
A sophisticated but not wholly convincing restatement of the view emphasizing the primacy of socio-economic conflicts in early American politics, this study utilizes the quantitative approach to argue that the basic line of cleavage in Massachusetts politics during these years was the struggle over management of state finances between the "commercial-cosmopolitan" towns of the coast "that controlled the commercial activities of the state and had the greatest number of institutional, intellectual, and social contacts with other towns" and the more isolated, largely subsistence farming towns of the interior.

JB


Influenced by the work of Sir Lewis Namier and his disciples in eighteenth-century British politics, Henretta ascribes the "salutary neglect" experienced by the British North American colonies during the twenty-four years (1724-1748) the Duke of Newcastle served as Secretary of State for the southern district responsible for colonial matters—with its consequent irreversible weakening of British authority over the colonies—in part to the "ambiguous legal position of the colonies" given "the shift from the supremacy of the monarch to the hegemony of parliament" underway during the first half of the eighteenth century, and in part to "the shortsighted and selfish patronage policies pursued by politicians such as Newcastle" who subordinated larger imperial considerations to the exigencies of domestic politics.

JB


A member of the "neo-Whig" school of historians who emphasize the crucial role of constitutional issues in bringing on the American Revolution, Hutson finds that the struggle against proprietary rule showed the existence even among the "meek and long suffering" Quakers of Pennsylvania of that "passion for autonomy" and "abhorrence of outside interference" which would lead the colonies generally to revolt against British efforts after 1764 to reassert "external control."

JB


This is a study of the hysterical events that took place in the decade that included the First World War. Jaffe centers his attention upon the State of New York, and compares developments there to those in the nation. He identifies not only the expected liberal-conservative antagonism, but also a decided rural-urban confrontation, as factors that intensified the situation in the state. He notes that one major contributing cause of the Red Scare was a tendency to define loyalty as "conformity ... to the mandated policies of the government," a fact that should cause misgivings among civil libertarians today. The writing is clear, if somewhat unexciting, and Jaffe presents his material adequately. Generally, the book is a good history of an important subject, but it is flawed by a frequent failure to provide citations.

MJS


Though its format and "quaint" appeal make it look like one of the innumerable trade-book industry picture books, and though its subject is largely English and not American, this volume is worth noticing as a model of how such things should be done. Too much pop culture stuff is pat, cute or condescending; too many essays in material culture simply confirm for us what we already know. Because of the steady intelligence of its text, superb selection of visual materials and a degree of historical sophistication, this volume does much more; without ever arguing, it argues a coherent view of the human condition.

SGL


Anyone interested in the settlement of the American grasslands and the Americanization of the immigrant peoples who paid the cost of that settlement, must finally