

## Professors rave about *Thirteen Clocks* for classroom use:

“Like Robert Parkinson’s definitive *Common Cause*, its distilled version, *Thirteen Clocks*, explains why and especially how systems of discrimination and dehumanization, in fact, catalyzed the solidarity necessary for the American Revolution. Accessible to a broad audience, *Thirteen Clocks* is an **enthraling, yet sobering, narrative of how fear and racism drove rebellion and injustice**. This volume will become standard reading in courses about the American Revolution, early America, American politics, and histories of racism and enslavement.”

--**Chernoh Sesay, Jr.**, DePaul University

“Robert G. Parkinson has produced a fascinating, accessible exploration of the U.S. war for independence. *Thirteen Clocks* pushes us to reconsider examinations of the Revolution that center equality as a primary motivation for the conflict’s participants. Parkinson reveals that prejudice against Native and enslaved people played an essential role in driving many British colonists to become American citizens. **His work is sure to become an important classroom text.**”

--**Warren Milteer, Jr.**, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

“Parkinson’s award-winning arguments abridged into a fresh study tailor-made for teaching! Too often, faculty struggle to adapt the best new, often weighty, scholarship to the specific needs of the undergraduate classroom. Not here. *Thirteen Clocks* **brilliantly explores white Americans’ fears and hatreds at the founding—exposing the very roots of our national tragedy—in a lively, concise, and extremely teachable text** well-suited to courses on the founding era, on race, Indigenous, and African American studies, and on vast early America generally.”

--**Robyn Davis**, Millersville University

“*Thirteen Clocks* offers a **provocative, and timely, thesis**: that a toxic mix of fear and prejudice toward Natives and enslaved people united thirteen mutually suspicious colonies in their opposition to Britain. Compact and smoothly written, Parkinson’s book deserves a place beside classic works by Gordon Wood and Bernard Bailyn to challenge students with a vital question: just why did the Revolution happen, anyway?”

--**David Head**, University of Central Florida

“It’s so hard to find ambitious, cutting-edge scholarship that’s concise, accessible, and engaging enough for the classroom. Robert Parkinson’s *Thirteen Clocks* answers the call—a **groundbreaking interpretation of patriot leaders’ efforts to bind thirteen distant colonies by stoking white fears about enslaved African Americans and Natives, all packaged in a fast-paced, page-turning narrative**. Essential reading for any course on the Revolution, early America, or the history of race.”

--**Brett Palfreyman**, Wagner College

“**If anyone wants to understand the roots of racial strife in the United States, we have no better starting point than Robert Parkinson’s *Thirteen Clocks***. Parkinson upends our understanding of the origins of the American Revolution. He reinterprets the Declaration of Independence and how white supremacy became the glue that pulled together thirteen independent states into the United States. *Thirteen Clocks* should be required reading in U.S. history surveys. I can’t think of a more timely and welcome book.”

--**Barry Bienstock**, Horace Mann School

"In my experience, one of the central challenges of teaching the American Revolution is *unteaching* the celebratory national narratives that have been adhered to it over the past two and a half centuries.

Parkinson's *Thirteen Clocks* helps immeasurably with this task by **persuasively demonstrating the central role of racist fearmongering at the founding moment of the republic.**"

--**Will B. Mackintosh**, University of Mary Washington

"*Thirteen Clocks* is an extraordinary, pathbreaking account of the role that fear and racism played in America's founding. Focusing on the months between the start of the war and the Declaration of Independence, **Robert Parkinson shatters long-held popular beliefs among students and the public-at-large that the Revolution was both glorious and inevitable.** A gripping and fast-paced narrative, *Thirteen Clocks* is a must-read for students enrolled in courses on the American Revolution, race and slavery, and even the U.S. survey."

--**Brad Jones**, California State University, Fresno

"Racial anxiety, present at the founding? **In *Thirteen Clocks*, Robert Parkinson places white fear at the center of an artful narrative of the Revolutionary War's outbreak.** Provocative yet accessible, this book will open students' eyes to the half-articulated worries that suffused American political culture in 1775. Parkinson's innovative readings of familiar documents and careful attention to newspaper publishing will foster lively discussions of how historians work with primary sources."

--**Darcy Fryer**, Brearley School in New York City

"**A readable and clearly argued book** that highlights both the power of print media and how colonial leaders and printers weaponized white Euro-American colonists' fears, prejudices, and ideas of race to achieve political goals. This is a timely history that should generate ample discussion and debate in the classroom."

--**Lori Dagg**, Ursinus College

"Parkinson provides readers with a riveting story about the power of stories, showing how patriots promoted and weaponized rumors of 'insurrectionists' among enslaved people, Indigenous communities, and foreign mercenaries to unite colonists in the common cause of independence. Written in accessible and explicative language, *Thirteen Clocks* will help students better understand how racial exclusion became a potent force in the creation of the United States."

--**Marie Stango**, Idaho State University

"*Thirteen Clocks* is an excellent text for undergraduates—it moves at a quick clip while synthesizing an enormous amount of primary and secondary material to make a provocative case for the centrality of white patriots' racial fears to the movement for American independence. In lively writing, **Parkinson offers a compelling counterinterpretation for what galvanized patriot actions leading up to the Declaration of Independence**, troubling students'—and teachers'—conventional understandings of the American founding."

--**Lindsay M. Keiter**, Penn State Altoona

"With *Thirteen Clocks*, **Robert Parkinson has given teachers of early American history a terrific resource:** a concise history of how patriot leaders, facing a divided public, deployed fears of enslaved and Native people to make 'common cause' against the British. This book does more than dispute a comfortable origin story of American life, liberty, and happiness. It will also help students appreciate how prejudice was an effective tool of political mobilization in the U.S. from the very beginning."

--**Adam Malka**, University of Oklahoma

“Parkinson’s book is astounding. It distills the core idea of *The Common Cause*—that the American patriots weaponized racial prejudice against African Americans and Native Americans to unite the thirteen colonies during the Revolutionary War—and interrogates the repercussions of that process, which continues to haunt our present. *Thirteen Clocks* is thereby critical to any educator or student’s understanding that the American Revolution—and revered principles like the unalienable rights to “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”—was rooted in the fears and nightmares born of racial prejudice. And in the end, such fears and prejudice—at the founding moment of the United States in 1776—defined who was an American and who was not. ***Thirteen Clocks*, then, is one of the most timely and important tools for educators to peel back the layers of the Revolution and to unpack the roots of the racism that we grapple with today.**”

--Bryan Rindfleisch, Marquette University

“**Robert Parkinson has produced an accessibly written, forcefully argued, and exhaustively researched book** that explores the hatred, paranoia, and violence that shaped the birth of the United States. Superbly suited to the undergraduate classroom, *Thirteen Clocks* is also essential reading for high school history and government teachers seeking to help students understand our national origins in a contemporary environment of profound cultural upheaval and painful racial reckoning.”

--David C. Beyreis, Ursuline Academy of Dallas

“***Thirteen Clocks* will be an invaluable book for the undergraduate classroom.** Not only does *Thirteen Clocks* capture the months leading up to American independence with lively prose, but it encourages students to grapple with important issues of race and belonging that were so critical to America’s founding and continue to shape America’s future. Parkinson has written a wonderfully timely and teachable book about an important moment in American history that is sure to engage students and inspire discussion about the meaning of the American Revolution.”

--Christopher Pearl, Lycoming College

“In the tradition of Elizabeth Eisenstein’s *Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*, *Thirteen Clocks* is an accessible and sharp abridgement of Robert Parkinson’s prize-winning book, *The Common Cause*. Blending the history of print with the political realities of the early days of the American War for Independence, Parkinson provides a nuanced account of the fundamental role of race in Revolutionary mobilization. *Thirteen Clocks* is **particularly resonant for new readers of the period, students, and educators, balancing a succinct overview of well-known actors and events with less-familiar figures, voices, and perspectives.**”

--Nora Slonimsky, Iona College