

world, denies individuals their agency, and deprives readers of the intriguing specificities that made eighteenth-century America the sort of place where a revolution could start.

Borneman does make some attempt to incorporate African American and female perspectives through their writings, boycotts, and military service. Yet Borneman includes accounts of minority groups as curious subplots rather than stories that might fundamentally change our perception of the Revolution. While he acknowledges ex-slave Caesar Sarter's petition against slavery and Abigail Adams's belief that women deserved more political rights, Borneman ends his book on a triumphant note—"the promise of this American spring was fulfilled" (p. 397)—without significant consideration of the centuries-long struggle for freedom and equality that awaited some members of the nascent nation.

Borneman's consuming focus on familiar figures and famous events becomes all the more disappointing when compared to another work about the same period aimed at a general audience, Ray Raphael's *The First American Revolution: Before Lexington and Concord* (2002). Without sacrificing readability, Raphael offers a rich portrayal of colonial Massachusetts and challenges the mythical status of Lexington and Concord, arguing, instead, that the decisive acts of the period had actually been initiated by common colonists months earlier. Borneman, by emphasizing the well-known elements of the "American spring," has missed the opportunity to tell a more compelling and stimulating story. Yet as a well-researched and accessible narrative of all the major military and political events that immediately preceded and caused the Revolution, *American Spring* is reasonably successful.

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ERRATUM:—We regret that in "Who Let 'The Pigs' Out? or Why Edgar Allan Poe Wouldn't, or Couldn't, or Almost Certainly Didn't Write the Most Snarky American Poem of 1835," the location of the Edgar Allan Poe statue was incorrectly stated to be the corner of Boylston and Cambridge Streets. The statue is situated at the corner of Boylston Street and Charles Street South.