

The American Revolution and Modern Revolutions

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Abstract

This paper asks the question: if the American Revolution can be regarded as the model for modern political revolution, why did it stop half-way? The author argues that the weakness of traditional old world social institutions in America, primarily the lack of a European-style gentry and entrenched religious hierarchy, the clear modernity of the social system and the attitude of the free residents rendered America fundamentally different from any other social system. In another revolutionary context, however, in which the new society is build upon the ruins of the old regime, social and political modernization is frequently obstructed. At the same time, the author also states that in the colonial period, one characteristic of the American political and economic system was a high degree of development. Many countries, a large number of which lack the economic and political resources present in colonial America, still wishfully attempt to use revolution as a strategy for development.