

The Origins Of American Politics

272 *Reviews*

Bernard Bailyn, *The Origins of American Politics* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1968, \$4.95). Pp. xiv, 161.

This book is an expanded version of the Charles K. Colver Lectures given by Professor Bailyn at Brown University in 1965, and provides an invaluable synthesis of his arguments in earlier studies concerning the nature of ideology and politics in pre-Revolutionary America. It is salutary in that it reminds political scientists in particular that the establishment of a political culture in America did not begin with the Declaration of Independence, or the controversies over the adoption of the Constitution. It also demonstrates that the study of American politics in the colonial period provides important lessons about the nature of political instability and political culture in colonial societies.

Bailyn attacks analysis which attests to the vital importance of patterns of governmental organization in England, backed by theories about the nature of government by Locke and others, in shaping the American political culture. He demonstrates persuasively that the radical ideas of opposition groups in England had a far greater influence and became the ideology of the American Revolution. Such radicalism was influential because the institutions of government in the colonies, while similar in form to those in England, in practice operated quite differently, raising fears on the one hand of 'executive tyranny' and on the other of the excesses of 'democracy'. In America, unlike England, a 'balanced' constitution produced considerable political conflict and instability, as Professor Bailyn demonstrates in a series of short case-studies of colonies such as New York, Maryland, and Virginia. While the legal executive powers of the governors were great, their actual powers were weaker than those of the crown in England. Local opposition was strong and could not be assuaged by patronage. The existence of a wider franchise, and the absence of a cohesive political aristocracy and a sense of corporate representation, made contests for positions of political leadership uncertain, while colonial legislatures had significant creative authority.

The existence of political instability and conflict led to fears of catastrophe, for what in England seemed theoretical dangers were practical realities in many American colonies. In this short volume Bailyn presents only fragments of evidence in support of his thesis, but he raises important questions about the dangers for colonial nations of 'transplanting' governmental institutions which provide stable government at home, in territories under their colonial control. He also produces historical analysis which is as revealing to the political scientist or sociologist as to the historian, of the significance of social and cultural forces on political changes in eighteenth-century America.

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Marvin Fisher, *Workshops in the Wilderness: The European Response to American Industrialisation, 1830-1860* (New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1967, 42s.). Pp. 238.

In the dark ages—that is, before the invention and proliferation of television—there were no cameras poking their lenses up the hidden rivers of Brazil or

"He produces historical analysis which is as revealing to the political scientist or sociologist as to the historian, of the significance of social and cultural forces on political changes in eighteenth-century America." with the lesser men in American history and to appreciate their accomplishments. FREDERICK The Origins of American Politics by Bernard Bailyn. New York. The Origins of American Politics. By Bernard Bailyn. (New Y. Alfred A. Knopf. Pp. xi, , xii. \$). In this slim volume, a revision of his Charles K. "He produces historical analysis which is as revealing to the political scientist or sociologist as to the historian, of the significance of social and cultural forces on political changes in eighteenth-century America." "An astonishing range of reading in contemporary tracts and modern authorities is manifest, and many aspects of British and colonial affairs are. Bernard Bailyn was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in , and did his undergraduate work at Williams College. He began his teaching career at Harvard. Book Review: The Origins of American Politics, by Bernard Bailyn. Bernard Bailyn, The Origins of American Politics (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, , \$). Pp. xiv, This book is an expanded version of the Charles K. Buy a cheap copy of The Origins of American Politics book by Bernard Bailyn. " An astonishing range of reading in contemporary tracts and modern authorities is . The Origins of the American Political System study guide by jyoti79 includes 12 questions covering vocabulary, terms and more. Quizlet flashcards, activities and . Start studying Chapter 6: The Origin of American Politics. Learn vocabulary, terms, and more with flashcards, games, and other study tools. Start studying US History Chapter 6 - The Origins of American Politics (Vocabulary). Learn vocabulary, terms, and more with flashcards, games, and other study. Start studying Chapter 6: The Origins of American Politics. Learn vocabulary, terms, and more with flashcards, games, and other study tools. Read a free sample or buy The Origins of American Politics by Bernard Bailyn. You can read this book with iBooks on your iPhone, iPad, iPod. with national and state debt? How did foreign policy issues divide Americans? What issues led to the emergence of political parties? Chapter 6, Section 1.19 Apr - 26 min - Uploaded by HarvardX Professor Tom Patterson explores the origins of the United States's political culture, its. 14 Aug - 2 min - Uploaded by In The Know In less than 2 minutes, you'll be able to teach a political science course.

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