

As Lyons states, her work contributes to the scholarship on early American history in that it reveals the sexual norms and behaviors of a highly diverse colonial and early national city and adds to the body of work charting the transition from "colonial constructions and regulation of sexuality into the nineteenth-century gender system" in which conceptions of race and class played pivotal roles.

The text is divided chronically into three sections, the first of which explores the "sexual terrain of colonial and revolutionary Philadelphia," focusing on conceptions of patriarchal marriage, the phenomenon of self-divorce, the thriving pleasure culture, views on bastardy and prostitution, and depictions of sexuality contained in popular print sources of the day. Part II shifts to the post-revolutionary era where Lyons illustrates the ongoing and expansive liberal sexual culture of the city as well as concomitant areas of sexual contestation, primarily drawn along lines of race, class, and gender. Finally, the last section turns to the regulation of sexuality, especially concerning bastardy and prostitution, in the early nineteenth century, as seen through popular literature, the work of social agencies, and the law.

In charting this dramatic transformation, Lyons combines methodologies from intellectual, social, and cultural history. To support her assertions, she mines the best in the secondary literature, which is supported by primary sources culled from social welfare and benevolent societies, court and church records, tax lists, newspapers, popular literature, and period art. The resultant product includes both a convincing thesis and compelling stories that beautifully balance narrative, argument, and at times dry quantitative analysis. Although Lyons's geographical scope is somewhat narrow, confined to a unique urban environment, and her assessment is restricted to heterosexuality, her findings remain insightful and are of critical importance.

As a text for classroom instruction, I highly recommend this work for upper-division undergraduates and graduate students studying anything that addresses sex, gender, politics, race, class, and/or revolutions in colonial and early national America. Even more, I suggest using the book to restructure lectures on this period of U.S. history, particularly in regard to explaining the many ways that the American Revolution was (or was not) revolutionary.

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Paul E. Johnson. *The Early American Republic, 1789-1829.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. Pp. 208. Paper, \$24.95; ISBN 0-19-515423-1.

Paul Johnson, professor of history at the University of South Carolina and author of a number of highly acclaimed works including *A Shopkeeper's Millennium*, has offered a fresh survey of the American republic's early and arguably most critical developmental period. Chapters 1 and 2 focus on the heated political debates between the commercial-industrial Federalists and the democrat-agrarian Jeffersonians over the most beneficial program to steer the course of the young nation. Such disputes laid the

groundwork for American party politics. President George Washington's earlier recommendation to avoid political factions seemed more and more distant. The next few chapters deal with the economic, social, and religious consequences of what historians have commonly referred to as the Market Revolution. Two competing cultures emerged. The North grew as a powerful industrial sector, while the South, with the ascendancy of "king cotton" and the plantation empire, focused its energy on an export agricultural economy and thus never grew out of its dependent "colonial status." The final section evaluates the regional economic expansion and competing political cultures that reached a point of no return by the 1830s.

Johnson wants to dispel the myth that both democracy and free-market capitalism for the United States represented the natural "two-sided coin of a 'free society.'" Expanding democracy, changing cultural identity, and the power of commerce and industry did not congeal into a homogeneously stable nation. Early America was rocked and also shaped by contest, fissure, and paradox; consensus was perennially undermined. Far from being amicable bedfellows, democracy and laissez-fairism were hostile adversaries. With competing plans for the direction of America, northern and southern citizens continued in opposing directions, locked in a Cain-and-Abel struggle that would eventually end in bloodshed. Perhaps one lesson we can learn from the early republican era is the way in which American identity was and continues to be "an ongoing debate."

The Early American Republic is a work of synthesis and reads as an historical primer. It rests heavily on a number of important secondary works from leading early republican scholars such as Charles Sellers, Nathan Hatch, Sean Wilentz, Mary Ryan, and Karen Haltunnen, to name a tiny but influential few. The author deftly pulls together each secondary source to bring harmony to a rather disharmonious age. Although nothing is original in the work—in fact, portions were taken from *Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People*, a course book, now in its fourth edition (2005), that the author helped write—Johnson's objective is to present not a detailed analysis, incorporating the tools of new social, political, or cultural theory, but an overview of both history and historical literature. He admits that the book was written "for people who know little about the subject or who have forgotten what they once knew." For this reason, there is not much one can say by way of criticism, except for the hackneyed forest-for-the-trees comment that grand surveys often neglect crucial parts for the sake of the whole. But every once and a while, it is beneficial for seasoned scholars to renew our knowledge of a particular period. Students, from college freshmen to tenured professors, can often learn just as much from a textbook such as *The Early American Republic* as from an original monograph.