

Bernard Bailyn

Quotes

Liberty, Revolution, People, Political, England, Years, Facts, Literature, Social, Ideas, Vision, Acting, Inheritance, Simplicity, Army, Use, Law, Country, Might,

Long

Whatever deficiencies the leaders of the American Revolution may have had, reticence, fortunately, was not one of them.

~Bernard Bailyn

What gave transcendent importance to the aggressiveness of power was the fact that its natural prey, its necessary victim, was liberty, or law, or right.

~Bernard Bailyn

Defiance to constituted authority leaped like a spark from one flammable area to another, growing in heat as it went.

~Bernard Bailyn

The classics of the ancient world are everywhere in the literature of the Revolution, but they are everywhere illustrative, not determinative, of thought

~Bernard Bailyn

The fact that the ministerial conspiracy against liberty had risen from corruption was of the utmost importance to the colonists.

~Bernard Bailyn

Never had Parliament or the crown, or both together, operated in actuality as theory indicated sovereign powers should.

~Bernard Bailyn

At first the relevance of chattel slavery to libertarian ideals was noted only in individual passages of isolated pamphlets.

~Bernard Bailyn

In England the practice of "virtual" representation provided reasonably well for the actual representation of the major interests of the society, and it raised no widespread objection.

~Bernard Bailyn

That by 1774 the final crisis of the constitution, brought on by political and social corruption, had been reached was, to most informed colonists, evident.

~Bernard Bailyn

In no obvious sense was the American Revolution undertaken as a social revolution.

~Bernard Bailyn

The categories within which the colonists thought about the social foundations of politics were inheritances from classical antiquity, reshaped by seventeenth century English thought.

~Bernard Bailyn

The full bibliography of pamphlets relating to the Anglo-American struggle published in the colonies through the year 1776 contains not a dozen or so items but over four hundred.

~Bernard Bailyn

Instantly available without continuous presence is probably the best role a mother can play.

~Bernard Bailyn

The wielders of power did not speak for it, nor did they naturally serve it. Their interest was to use and develop power, no less natural and necessary than liberty but more dangerous.

~Bernard Bailyn

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