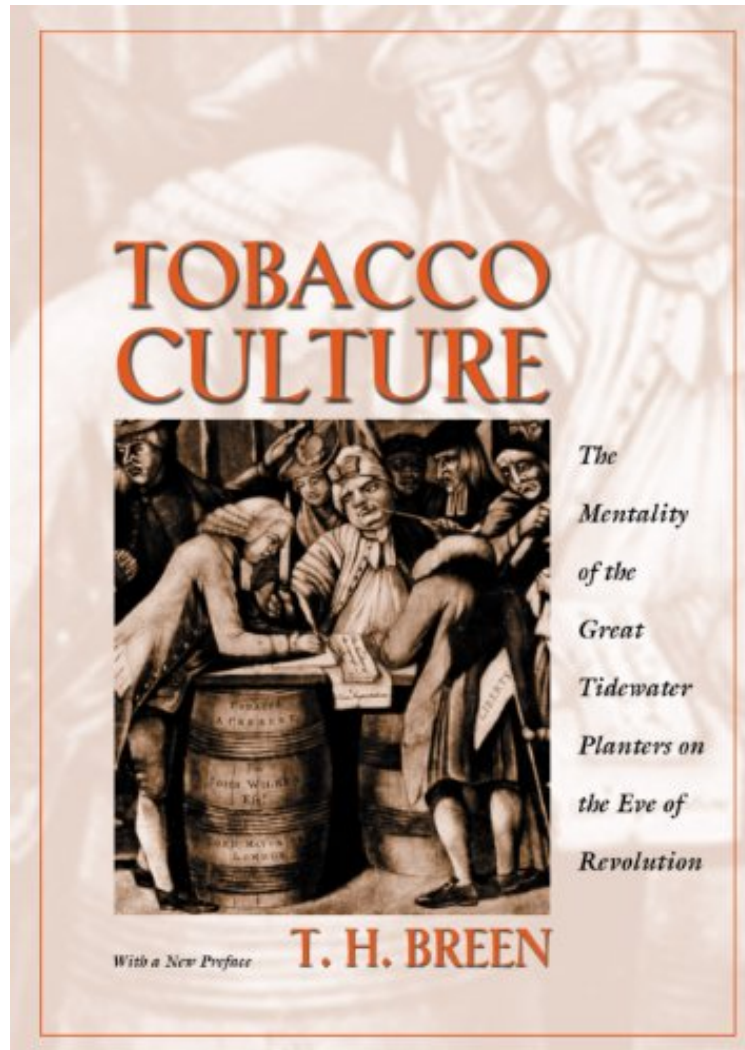


(Download pdf) Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution

Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution

Von T. H. Breen

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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2009-12-13 Erscheinungsdatum: 2009-12-13 File Name: B005IYEP54 | File size: 20.Mb

Von T. H. Breen : Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good cultural study of pre-revolutionary Chesapeake elite. Von Glenn M. Harden This work explores the relationship between tobacco, debt, and revolution in the pre-revolutionary Chesapeake. T.H. Breen's path to revolution flows from (1) trouble in the tobacco economy to (2) increasing planter debt to (3) a fear over lost autonomy to (4) a collective

frustration to (5) a commitment to cultural renewal. The collective frustration and commitment to renewal both coincided with the resistance to Britain over constitutional issues. While not advocating any monocausal explanation, Breen does argue that the planter's fear over lost autonomy was necessary for the revolution. My main criticism is that he assumes that the elites set the pattern for behavior in the Chesapeake and therefore does not adequately explain why the Chesapeake's non-elites supported the revolution. This question regarding Virginia's non-elites seems particularly important given Virginia's relative internal unity during the revolutionary period. Overall, Breen's exploration of the cultural world of the Chesapeake elite does enhance our understanding of the path to revolution. I recommend this work to any student of revolutionary America.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A scholarly look at the American Revolution Von Jeffrey Leach I'm glad to see this was reprinted, as I found it to be a quite interesting look at reasons why American elites supported a war that most likely would have cost them everything they owned. The answer: they didn't own anything by the end of the 18th century. The reason why is that they had bought everything on credit against their tobacco crop. When the economy nosedived, the British merchants who held the debts wanted their due. The ensuing resentment by the planters led to support for the American revolutionary movement. Breen used exhaustive research in putting this book together, and even threw in some neat information on the Founding Fathers. Did you know Washington failed as a tobacco farmer? That he continually loaned money to a deadbeat that never repaid him? It's in this book. Another aspect of this book I found interesting was the step by step process of growing tobacco in the 18th century. It's hard to believe that anyone made a successful go of it. A neat book with a neat argument.

Kurzbeschreibung The great Tidewater planters of mid-eighteenth-century Virginia were fathers of the American Revolution. Perhaps first and foremost, they were also anxious tobacco farmers, harried by a demanding planting cycle, trans-Atlantic shipping risks, and their uneasy relations with English agents. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and their contemporaries lived in a world that was dominated by questions of debt from across an ocean but also one that stressed personal autonomy. T. H. Breen's study of this tobacco culture focuses on how elite planters gave meaning to existence. He examines the value-laden relationships--found in both the fields and marketplaces--that led from tobacco to politics, from agrarian experience to political protest, and finally to a break with the political and economic system that they believed threatened both personal independence and honor. Pressestimmen "T. H. Breen's important new book attempts to explain why the great Virginia Planters embraced the Revolutionary cause with so much enthusiasm. He argues that growing indebtedness to British merchants after 1750 jeopardized the planters' traditional dominance, finally precipitating a major cultural crisis' in the years immediately preceding Independence. Breen's major contribution is to delineate the mentality' of the great planters of the period when private and public distress converged. . . . It is a superb contribution to the literature of the American Revolution."--Peter S. Onuf, "William and Mary Quarterly" Kurzbeschreibung The great Tidewater planters of mid-eighteenth-century Virginia were fathers of the American Revolution. Perhaps first and foremost, they were also anxious tobacco farmers, harried by a demanding planting cycle, trans-Atlantic shipping risks, and their uneasy relations with English agents. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and their contemporaries lived in a world that was dominated by questions of debt from across an ocean but also one that stressed personal autonomy. T. H. Breen's study of this tobacco culture focuses on how elite planters gave meaning to existence. He examines the value-laden relationships--found in both the fields and marketplaces--that led from tobacco to politics, from agrarian experience to political protest, and finally to a break with the political and economic system that they believed threatened both personal independence and honor.