provided for informational purposes and their presence does not constitute endorsement of the information or opinions therein. This book is presented solely for educational purposes. It is sold on the understanding that the publisher is not engaged to provide any scholarly advice. The publisher has made every effort to ensure that this book is accurate and up-to-date, but makes no warranties or representations with regard to the completeness or reliability of the information it contains. The information and the opinions provided herein are not guaranteed or warranted to produce particular results and may not be suitable for students of every ability. The publisher shall not be liable for any loss, damage or disruption arising from any errors or omissions, or from the use of this book, including, but not limited to, special, incidental, consequential or other damages caused, or alleged to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the information contained within.

CONTENTS

WAYS IN TO THE TEXT

Who Is Bernard Bailyn?	9
What Does <i>Ideological Origins</i> Say?	10
Why Does <i>Ideological Origins</i> Matter?	12

SECTION 1: INFLUENCES

Module 1: The Author and the Historical Context	16
Module 2: Academic Context	20
Module 3: The Problem	25
Module 4: The Author's Contribution	29

SECTION 2: IDEAS

Module 5: Main Ideas	34
Module 6: Secondary Ideas	38
Module 7: Achievement	42
Module 8: Place in the Author's Work	46

SECTION 3: IMPACT

Module 9: The First Responses	51
Module 10: The Evolving Debate	56
Module 11: Impact and Influence Today	61
Module 12: Where Next?	66

Glossary of Terms	71
People Mentioned in the Text	76
Works Cited	80

THE MACAT LIBRARY

The Macat Library is a series of unique academic explorations of seminal works in the humanities and social sciences – books and papers that have had a significant and widely recognised impact on their disciplines. It has been created to serve as much more than just a summary of what lies between the covers of a great book. It illuminates and explores the influences on, ideas of, and impact of that book. Our goal is to offer a learning resource that encourages critical thinking and fosters a better, deeper understanding of important ideas.

Each publication is divided into three Sections: Influences, Ideas, and Impact. Each Section has four Modules. These explore every important facet of the work, and the responses to it.

This Section-Module structure makes a Macat Library book easy to use, but it has another important feature. Because each Macat book is written to the same format, it is possible (and encouraged!) to cross-reference multiple Macat books along the same lines of inquiry or research. This allows the reader to open up interesting interdisciplinary pathways.

To further aid your reading, lists of glossary terms and people mentioned are included at the end of this book (these are indicated by an asterisk [*] throughout) – as well as a list of works cited.

Macat has worked with the University of Cambridge to identify the elements of critical thinking and understand the ways in which six different skills combine to enable effective thinking.

Three allow us to fully understand a problem; three more give us the tools to solve it. Together, these six skills make up the

PACIER model of critical thinking. They are:

ANALYSIS – understanding how an argument is built

EVALUATION – exploring the strengths and weaknesses of an argument

INTERPRETATION – understanding issues of meaning

CREATIVE THINKING – coming up with new ideas and fresh connections

PROBLEM-SOLVING – producing strong solutions

REASONING – creating strong arguments

To find out more, visit **WWW.MACAT.COM**.

CRITICAL THINKING AND *THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION*

Primary critical thinking skill: CREATIVE THINKING

Secondary critical thinking skill: ANALYSIS

Historians of the American Revolution had always seen the struggle for independence either as a conflict sparked by heavyweight ideology, or as a war between opposing social groups acting out of self-interest.

In *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, Bernard Bailyn begged to differ, re-examining familiar evidence to establish new connections that in turn allowed him to generate fresh explanations. His influential reconceptualizing of the underlying reasons for America's independence drive focused instead on pamphleteering – and specifically on the actions of an influential group of 'conspirators' who identified, and were determined to protect, a particularly American set of values. For Bailyn, these ideas could indeed be traced back to the ferment of the English Civil War – stemming from radical pamphleteers whose anti-authoritarian ideas crossed the Atlantic and embedded themselves in colonial ideology. Bailyn's thesis helps to explain the Revolution's success by pointing out how deep-rooted its founding ideas were; the Founding Fathers may have been reading Locke, but the men they led were inspired by shorter, pithier and altogether far more radical works. Only by understanding this, Bailyn argues, can we understand the passion and determination that allowed the rebel American states to defeat a global superpower.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE ORIGINAL WORK

Bernard Bailyn is an American historian and professor emeritus at Harvard University, where he has spent his entire academic career. Born in Connecticut in 1922, he published his first Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, in 1967 after studying over 400 revolutionary-era political pamphlets. Bailyn received a second Pulitzer Prize for his 1986 work *Voyagers to the West: A Passage in the Peopling of America on the Eve of the Revolution*. He has also become a key figure in developing the new academic field of Atlantic history, a discipline that studies the group of countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean as a coherent unit.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF THE ANALYSIS

Dr Joshua Specht completed his PhD in history at Harvard in 2014, with work on the environmental history of the cattle trade in nineteenth-century America. He is currently a lecturer in history at Monash University.

Etienne Stockland is researching a PhD in environmental history at Columbia University.

ABOUT MACAT

GREAT WORKS FOR CRITICAL THINKING

Macat is focused on making the ideas of the world's great thinkers accessible and comprehensible to everybody, everywhere, in ways that promote the development of enhanced critical thinking skills.

It works with leading academics from the world's top universities to produce new analyses that focus on the ideas and the impact of the most influential works ever written across a wide variety of academic disciplines. Each of the works that sit at the heart of its growing library is an enduring example of great thinking. But by setting them in context – and looking at the influences that shaped their authors, as well as the responses they provoked – Macat encourages readers to look at these classics and game-changers with fresh eyes. Readers learn to think, engage and challenge their ideas, rather than simply accepting them.

‘Macat offers an amazing first-of-its-kind tool for interdisciplinary learning and research. Its focus on works that transformed their disciplines and its rigorous approach, drawing on the world’s leading experts and educational institutions, opens up a world-class education to anyone.’

Andreas Schleicher
Director for Education and Skills, Organisation for Economic
Co-operation and Development

‘Macat is taking on some of the major challenges in university education ... They have drawn together a strong team of active academics who are producing teaching materials that are novel in the breadth of their approach.’

Prof Lord Broers,
former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge

‘The Macat vision is exceptionally exciting. It focuses upon new modes of learning which analyse and explain seminal texts which have profoundly influenced world thinking and so social and economic development. It promotes the kind of critical thinking which is essential for any society and economy.

This is the learning of the future.’

Rt Hon Charles Clarke, former UK Secretary of State for Education

‘The Macat analyses provide immediate access to the critical conversation surrounding the books that have shaped their respective discipline, which will make them an invaluable resource to all of those, students and teachers, working in the field.’

Professor William Tronzo, University of California at San Diego



Taylor & Francis

Taylor & Francis Group

<http://taylorandfrancis.com>