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Nota di contenuto	The Knowles Riot and the crisis of the 1740s in Massachusetts (with John Lax) -- Metropolitan Boston before the American Revolution : an urban interpretation of the imperial crisis (with Ralph J. Crandall) -- The social structure of revolutionary Boston : evidence from the Great Fire of 1760 -- Play as prelude to revolution : Boston, 1765-1776 -- "The fine theoretic government of Massachusetts is prostrated to the earth" : the response to Shays's Rebellion reconsidered -- Politics and ideology in eighteenth-century almanacs : Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard and Nathanael Ames, Sr.'s An astronomical diary -- The beginning of a beautiful friendship : Benjamin Franklin, George Whitefield, the dancing school, and a defense of the "meaner sort" -- John Adams and his contemporaries -- The extended presidency of George Washington (1775-1797) -- Peter Oliver (1713-1791), chief

justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court -- From racket to natural law : the permutation of smuggling into free trade -- "The great war for the empire" reconsidered as a cause of the American Revolution -- The Civil War did not take place.

Sommario/riassunto

United States historian William Pencak presents thirteen of his essays, written beginning in 1976. Some deal with colonial and revolutionary crowds and communities in Massachusetts - the impressment riot of 1747, the popular uprisings of the 1760's and 1770's, and Shays' Rebellion. Others examine popular ideology in songs and almanacs, and the thought and behavior of George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and the loyalist Peter Oliver. Interpretive essays argue that colonial outrage that their participation in the French and Indian War went unrecognized by the British led to the America
