by the sources and drawing her conclusions carefully and impartially. The bibliography is a triumph of research, containing immense resources of material. No worker in this field can afford to be without it.

*New Castle, Pennsylvania*  
W. WALTER BRAHAM


This book is a volume in the Da Capo Press reprint series called the Era of the American Revolution. First published in 1955, Douglass’s study treats the political struggle in the states during the American Revolution. The theme, as indicated by the subtitle, is “The Struggle for Equal Political Rights and Majority Rule.”

Professor Douglass believes that the political leaders in most of the new states were conservatives. The constitutions of at least eight states were conservative in eighteenth-century terms. The events and processes which led to the adoption of state constitutions in New York, South Carolina, and Maryland are used as case studies to illustrate how the new conservative constitutions protected political privilege and economic interests. Although the author concedes that these documents provided safeguards against arbitrary government, the state constitutions of Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Virginia are also placed on the conservative roster.

The constitutions of Georgia and New Hampshire are examined in two appendices. Douglass believes that they should be under the more radical category, but due to the lack of evidence he is reluctant to commit himself on the constitutions of these states on the northern and southern frontiers of the infant republic.

His main emphasis is placed on the development of state constitutions in North Carolina, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. Here the clashes between East and West, or the confrontations between the settled areas and the frontier, are brought into sharp contrast. Underrepresentation in the colonial legislatures and the urgent necessity for aid to combat the problems of a rapidly expanding community combine to make the frontier regions of these states ideal breeding grounds for democrats.

In North Carolina they developed their main ideas, but due to the
absence of effective leadership among the democrats, "the aristocrats by inclination, interest, and training promised to be adequate trustees of the public welfare." In Massachusetts the democrats were able to give life to specific reforms and derive the constitutional convention from the compact theory. It remained for the democrats of Pennsylvania to find the leadership necessary to organize a party able to take over the administration of the government. However, the author contends that "the coming of democracy to Pennsylvania was rather the result of circumstances than of political planning."

In his treatment of Thomas Jefferson, Douglass maintains that the Virginian's political philosophy, as shown in his writings, was liberal, but "more democratic by contemporary standards than by eighteenth century standards." He also contends that "when democracy is considered to be a symbol of the values of human freedom . . . then Jefferson emerges as a democratic philosopher and statesman of primary importance."

The book is well documented, and the footnotes are conveniently placed at the bottom of the pages. The author has performed a valuable service by treating the subject of political rights and majority rule in some detail in six of the original thirteen states. He has provided a foundation from which to build, and although some of his ideas are dated, most of the book is as fresh as when it appeared in 1955. Scholars and general readers interested in the processes which led to the adoption of the original state constitutions of the United States will welcome the reappearance of this volume.

Oklahoma State University
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Robert E. Smith


Salmon P. Chase was one of the leading public figures of the midnineteenth century. He was a political organizer (Free-Soil party), an early abolitionist (called the "Attorney General for runaway slaves" because of all the fugitives he defended in court), a governor of Ohio, a senator, Lincoln's secretary of the treasury and chief justice of the