

Settlers, Liberty, and Empire

Settlers, Liberty, and Empire traces the emergence of a revolutionary conception of political authority on the far shores of the eighteenth-century Atlantic world, based on the natural right of English subjects to leave the realm, claim indigenous territory, and establish new governments by consent, linked to the center in a loose confederation of equal states. This radical set of ideas culminated in revolution and republicanism. But Craig Yirush eschews the traditional scholarly focus on the late eighteenth century. Instead, he examines how the political ideas of settler elites in British North America emerged out of an imperial world characterized by constitutional uncertainty, geopolitical rivalry, and the ongoing presence of powerful Native American peoples. By taking seriously the often-forgotten years between the Glorious Revolution in America and the American Revolution against Britain, Yirush provides a long-term explanation of the distinctive ideas of the American Revolution.

Craig Yirush is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of California at Los Angeles. He is the author of several articles and book chapters focusing on early American political and legal ideas. He previously served as a Library Associates Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library and a Fellow at Harvard University's Charles Warren Center for American History.

Settlers, Liberty, and Empire

The Roots of Early American Political Theory, 1675–1775

CRAIG YIRUSH

University of California at Los Angeles



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