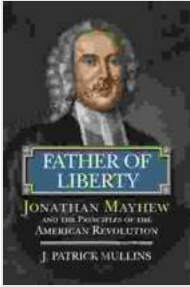


Jonathan Mayhew and the Principles of the American Revolution



Father of Liberty: Jonathan Mayhew and the Principles of the American Revolution (American Political Thought) by Hans van Swaay

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 1705 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 261 pages



Jonathan Mayhew (1720-1766) was a prominent American clergyman and political writer who played a significant role in shaping the intellectual and political landscape of Colonial America. As a leading advocate for religious freedom, natural rights, and the right to self-government, Mayhew's ideas resonated deeply with the colonists and helped lay the foundation for the American Revolution.

Early Life and Education

Mayhew was born in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in 1720. His father, Thomas Mayhew, was an influential missionary who preached to the Native American population. Mayhew's early exposure to the Wampanoag culture and the principles of Christianity instilled in him a deep appreciation for religious tolerance and social justice.

After graduating from Harvard College in 1744, Mayhew became pastor of the West Church in Boston, one of the leading Puritan congregations in the colony. He quickly gained a reputation as an eloquent preacher and a fearless advocate for progressive ideas.

Religious and Political Beliefs

Mayhew was a staunch advocate for religious liberty and the separation of church and state. He believed that individuals should be free to practice their religion without government interference. In his influential sermon "Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission and Non-Resistance to the Higher Powers" (1750), Mayhew argued that citizens had a duty to resist unjust authority and that the government should only rule with the consent of the governed.

Mayhew's political views were deeply influenced by the principles of natural rights and social contract theory. He believed that all individuals are endowed with certain inalienable rights, including the right to life, liberty, and property. He also argued that governments are created by the consent of the people and should be based on the rule of law.

Opposition to British Policies

As tensions between Britain and the American colonies escalated, Mayhew emerged as a vocal critic of the British government's policies. He denounced the Stamp Act of 1765 as an unconstitutional infringement on the rights of the colonists. In his pamphlet "Observations on the Charter and Conduct of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts" (1763), Mayhew condemned the British government's interference in colonial religious affairs.

Influence on the Revolution

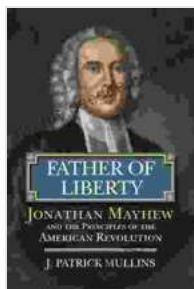
Mayhew's ideas had a profound impact on the growing movement for independence in the American colonies. His sermons and writings provided intellectual and moral support to the revolutionaries, who drew inspiration from his advocacy for liberty and self-government. Mayhew's emphasis on natural rights, religious freedom, and the right to self-determination laid the

groundwork for the principles that would be enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Death and Legacy

Jonathan Mayhew died prematurely in 1766 at the age of 46. His death was a significant loss to the cause of American independence, but his ideas continued to inspire the revolutionaries for years to come. Mayhew's legacy as a pioneer of religious freedom, civil liberties, and democratic principles remains a testament to his profound influence on the American Revolution and the development of American political thought.

Jonathan Mayhew was a towering figure in Colonial America, leaving an indelible mark on the principles that shaped the American Revolution. His advocacy for religious liberty, natural rights, and self-government resonated deeply with the colonists and provided intellectual and moral support to the movement for independence. Mayhew's legacy as a pioneer of American political thought continues to inspire and shape the nation's ideals to this day.



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