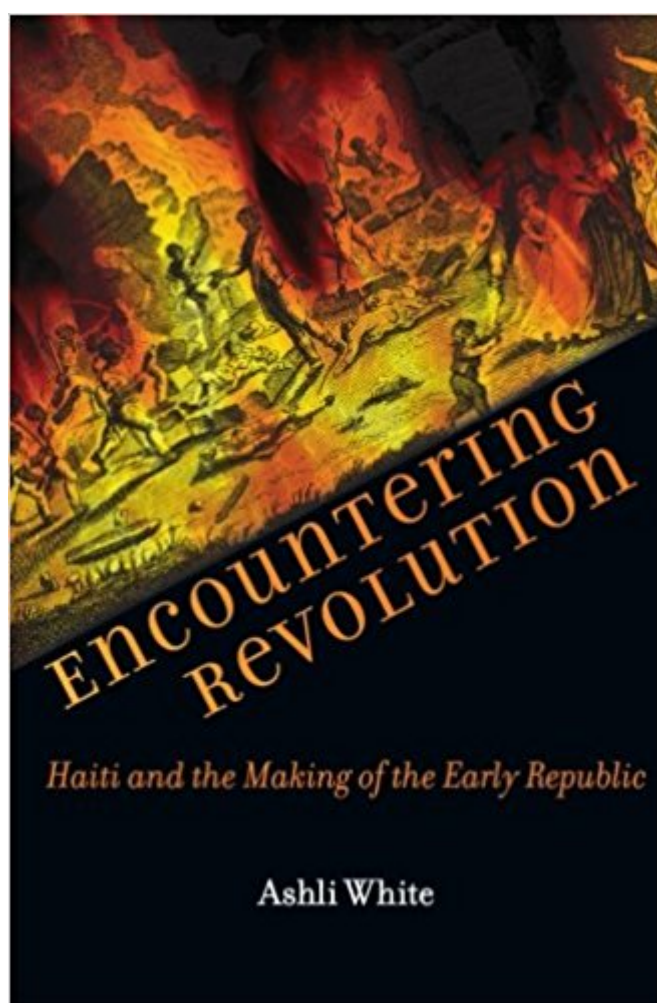


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# Encountering Revolution: Haiti And The Making Of The Early Republic (Early America: History, Context, Culture)



## Synopsis

Encountering Revolution looks afresh at the profound impact of the Haitian Revolution on the early United States. The first book on the subject in more than two decades, it redefines our understanding of the relationship between republicanism and slavery at a foundational moment in American history. For postrevolutionary Americans, the Haitian uprising laid bare the contradiction between democratic principles and the practice of slavery. For thirteen years, between 1791 and 1804, slaves and free people of color in Saint-Domingue battled for equal rights in the manner of the French Revolution. As white and mixed-race refugees escaped to the safety of U.S. cities, Americans were forced to confront the paradox of being a slaveholding republic, recognizing their own possible destiny in the predicament of the Haitian slaveholders. Historian Ashli White examines the ways Americans—black and white, northern and southern, Federalist and Democratic Republican, pro- and antislavery—pondered the implications of the Haitian Revolution. Encountering Revolution convincingly situates the formation of the United States in a broader Atlantic context. It shows how the very presence of Saint-Dominguan refugees stirred in Americans as many questions about themselves as about the future of slaveholding, stimulating some of the earliest debates about nationalism in the early republic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"White has written the go-to or standard account of the Haitian Revolution—its impact on the United States." (Matthew Hale H-SHEAR, H-Net Reviews)"White's volume dovetails nicely with

earlier studies of American thoughts about the Haitian Revolution and helps show how the revolution's potential explosiveness was rendered moot by southern commentators wielding American exceptionalism." (Tim Matthewson *Journal of American History*) "Drawing upon broader historiographies of the Haitian Revolution, Atlantic world, and the early republic, White focuses on the interactions between US residents and Saint-Dominguan refugees to demonstrate how revolutionary refugees confronted post-revolutionary Americans with their status as a slaveholding republic." (Choice) "This richly detailed study is especially important in extending our understanding of the impact of the Haitian Revolution on U.S. society back to the 1790s and to other strata beyond its elite political class." (Nick Nesbitt *American Historical Review*) "A strong contribution toward understanding the Haitian Revolution's political impact on the United States." (John Davies *Florida Historical Quarterly*) "A serious work of sober analysis, it has been written with great patience and scholarly care, making it accessible to seasoned researchers and undergraduates alike." (William and Mary *Quarterly*) "In this timely study, Ashli White offers a concise synthesis of much of this literature and provides a fresh and exciting analysis of Haiti's influence on the early American republic." (New West Indian Guide)

Winner, Gilbert Chinard Prize, Society for French Historical Studies and the Institut Français d'Amérique  
d'Amérique Encountering Revolution looks afresh at the profound impact of the Haitian Revolution on the early United States. The first book on the subject in more than two decades, it redefines our understanding of the relationship between republicanism and slavery at a foundational moment in American history. "This richly detailed study is especially important in extending our understanding of the impact of the Haitian Revolution on U.S. society back to the 1790s and to other strata beyond its elite political class." *American Historical Review* "White has written the go-to or standard account of the Haitian Revolution's impact on the United States." *H-SHEAR, H-Net Reviews* "White's volume dovetails nicely with earlier studies of American thoughts about the Haitian Revolution and helps show how the revolution's potential explosiveness was rendered moot by southern commentators wielding American exceptionalism." *Journal of American History* "A serious work of sober analysis, it has been written with great patience and scholarly care, making it accessible to seasoned researchers and undergraduates alike." *William and Mary Quarterly*

nice

Innovatively written, sometimes beautiful.

This book sets the standard for research in this field. White relies on extensive published and archival materials to support her argument that the Haitian Revolution of 1804 had dramatic consequences for the new American Republic. It is clearly written and persuasively argued.

I read this book and on a good note it puts the American Revolution in a different light. The Haitian revolution truly freed black people and the American Revolution did not. It dealt with the slavery issue in the early American republic and how it could cause problems down the road. It did not talk about the genocide that happened to the 24,000 white french colonist that remained on the island and that's the conservative estimate, this was done in full view of merchant ships to unarmed men, women and children. They were drowned, stabbed, hung and beaten to death. Dessalines hated whites and mulattos and he made himself king for life on the island. The end of the book left a conclusion that is far too common in regards to Black Americans that you are going to find Heaven somewhere else in an all black country and they are not going to discriminate against you. It is way too many black people in America to be sent someplace else, what country is going to take 40 million plus refugees? If all Black Americans get there we won't have the same rights in that country that we have here in America that we fought for. Like the right to bear arms that those racist white guys called the founders gave us, if the people who live in these places that black people are supposed to go to decide to kill us or commit genocide against us what would Black people do then? The conclusion is pretty much in line with jim crow laws, black codes, the colonization movement, eugenics which is now called planned parenthood and it points to one question HOW TO GET RID OF THE NEGRO?

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