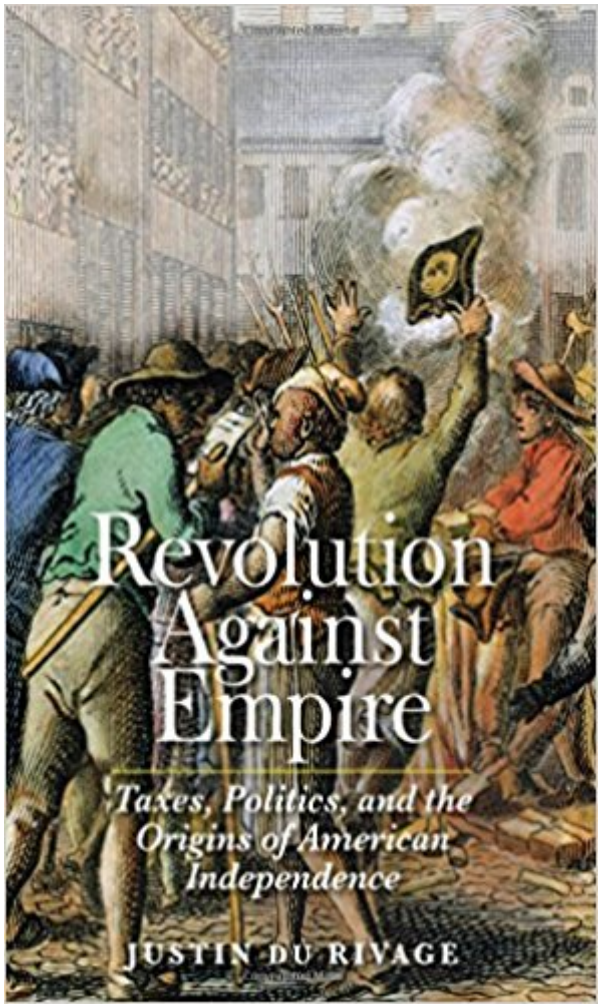
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Revolution Against Empire: Taxes, Politics, And The Origins Of American Independence (The Lewis Walpole Series In Eighteenth-Century Culture And History)




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Synopsis

A bold transatlantic history of American independence revealing that 1776 was about far more than taxation without representationRevolution Against Empire sets the story of American independence within a long and fierce clash over the political and economic future of the British Empire. Justin du Rivage traces this decades-long debate, which pitted neighbors and countrymen against one another, from the War of Austrian Succession to the end of the American Revolution. Ã Â As people from Boston to Bengal grappled with the growing burdens of imperial rivalry and fantastically expensive warfare, some argued that austerity and new colonial revenue were urgently needed to rescue Britain from unsustainable taxes and debts. Others insisted that Britain ought to treat its colonies as relative equals and promote their prosperity. Drawing from archival research in the United States, Britain, and France, this book shows how disputes over taxation, public debt, and inequality sparked the American RevolutionÃ¢â ¬â •and reshaped the British Empire.

Book Information

Series: The Lewis Walpole Series in Eighteenth-Century Culture and History

Hardcover: 392 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; 1 edition (June 27, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300214243

ISBN-13: 978-0300214246

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #333,468 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 inÃ Â Books > Law > Tax Law > International #8 inÃ Â Books > Business & Money > Taxation > International #179 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Colonialism & Post-Colonialism

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"Revolution Against Empire re-situates the Revolution not as a colonial rebellion against the mother country but as one episode in a much larger political quarrel that swept the British Empire in the second half of the eighteenth century."Ã¢â ¬â •New Yorker"In this eye-opening work, du Rivage traces fault lines of material struggle over taxation, commerce, consumption, and (in)equality straight to the heart of imperial governance in the late 18th century. By insisting that the stakes of

empire as both market and politics drove revolutionary events, he illuminates essential sources of our modern political economy."Ã¢â ¬â •Christine Desan, author of Making Money: Coin, Currency, and the Coming of Capitalism "Revolution Against Empire is the first book in a long while toÃ Â revive the imperial approach to debating the causes of the American Revolution.Ã Â It makes a novel case which restores the role of ideology in the study of eighteenth century Britain and its policies in America."Ã¢â ¬â •Andrew Jackson OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Shaughnessy, author of The Men Who Lost America"An extraordinarily valuable contribution to our understanding of the RevolutionÃ¢â ¬â„¢s originsÃ¢â ¬â •and to the character of the 'empire' it gave rise to."Ã¢â ¬â •Peter S. Onuf, University of Virginia"Du RivageÃ¢â ¬â„¢s brilliant Revolution Against Empire returns political economy squarely to the center of the American revolutionary experience, boldly overturning old certainties and offering a timely meditation on the nature of taxation, representation, and the role of the state in worldly affairs."Ã¢â ¬â •Sophus A. Reinert, author of Translating Empire: Emulation and the Origins of Political Economy"In this meticulously researched and lucidly written book, du Rivage brilliantly traces the ideological differences in the British Empire that gave birth to political factions and ultimately sparked the American Revolution."Ã¢â ¬â •Carl Wennerlind, Barnard College, Columbia University

Justin du Rivage received his Ph.D. from Yale and previously taught early American history at Stanford.

The author presents the events surrounding the Revolution as the product of an ideological struggle within both Britain and the colonies, not just between them. The parties to this struggle sought an activist government, but each party had different ideas about whom that government should serve. In his examination of the Articles of Confederation, the author stresses what was accomplished instead of focusing solely on the flaws. His approach is original and thought-provoking.

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