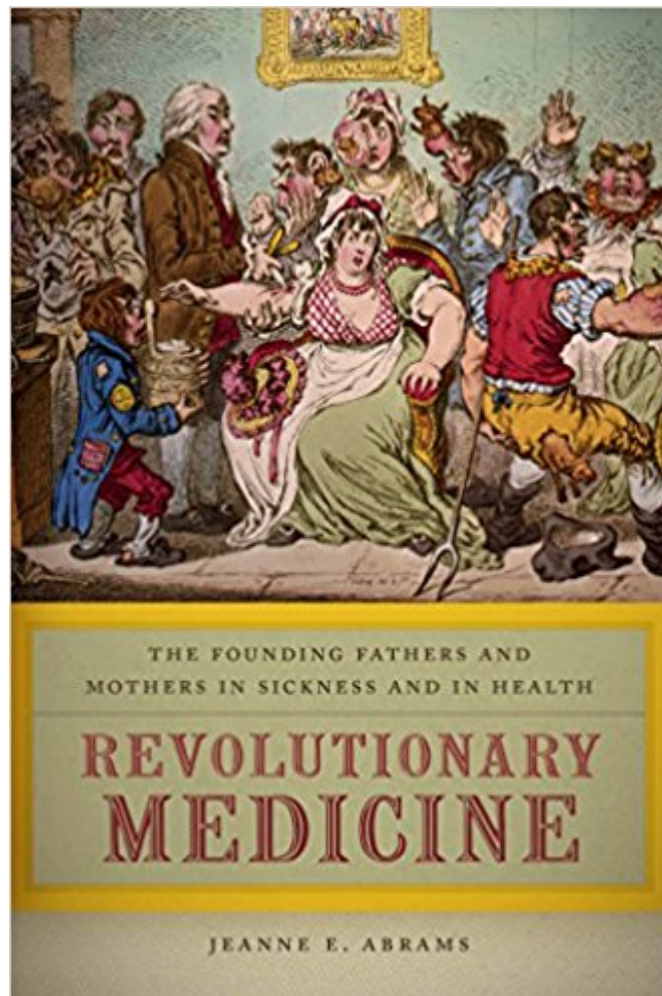




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Revolutionary Medicine: The Founding Fathers And Mothers In Sickness And In Health



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Synopsis

Before the advent of modern antibiotics, one's life could be abruptly shattered by contagion and death, and debility from infectious diseases and epidemics was commonplace for early Americans, regardless of social status. Concerns over health affected the founding fathers and their families as it did slaves, merchants, immigrants, and everyone else in North America. As both victims of illness and national leaders, the Founders occupied a unique position regarding the development of public health in America. *Revolutionary Medicine* refocuses the study of the lives of George and Martha Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, and James and Dolley Madison away from the usual lens of politics to the unique perspective of sickness, health, and medicine in their era. For the founders, republican ideals fostered a reciprocal connection between individual health and the health of the nation. Studying the encounters of these American founders with illness and disease, as well as their viewpoints about good health, not only provides us with a richer and more nuanced insight into their lives, but also opens a window into the practice of medicine in the eighteenth century, which is at once intimate, personal, and first hand. Perhaps most importantly, today's American public health initiatives have their roots in the work of America's founders, for they recognized early on that government had compelling reasons to shoulder some new responsibilities with respect to ensuring the health and well-being of its citizenry. The state of medicine and public healthcare today is still a work in progress, but these founders played a significant role in beginning the conversation that shaped the contours of its development.

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Customer Reviews

Good information. Some of the innovations were amazing for their time. The book is made up of several sections each about medicine through the experience of one of the founding fathers/mothers. There was some repetition from section to section. C Phillip Bush, professor of health care ethics, George Mason University.

I enjoyed reading about the founding fathers and medicines, treatments of the time. Some sections were very dry. The author researched the material very, very well.

Interesting but redundant in parts, worth the read time if you are a history buff

While much of the information is available elsewhere, you would have to read a variety of books to gain the information on the personalities that is in this single book. Well done, and easy and enjoyable reading in Jeanne Abrams' book Revolutionary Medicine.

Very interesting. Some was new info for me.

I am almost finished with this outstanding book. It is written extremely well and holds my interest. I have only bought a few books to read since my retirement, but this caught my eye. It is so good that I asked my wife who was a librarian to read it. I rarely review a book, but this Jeanne Abrams is great. I hope all of you reading my review enjoy this book as much as I do. I can't put it down. That is extremely rare for a person like me!!! Thankyou.

This is a book that illustrates not only the medical challenges that our founding fathers and their loved ones faced, but the governmental and political reactions that occurred as a result of those life shortening syndromes. If you think that less government or no government is the answer, please

read this book so you can adjust your thinking to believe in the "right kind" of government involvement that our founding fathers believed in and formed. This book shows how our nation and our early government protected the masses. It shows how we became the great country that we still are today. Learn the correct and accurate lessons again.

I find Dr. Abrams' book well written and very interesting. The conditions of health, disease and medicine during the times of the founding of our nation quite instructive to our understanding of the period. Our founders' attitudes to the general well being of the population, both for the defense of the country (Washington's directives concerning hygiene and smallpox inoculations for the army) and Franklin's and Jefferson's concerns about the need for a healthy and robust citizenry for economic and political progress should inform our public policy today. I highly recommend reading this book

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