

FRIENDS OF FREEDOM

From the Sons of Liberty to British reformers, Irish patriots, French Jacobins, Haitian revolutionaries and American Democrats, the greatest social movements of the Age of Atlantic Revolutions grew as part of a common, interrelated pattern. In this new transnational history, Micah Alpaugh demonstrates the connections between the most prominent causes of the era, as they drew upon each other's models to seek unprecedented changes in government. As Friends of Freedom, activists shared ideas and strategies internationally, creating a chain of broad-based campaigns that mobilized the American Revolution, British Parliamentary Reform, Irish nationalism, movements for religious freedom, abolitionism, the French Revolution, the Haitian Revolution, and American party politics. Rather than a series of distinct national histories, Alpaugh shows how these movements jointly responded to the Atlantic trends of their era to create a new way to alter or overthrow governments: mobilizing massive social movements.

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The Rise of Social Movements in the Age of Atlantic
Revolutions

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-009-01255-3 — Friends of Freedom
 Micah Alpaugh
 Frontmatter
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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
 a department of the University of Cambridge.

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 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009012553

DOI: 10.1017/9781009026116

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First published 2022

First paperback edition 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Names: Alpaugh, Micah, author.

Title: Friends of freedom : the rise of social movements in the age of Atlantic revolutions / Micah
 Alpaugh, University of Central Missouri.

Other titles: Rise of social movements in the age of Atlantic revolutions

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Includes
 bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021027004 (print) | LCCN 2021027005 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316515617 (hardback) |
 ISBN 9781009012553 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009026116 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: United States – History – Revolution, 1775–1783 – Influence. | United States – History –
 Revolution, 1775–1783 – Social aspects. | France – History – Revolution, 1789–1799 – Influence. |
 Jacobins – History. | Political clubs – History. | Social movements – History. | Social movements –
 International cooperation. | Liberty – History – 18th century. | Atlantic Ocean Region – Politics and
 government – History. | Europe – Politics and government – 1789–1900. | BISAC: HISTORY / General
 Classification: LCC E209 .A45 2022 (print) | LCC E209 (ebook) | DDC 303.48/409–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021027004>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021027005>

ISBN 978-1-316-51561-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-01255-3 Paperback

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 or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
 publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
 remain, accurate or appropriate.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project began on a sunny spring afternoon in 2010 as light shone into the otherwise inhospitable Bibliothèque nationale de France's Salle L. Casting around for future project ideas in the weeks after finishing a dissertation about Parisian revolutionary protest, I came across a pamphlet I had never heard of: *The Correspondence of the London Revolution Society in London, with the National Assembly, with Various Societies of the Friends of Liberty in France and England* (1792). In it, I found an untold history of the origins of France's Jacobin Club, founded in emulation of Anglo-American models instead of by abstract Gallic design, as well as ongoing rich exchanges between French revolutionaries and British radicals. Immediately, I set aside other prospective projects and pursued the thread – ultimately finding that the British origins of the French Jacobins were only one in a long series of interconnected social movements that mobilized the Revolutionary Era.

Like all books, this one was shaped by its historical and historiographical moment, as old certainties about national histories faced new challenges. That winter, Ken Pomeranz had generously welcomed me to his World History Seminar at the University of California, Irvine, stimulating my interest in big history. During my graduate years there, professors like Daniel Schroeder, Vinayak Chaturvedi, Heidi Tinsman, Michelle Molina, and Jim Given pushed me to look beyond nation-states and find wider connections. Already, Atlantic history was becoming a growing field – unlike for prior generations of scholars, my first graduate seminar with Tim Tackett was on French colonial history, rather than that of the *métropole* by itself. My career has involved teaching more world history than European history courses, while even my upper-division European classes have become deeply infused by global approaches.

Ultimately spanning the United States, Britain, Ireland, France, and Haiti, this project has provided great opportunities to get to know new places and people. The University of Pennsylvania Humanities Forum (now Wolf Humanities Center) generously granted me a 2011–12 Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue research, which enabled wonderful opportunities to learn about the Eastern Seaboard, its archives, and scholars. Subsequent summers featured months-long research tours, ultimately allowing me to visit nearly a hundred libraries and archives. Special thanks are due to the staffs of the places where I spent lengthy

stints: the Bibliothèque nationale de France, British Library, Library of Congress (especially its exceptionally helpful manuscripts staff), and the Southern California oasis of the Huntington Library. Closer to home, this project could not have been completed without the rich collections of the University of Kansas, University of Missouri-Kansas City (particularly its digital subscriptions), and those the Interlibrary Loan desk of the University of Central Missouri could procure.

Working across many national histories also allowed me to present and collaborate with new groups of scholars. My thanks to audiences at meetings of the North American, Midwest, and Pacific Coast branches of the Conference on British Studies, Britain and the World, American Conference for Irish Studies, Society for French Historical Studies, Western Society for French History, Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, the Conference on Latin American History, and the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. Jeff Horn generously invited me to present the Costello Distinguished Lecture at Manhattan College, Michael Goode and John Smolenski at their Specter of Peace in the History of Violence conference on colonial American History, Mathieu Ferradou at the Sorbonne's *L'Etranger en Révolution(s)*, my colleagues at the Mount Allison University Faculty Research Workshop and University of Central Missouri's Honors College, and Jeff Pasley and Ken Owen at the Missouri Regional Seminar on Early American History. A special thanks to Jeff for hosting many excellent scholarly gatherings through the University of Missouri's Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy and Ken for urging me to extend my project into the rise of the Democratic Party.

Many scholars and friends helped shape this book through their examples, suggestions, and encouragement. Suzanne Desan and Nathan Perl-Rosenthal read early drafts of my first Jacobin chapter in 2011 and helped convince me that I had something original to say. Penn's weekly seminar on "Adaptations," led by Warren Breckman and Jim English, wound up shaping my book's theoretical framing more than I could have predicted. Among many others, conversations with Matt Adkins, Bryan Banks, Katlyn Carter, Ian Collier, Manuel Covo, Matthew Rainbow Hale, Joe Krulder, Michelle Orihel, Julia Osman, Janet Polasky, Jeremy Popkin, Ben Park, Meghan Roberts, Noah Shusterman, Julian Swann, Catherine Tourangeau, Liana Vardi, Sophie Wahnich, and Philipp Zeische especially influenced my thinking. Tim Murtagh helped guide my Irish research at several Dublin pubs. Bill Kondrath and Chris Robb generously hosted me on multiple trips to Massachusetts. Tim Tackett and Helen Chenut remain valued mentors and friends. My parents Lee and Kathleen, sister Terra, and brother-in-law Peter Ianonne have been unfailingly supportive. Honors undergraduates and graduate students in my Atlantic World seminars at the University of Central Missouri read several chapters, and Kathleen Moore-Alpaugh, Heather

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Alpaugh, and Erika Vause read the full manuscript. Many thanks to two anonymous peer readers who pushed me to extend my contextualization and conclusions further. Editor Liz Friend-Smith graciously helped guide the manuscript to completion, while Deepu Raghuthaman and Priyanka Durai kindly copy-edited it. My fellow historians at the University of Central Missouri have stayed supportive throughout this long project, and my thanks to Eric Tenbus, Jon Taylor, Josh Nygren, Stephanie Beers, and Wendy Geiger for arranging teaching schedules allowing me to usually keep writing in the mornings.

Angus McLoone (1978–2020) helped motivate me to take my first history class as an undergraduate, David Torrance (1951–2020) offered me my first teaching position, and this book bears the influence of Rose (1916–2002), Nick (1917–1999), and Diane Moore (1945–2010), Irish-American patriots.

Heather and Will came into my life just after the last major research trip for this project, but it would now be impossible to imagine my life without their presence and love. This book is dedicated to them.