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## The Making of the American Republic, 1763-1815

Paul Gilje

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**Paul Gilje : The Making of the American Republic, 1763-1815** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Making of the American Republic, 1763-1815:

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college undergrad syllabi or reading lists. I would love to use it for the early American history course I teach. But unfortunately, the publisher's exorbitant price tag of \$65 for a book from 2006 makes that impossible. So, if readers see a new copy advertised for \$15 - grab it! But few if any general readers or students will want to shell out \$65. And that's a shame because not many social historians like Paul Gilje, or history books like this one, provide such a coherent synthesis of the U.S. founding era. It explains why proud and happy British North Americans, setting off fireworks, and toasting British liberty and monarch in 1763, found themselves in a shootout with British troops at Lexington in 1775. How did this mutually beneficial imperial relationship devolve in a mere twelve years? Gilje posits two interrelated theses. First, "the key to comprehending these developments resides in understanding how the ideology of republicanism interacted with the imperial crisis and with the social and economic developments of the mid-eighteenth century." (p. 30) And second, "to understand the significance of the American Revolution, we need to look at how different the colonial world was from the world of the early republic. The key to comprehending this difference is the concept of equality." (pp. 3-4) The history of the early republic, indeed the history of America from that point on, is the history of how the idea of equality expanded to include more and more people and how it came to be the basic assumption holding the American political, social and economic world together." (p. 4)

Making of the American Republic seeks to provoke readers to think about the implications of the American Revolution in a new way, offering a larger interpretive theme other than the rise of democracy. This interpretive book places the events, the people, and the ideas of the period within the context of how the American Revolution gave birth to a dynamic capitalist economic system. The book argues that out of the democratic impulses of the era emerged an aggressively entrepreneurial American social order. Provides a synthesis, covering the fundamental details of history, while providing a larger statement of the meaning of the changes in the period. Includes detailed portraits of Franklin, Washington, and Jefferson, as well as descriptions of how ordinary people lived. For the study of the American Revolution and the Early Republic to 1815.

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