



Reading more deeply

Easy

Bailyn, B., “Postscript. Fulfilment: A Commentary on the Constitution”, 321–79. *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, Cambridge, The Belknap Press, 1967. Enlarged edition, 1992.

Right-wing historian Bernard Bailyn explores a Neo-Whig view of the Founding Fathers’ ideological motives for the Revolution.

Moderate

Bouton, T., “The Trials of Confederation”, in Gray, E. & Kamensky, J. (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of the American Revolution*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013, 370–87.

Bouton weaves a detailed story of the Confederation debates, presenting morally ambiguous and ‘tragic’ views that conflict with the official history of the founders. He also discusses historical interpretations of the events.

Challenging

Beard, C., *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*, 1913.

Progressive historian Charles Beard examines the underlying motives of the Founding Fathers and suggests they were more influenced by financial concerns than the oft-lauded life, liberty and property ideals of the Enlightenment.