The Loyalist Problem in Revolutionary New England

The Loyalist Problem in Revolutionary New England begins with a snapshot of the region on the eve of the Boston Tea Party. The colonists’ republican tradition helped them spark the Revolution, but their special history also threatened the unity of the United States throughout the Revolutionary War. For loyalists tried to discredit New Englanders as a naturally rebellious people. Yet Ingersoll shows that the rebels never sought to drive the dissenters out of the new nation, and accorded them a remarkable degree of liberal toleration, with the great majority of loyalists ultimately becoming citizens of the new states.

Thomas N. Ingersoll is Associate Professor at Ohio State University. His first book was Mammon and Manon in Early New Orleans: The First Slave Society in the Deep South, 1718–1819 (1999). In To Intermix with Our White Brothers: Indian Mixed Bloods in the United States from Earliest Times to the Indian Removals (2005), he explores the social and political problems created by racial mixture. His guiding interest is how people in early America defined legitimate membership in society, who had rights and who did not.
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For GBN
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A Note on Sources

This essay rests on a broad array of primary and secondary sources, and has more breadth than depth on certain subjects. I have canvassed the entire spectrum of primary sources, including all major political sources (state and local records), newspapers, political sermons, private correspondence, including many older neglected collections. My method in casting such a wide net was to capture as truly as possible the domestic conflict as it unfolded from day to day in the wrestling between rebel and loyalist.
Chronology of the English Revolution in the Seventeenth Century

1625–49  Reign of Charles I
1628  Petition of Right by the House of Commons, agreed to by Charles I
1629  Repudiation of the Petition of Right by Charles I; his dissolution of Parliament; begins his eleven years of personal rule
1640  April: Short Parliament
1640–9  November: Long Parliament
1649  Execution of Charles I on January 30; members of the House of Commons then abolish the crown and the House of Lords
1649–53  Republic [“Commonwealth”]: rule by a purged “Rump” Parliament; then by the “Barebones” Parliament (July–December, 1653)
1653–8  Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell (with First [1654–5] and Second [1656–8] Parliaments)
1658–9  Protectorate of Richard Cromwell (with one Parliament, January–April, 1659)
1659–60  Republic
1659–60  May–October, 1659: restored Rump; October–December, 1659: army rule; December 1659–February 1660: re-restored Rump;

This chronology is adapted from Christopher Hill, *The Century of Revolution, 1603–1714* (New York, 1961), 315–16
Chronology

February–March 1660: enlarged Rump with Secluded Members; April–May: Convention Parliament recalls Charles II; House of Lords restored

1660–85 Reign of Charles II

1679–81 Exclusion Crisis, when a formative party of “Whigs,” opposed by the party of “Tories,” attempts and fails to exclude James, Duke of York from the succession after he converted to Roman Catholicism

1685–8 Reign of James II (with one Parliament, 1685–7)

Faced with rebellion, he fled into exile in France late in 1688

1688–9 Glorious Revolution; Interregnum

Convention Parliament, January–February 1689, declares William III and Mary II monarchs upon their agreement to the Bill of Rights, an enlarged version of the Petition of Right of 1628, which Parliament subsequently passes as a statute on December 16, 1689, along with several other statutes comprising the English constitution
Abbreviations


CSA  Connecticut State Archives


Hansard  [Thomas C. Hansard], _The Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803_ (London, 1813)


NHSA  New Hampshire State Archives, Concord, N.H.

PRO AO  The National Archives, Public Records Office, Kew Gardens, Audit Office

PRO CO  Public Records Office, Kew Gardens, Colonial Office

RG  Connecticut State Library, Record Group

RIHS  Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R.I.,