Comprehensive Exam Reading List

Early American History: Capitalism, Democracy, and the State

Examiner: Professor Kyle G. Volk

University of Montana, Fall 2021

**Overview/Textbooks**

Lepore, Jill. *These Truths: A History of the United States.* New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 2018.

Volk, Kyle and Patrick O’Connor, eds. *Empire, Capitalism, and Democracy: The Early American Experience*. San Diego, CA: Cognella Press, 2020.

Kloppenberg, James T. “From Hartz to Tocqueville: Shifting the Focus from Liberalism to Democracy in America,” in *The Democratic Experiment: New Directions in American Political History*, eds., Novak, et.al., 350-380. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Beckert, Sven, et. al. “Interchange: The History of Capitalism,” *Journal of American History*

101, no. 2 (Sept. 2014): 503-536.

Kocka, Jürgen. *Capitalism: A Short History.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2016.

Beckert, Sven and Christine Desan, eds., *American Capitalism: New Histories*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2018.

Sparrow, James T. et. al., eds., *Boundaries of the State*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press 2015.

Johnson, Walter. *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2020.

Levy, Jonathan. *Ages of American Capitalism: A History of the United States*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House, 2021.

**Early American Foundations**

Bolton, Herbert E. “The Epic of Greater America,” *American Historical Review* 38, no. 3 (April 1933): 448-474.

Greene, Jack. *Pursuits of Happiness: The Social Development of Early Modern British Colonies and the Formation of American Culture.* Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1988.

Taylor, Alan. *American Colonies: The Settling of North America.* New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2001.

Wulf, Karin. “Vast Early America: Three Simple Words for a Complex Reality,” *Humanities* 40, no. 1 (Winter 2019): 26-47.

**Contact, Conflict, and Environment**

Lockridge, Kenneth A. *A New England Town: The First Hundred Years: Dedham, Massachusetts, 1636-1736*, Expanded Edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 1985.

Crosby, Alfred W. *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Co., 1972.

Crosby, Alfred W. “Virgin Soil Epidemics as a Factor in the Aboriginal Depopulation in America,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 33, no. 2 (April 1974): 289-299.

Jones, David S. “Virgin Soils Revisited,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 60, no. 4 (Oct. 2003): 703-742.

Eustace, Nicole. “When Fish Walk on Land: Social History in a Postmodern World,” *Journal of Social History* 37, no.1 (2003): 77-91.

Cronon, William. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*. New York, NY: Hill and Wang, 1983.

Anderson, Virginia DeJohn. “King Philip’s Herds: Indians, Colonists, and the Problem of Livestock in Early New England,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 51, no. 4 (Oct. 1994): 601-624.

Vickers, Daniel. *Farmers and Fisherman: Two Centuries of Work in Essex County, Massachusetts, 1630-1850*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1994.

Lepore, Jill. *The Name of War: King Philip’s War and the Origins of American Identity*. New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1999.

Richter, Daniel K. *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.

**Slavery in Early America**

Morgan, Edmund S. *American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co., 1975.

Fields, Barbara, “Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States in America,” *New Left Review* 181 (May/June 1990).

Berlin, Ira. *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Pagan, John Ruston. *Anne Orthwood’s Bastard: Sex and Law in Early Virginia*. New York, NY: Oxford University press, 2003.

Morgan, Jennifer L. *Laboring Women Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Warren, Wendy Anne. “‘The Cause of Her Grief’: The Rape of a Slave in Early New England,” *Journal of American History* 93, no. 4 (Mar. 2007): 1031-1049.

Sparks, Randy. *The Two Princes of Calabar: An Eighteenth-Century Odyssey*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008.

Brown, Vincent. *The Reaper’s Garden: Death and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010.

Tomlins, Christopher. *Freedom Bound: Law, Labor, and Civic Identity in Colonizing English America: 1580-1865.* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Reséndez, Andrés. *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America.* Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016.

Brewer, Holly. “Slavery, Sovereignty, and ‘Inheritable Blood’: Reconsidering John Locke and the Origins of American Slavery,” *American Historical Review* 122, no. 4 (October 2017): 1038-1078.

**Empires, Ideas, & Enlightenments in the Atlantic World**

Crosby, Alfred W. *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900.* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1986.

Linebaugh, Peter and Marcus Rediker. *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners,*

*and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic.* Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2000.

Elliot, J.H. *Empires of the Atlantic World: Britain and Spain in America, 1492-1830*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2006.

Morgan, Philip D. and Jack P. Greene, *Atlantic History: A Critical Appraisal*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Games, Alison. *The Web of Empire: English Cosmopolitans in an Age of Expansion, 1560-1660*. New York, NN: Oxford University Press 2008.

Hanna, Mark G. *Pirate Nests and the Rise of the British Empire, 1570-1740.* Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Breen, T.H. “An Empire of Goods: The Anglicization of Colonial America, 1690-1776,” *Journal*

*of British Studies* 25, no. 4 (Oct. 1986): 467-499.

Mapp, Paul W. *The Elusive West and the Contest for Empire, 1713-1763*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

Rodgers, Daniel T. *As A City on a Hill: The Story of America’s Most Famous Lay Sermon.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2018.

May, Henry F. *The Enlightenment in America*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1976.

Winterer, Caroline. *American Enlightenments: Pursuing Happiness in the Age of Reason.* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2016.

**Revolutionary America & Early Republic**

**Revolutions**

Taylor, Alan. *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 2018.

Wood, Gordon. *The Radicalism of the American Revolution.* New York, NY: Vintage Press, 1991.

Holton, Holton. *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American*

*Revolution in Virginia*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1999.

Breen, T.H. *The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American*

*Independence.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Nash, Gary B. *The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the*

*Struggle to Create America.* New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2006.

Griffin, Griffin. *American Leviathan: Empire, Nation, and Revolutionary Frontier.* New York, NY:Hill and Wang, 2008.

Jasanoff, Maya. *Liberty’s Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World.* New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2011.

Canale, Joshua. “‘When a State Abounds in Rascals’: New York’s Revolutionary Era

Committees for Public Safety, 1775-1783,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 39, no. 2 (Summer 2019): 203-238.

Yokota, Kariann Akemi. *Unbecoming British: How Revolutionary America Became a*

*Postcolonial Nation.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2011.

DuVal, Kathleen. *Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution.* New York, NY: Random House, 2015.

**Constitution, State, & the Birth of American Empire**

Morgan, Edmund S. *Inventing the People: The Popular Sovereignty in England and America.* New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 1988.

Rakove, Jack. *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas and the Making of the Constitution.* New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996.

Holton, Woody. *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution.* New York, NY:Hill and Wang, 2007.

Novak, William J. “The Myth of the Weak American State,” *American Historical Review* 113, no. 3 (June 2008): 752-772.

Williams, William Appleman. “Empire as a Way of Life,” *Radical History Review* 50 (1991): 71-102.

Sexton, Jay. *The Monroe Doctrine: Empire and Nation in Nineteenth-Century America*. New York, NY: Hill & Wang, 2011.

Balogh, Brian. *A Government Out of Sight: The Mystery of National Authority in Nineteenth-*

*Century America.* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Rao, Gautham. *National Duties: Custom Houses and the Making of the American State*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2016.

Saler, Bethel. *The Settlers’ Empire: Colonialism and State Formation in America’s Old*

*Northwest.* Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014.

Guyatt, Nicholas. “‘The Outskirts of our Happiness’: Race and the Lure of Colonization in the

Early Republic,” *Journal of American History* 95, no. 4 (March 2009): 986-1011.

Saunt, Claudio. *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to*

*Indian Territory*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 2020.

Hammond, John Craig. “Slavery, Sovereignty, and Empires: North American Borderlands and

the American Civil War, 1660-1860,” *Journal of the Civil War Era* 4, no. 2 (June 2014): 264-98.

Karp, Matthew. *The Vast Southern Empire: Slaveholders at the Helm of American Foreign Policy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2016.

Conroy-Krutz, Emily. “The Early Republic in a World of Empire, 1787-1848,” in *A Companion to US Foreign Affairs: Colonial Era to the Present*, 26-44. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2020.

Taylor, Alan. *American Republics: A Continental History, 1789-1850*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2021.

**Law & Capitalism in Nineteenth-Century America**

Hurst, J. Willard. *Law and the Conditions of Freedom in the Nineteenth-Century United States*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1956.

Horwitz, Morton. *The Transformation of American Law, 1780-1860*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1977.

Hartog, Hendrik. “Pigs and Positivism,” *Wisconsin Law Review* 1985, no. 4 (July/August 1985): 899-935.

Novak, William J. *The People’s Welfare: Law & Regulation in Nineteenth-Century America*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.

Volk, Kyle G. “The Consequential State: Public Law and the Release of Energy in Nineteenth-

Century America,” *American Journal of Legal History* 57, no. 2 (June 2017), 232-237.

**Market Revolutions & Social Change**

Sellers, Charles. *The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Feller, Daniel. “The Market Revolution Ate My Homework,” *Reviews in American History* 25, no. 3 (1997): 408-415.

Howe, Daniel Walker. *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*

New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Rockman, Seth. *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore*. Baltimore, MD, John Hopkins University Press, 2009.

Zakim, Michael and Gary J. Kornblith. *Capitalism Takes Command: The Social Transformation*

*of Nineteenth-Century America*. Chicago, IL:University of Chicago Press, 2012.

**Antebellum Slavery & Capitalism**

Genovese, Eugene D. *Roll Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made.* New York, NY,Vintage Books, 1974.

Johnson, Walter. *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999.

Walter Johnson, “A Nettlesome Classic Turns Twenty-Five,” 1, no. 4 (July 2001) https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/wjohnson/files/re-readings\_roll\_jordan\_roll.pdf

Johnson, Walter. “On Agency,” *Journal of Social History* 37, no. 1 (Autumn 2003): 113-124.

Beckert, Sven. *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.

Baptist, Edward. *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism.* New York, NY: Basic Books, 2014.

Beckert, Sven and Seth Rockman, *Slavery’s Capitalism: A New History of American Economic*

*Development*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016.

**The “Golden Age of American Democracy”**

Wilentz, Sean. *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Keyssar, Alexander. *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*, Revised Edition. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2009.

Taylor, Alan. “‘The Art of Hook & Snivey’: Political Culture in Upstate New York during the

1790s,” *Journal of American History* 79, no. 4 (Mar. 1993): 1371-1396.

Huston, Reeve. “Rethinking the Origins of Partisan Democracy in the United States” in *Practicing Democracy: Popular Politics in the United States from the Constitution to the Civil War*. Daniel Peart and Adam I.P. Smith, eds. 46-71(Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2015,

Smith, Kimberly K. *The Dominion of Voice: Riot, Reason, and Romance in Antebellum Politics*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1999.

Newman, Richard. *The Transformation of American Abolitionism: Fighting Slavery in the Early*

*Republic.* Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2002.

Huston, Reeve. “What We Talk About When We Talk About Democracy” *Commonplace* (2008)

http://commonplace.online/article/talk-talk-democracy/

Neem, Johann. *Creating a Nation of Joiners: Democracy and Civil Society in Early National*

*Massachusetts.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008.

Volk, Kyle G. *Moral Minorities and the Making of American Democracy.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Ron, Ariel. “Summoning the State: Northern Farmers and the Transformation of American

Politics in the Mid-Nineteenth Century,” *Journal of American History* 103, no. 2 (Sept. 2016): 347-374.

**Civil War & The Origins of Modern America**

Hahn, Steven. *A Nation Without Borders: The United States and Its World in an Age of Civil*

*Wars, 1830-1910*. New York, NY: Penguin Random House, 2016.

**Secession and Civil War**

Sinha, Manisha. “Revolution or Counterrevolution?: The Political Ideology of Secession in

Antebellum South Carolina,” *Civil War History* 46, no. 3 (Sept. 2000): 205-226.

Dew, Charles B. *Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession and the Causes of the Civil War*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2001.

Ayers, Edward L. *In the Presence of Mine Enemies: The Civil War in the Heart of America,*

*1859-1864.* New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004.

Faust, Drew Gilpin. *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*. New York, NY: Vintage Books, 2008.

Hahn, Steven. “Did We Miss the Greatest Slave Rebellion in Modern History?” in *The Political*

*Worlds of Slavery and Freedom, 55-114.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2009.

McCurry, Stephanie. *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South.*

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010.

Varon, Elizabeth R. *Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War. New York, NY:* Oxford University Press, 2019.

**Reconstructions**

Foner, Eric. *Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution: 1863-1877*. New York, NY: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2014.

White, Richard. *The Republic For Which It Stands: The United States During Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865-1896*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Foner, Eric. “The Meaning of Freedom in the Age of Emancipation,” *Journal of American*

*History* 81, no. 2 (Sept. 1994): 435-60.

Hahn,Steven. *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from*

*Slavery to the Great Migration*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005.

Downs, Gregory P. and Kate Masur, eds., *The World the Civil War Made*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

Downs, Gregory P. *After Appomattox: Military Occupation and the Ends of War.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015.

Stanley, Amy Dru. *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage, and the Market in the*

*Age of Slave Emancipation*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

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Beckert, Sven. "American Danger: United States Empire, Eurafrica, and the Territorialization of Industrial Capitalism, 1870–1950." *The American Historical Review* 122, no. 4 (2017): 1137-170.

Levy, Jonathan. *Freaks of Fortune: The Emerging World of Capitalism and Risk in America.* Cambridge, MA:Harvard University Press, 2012.

Teitelman, Emma. "The Properties of Capitalism: Industrial Enclosures in the South and the West after the American Civil War." *The Journal of American History* 106, no. 4 (2020): 879-900.

Maggor, Noam. *Brahmin Capitalism: Frontiers of Wealth and Populism in America’s First*

*Gilded Age*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017.

West, Elliot. “Reconstructing Race,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 34, no. 1 (Feb. 2003): 6-26.

Link, Stefan and Noam Maggor. “The United States as a Developing Nation: Revisiting the

Peculiarities of American History,” *Past and Present* 246, no. 1 (Feb. 2020): 269-306.