

**Investigating the American révolution within the
challenge of économique expansion : social and
political struggle**

**Enquête sur la révolution américaine face au défi
de l'expansion économique : lutte sociale et
politique**

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Abstract:

This study represents the American revolutionary experience during the seventeenth century (1759- 1776). The focus is on the causal pattern of this revolution in response to empirical colonial conditions and metropolitan experiences that put American colonies' determination on a rational footing in driving large and strategic economy in the first place. This behavior, primarily animated by the economic need, helped to stiffen resistance, rebellion, and independence. Hence, the argument of this research is formulated on the candid struggle for the articulation of political interests that definitely represent never-ending challenges to the past and present American nation. With a vast territory like the United States (9,834 million Km²), the perspective of economic efficiency that determines which level of government is best suited to manage governmental functions within the different political structures of centralization and decentralization. Republicanism, Federalism, and liberal representation, all created trust in constitutional Democracy.

Keywords: Republicanism, Federalism, representation, centralization, decentralization

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Résumé:

Cette étude représente l'expérience révolutionnaire américaine au XVIII^e siècle (1759-1776). L'accent est mis sur le modèle causal de cette révolution en réponse aux conditions coloniales empiriques et aux expériences métropolitaines qui placent la détermination des colonies américaines sur une base rationnelle dans la conduite d'une économie large et stratégique en premier lieu. Ce comportement, essentiellement animé par la nécessité économique, contribua à durcir la résistance, la rébellion et l'indépendance. Par conséquent, l'argument de cette recherche est formulé sur la lutte franche pour l'articulation des intérêts politiques qui représentent définitivement des défis sans fin pour la nation américaine passée et présente.

Avec un vaste territoire comme les États-Unis (9 834 millions de Km²), c'est la perspective de l'efficacité économique qui détermine quel niveau de gouvernement est le mieux adapté pour gérer les fonctions gouvernementales au sein des différentes structures politiques de centralisation et de décentralisation. Le républicanisme, le fédéralisme et la représentation libérale ont tous créé la confiance dans la démocratie constitutionnelle

Mots clés : Républicanisme, Fédéralisme, représentation, centralisation, décentralisation

Introduction:

History of America is a history full of great concepts and human laws necessary for life whenever and wherever. Revolution as a big, courageous, and responsible act was supplied with wounds and fractures, but produced at the end a nation somehow species specific that cherish Liberty, Equality, Happiness, Property and above all

Sovereignty against Tyranny. This article develops a number of segments and tries to buttress historical development of the American economic phenomenon. Undisputedly, History provides philosophical teachings by examples and answers major questions, related to the causes and consequences of the revolution per se, its nature and scope, the societal and cultural systems framed after independence.

The Founding Principles of American And Algerian Revolutions (Causes And Consequences):

1) The American Revolution: An Economic Revolution Par Excellence:

The political, economic, and social confrontation between Great Britain and the American colonies was generally defined through the ideological ideas present on the both sides of the Atlantic, basically the Lockean liberalism, and men's natural right of property as a condition of happiness (Locke 1690, pp.387, 420). Furthermore, according to Knollenberg, 1961, Thomas P.D.G, 1975, and Bailyn Bernard, 1968, the American revolutionary mind was nurtured and pushed by some causes, mainly economic, due to Britain's unfair actions regarding trade, social order and incrimination of taxes.

Especially evident in the rhetoric of the revolutionary period was the Stamp Act, along with Mercantilism policies that were asserted with the Navigation Acts, which prohibited the American colonies from trading with any power that was not British (Morgan. E.S, 1963). As a social order established in North America, the small class of

landowners and merchants were the ones who dominated all the economic life, while the majority of the population lived in poverty. (Peter. D.G. Thomas, 1976, p.53).

2) The Precursors of the Revolution: The Struggle for Economic Freedom:

As it is mentioned and well- documented in text books of history, the Stamp Act including the Quartering Act (Morgan. E.S, 1963). Controversies were the first phase of the American Revolution. The colonists raised the basic issue of Britain’s sovereignty over her settlement colonies by preventing the Stamp Act from coming into operation, and continuing most of the relevant activities, for refraining from doing so would have been a tacit admission of the Act’s validity. Thus, resistance continued through methods of retaliation devised to bring pressure on Britain for its repeal. (Peter. D.G. Thomas, 1986, p. 125).

Conscious of the enormity of the challenge they were making to Britain, the colonists were cautious and hesitant but above all convinced that there was no constitutional way to change parliamentary decisions that “seem deaf to their appeals” (Peter D.G. Thomas,1986, p. 125)

From this time, Motivated more by economic than political concerns, the American Revolution strived for economic freedom. In other words, economic growth would occur as a matter of course whenever and wherever governments protected life, liberty, and property (the essentials of economic freedom), specifically not burdening people with excessive warfare or taxation. (Edwin J. Perkins, 1979, pp.51, 53) & (Otis, in Schlesinger,1964, p.326).

3) The American post-revolutionary rhetoric: American Societal and Cultural Systems

a. Republicanism and Economy:

As a social fact, and a cultural system, American Republicanism existed and permeated American society through the decades following the outbreak of the revolution. The society had indeed become republican, but hardly in the meaning intended by its early leaders (Founding Fathers). During this time, this need had been shown through economic and demographic changes that took place at an incomparable speed and began to cause fundamental transformations within the new nation. With such a fast change, geographic expansion spread incredible mobility, and great numbers of Americans became involved in the making of economy and strived to gain all the advantages they could from their new found social and economic autonomy (Appleby. Joyce, 1984).

In addition, the emphasis placed upon equality in the revolutionary rhetoric stimulated all the questions possible about all forms of authority and distinctions of every sort. Hence, Republicanism, rather than constraining economic activities, afforded legitimacy, generating in this way an increased commitment to order, harmony, and virtue. Then, Republicanism appeared to be fostering a materialistic individualism, heedless of the common good or the benevolent leadership of natural elite. The post-revolutionary America, instead of becoming the new world embodiment of transcendent classical values, appeared increasingly materialistic, utilitarian and immoral: the republican rhetoric developed the principle that says that

“austerity gave way to prosperity”. (Robert. E. Shalhope, 1980, p.672)

b.
Federalism and Interests in the Codified national Constitution:

Federalism definition is the division of powers and functions between national government and state governments. According to the United States Senate: "The Constitution's first three words—we the People—affirm that the government of the United States exists to serve its citizens. The framers of the American constitution wisely separated and balanced governmental powers in order to safeguard the interests of majority rule and minority rights, of liberty and equality, and of the federal and state governments."

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And here comes the significant idea of Cooperative Federalism. More specifically, Cooperative Federalism supports the idea that the Tenth Amendment does not provide any additional powers to the states. It operates under the assumption that the federal and state governments are more or less "partners," with the federal creating laws for the states to carry out. It relies on the Supremacy (Clause 5) and the Necessary and Proper Clause as constitutional bases for its argument.

The federal government increased its powers under the presidency of Barack Obama (2009–2017), and to an extent, the powers of the state governments also grew. In 2011, scholar Gillian Metzger discussed that "national developments entail some preemption and new state burdens. But each also has brought with it significant regulatory and financial opportunities for the states." Metzger (Metzger, Gillian (January 1, 2011). points out that the states had increased regulatory responsibilities under Dodd-Frank, increased responsibilities in implementing and operating federal health care legislation under the Affordable Care Act, and received additional stimulus funding. ("[Federalism under Obama](#)". *Wm. & Mary L. Rev.* **53**: p.567). Obama took office following the 2007-2008 financial crash, which called for him to take action to stabilize the economy.

An important detail should be mentioned here, that is the fact that the United States as a country is more a *union* of states than a nation in the classical meaning of belonging. (Morris, R. B. (1987) & Marienstras. Elise (1988).

Also, **Interests** is a key word to be taken into consideration for in a multi-ethnic society, there were many different classes or orders of people all shifting in their interests, all requiring distinctive **representatives** of those interests at different governmental levels (David Hume, 1955, "Of interests,"p.47-59).

c.

ritics and Historical Studies:

In the sense of what had been said before, American historian Charles A. Beard, though intensely

criticized,(Blinkoff, 1936), concluded that the constitution “was essentially” an economic document based upon the concept that the fundamental private rights of property are anterior to government and morally beyond the reach of popular majorities. (Charles Austin Beard, (1952), chap.13, p.324)

Through this description, Beard characterizes politics as a bargaining process aimed at satisfying the interests of economic elites. Moreover, he scandalized patriotic-minded defenders of historical orthodoxy by arguing that the framers had pursued their task less under the spell of the high ideals of 1776 than with their eyes trained on the main chance, encouraging commerce and manufactures, protecting private property, establishing financial instruments essential for economic development. (Charles Austin Beard, 1952, chap.13, p.325)

Moreover, these were actually the issues that preoccupied those participating in the secret deliberations in Philadelphia - issues they themselves had a large personal stake; and the product of their labors preserved that stake. (Charles. Austin Beard, 1952, chap.13, p.325). Furthermore, in his metanarrative of "*The Rise of American Civilization*", Beard portrays U.S history as dialectic between the agrarian ideal of Thomas Jefferson and the capitalist vision of Alexander Hamilton. For Beard, the Civil War became the critical episode in the history of the Republic, resolving that competition and thus opening the way for the next phase in the nation's development. (Charles. Austin Beard, 1952, chap13, p.327)

At root, this "Second American Revolution" was not a dispute over slavery, Union, or state's rights, but a competition between two irreconcilable economic systems, each pushing to expand and facing inevitable decline if denied the opportunity to do so. Although in destroying slavery, the North's victory brought some modest benefit to those freed, yet, the real winners were greedy capitalist of industry in the North, and to a lesser extent, the South, the result was the gilded Age, a convulsion of creativity, plunder, and excess that gave rise to the powerful nation we see today.

d.

he cultural Switch from British to American Cultural Identity: Economic Characteristics:

Despite independence, like any new independent country, America was forced to function on the periphery of the old country, difficult until then to abandon as the basic cultural environment, logically explained in anthropological terms (Green. J. P. 1988). Yet, the United States of America was not and could not be an extension of England or a simple microcosm of English society because of the major formative characteristics of this distinct land, associated with favorable conditions existent there. Top of these: the acquisition of land, abundant food, the average standard of living, and less poverty (Wood Gordon, 1969). Furthermore, the fact that, America was, from the beginning, born new and different, does not describe it in terms of replicative elements of European culture, for the simple reason that Americans were relatively isolated from the great changes taking place in contemporary Britain. This new context

formed a new mix of ingredients summarized in values like Liberalism, individualism, ambition, localism,, practicality, orientation, and economic achievement, especially bolstered by decentralization, all of which as distinctive components of an original American economy and culture produced by continuity rather than imitation. (Michal. J. Rozbicki. 1980 chap 9, pp.80, 81).

Conclusion:

Defining and locating the Economic American Revolutionary road, represented a major conceptual and practical challenge to the present study which provided empirical evidence on the usefulness of the political order fought for. Sovereignty coupled with hostility to centralized authority:

- reated **Federalism,**
- tressed **Rpublicanism,**
- eparation of Powers
- rganized and supported **Representation**
- **ule of Law**

The effects of all these provide a strong **Trust** in the American governmental laws and justice that opens the doors for industrial investment.

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