



John Adams and the Spirit of Liberty

By C. Bradley Thompson

University Press of Kansas. Paperback. Condition: New. 360 pages. Dimensions: 8.6in. x 6.4in. x 1.1in. Americas finest eighteenth-century student of political science, John Adams is also the least studied of the Revolutions key figures. By the time he became our second president, no American had written more about our government and not even Jefferson or Madison had read as widely about questions of human nature, natural right, political organization, and constitutional construction. Yet this staunch constitutionalist is perceived by many as having become reactionary in his later years and his ideas have been largely disregarded. In the first major work on Adamss political thought in over thirty years, C. Bradley Thompson takes issue with the notion that Adamss thought is irrelevant to the development of American ideas. Focusing on Adamss major writings, Thompson elucidates and reevaluates his political and constitutional thought by interpreting it within the tradition of political philosophy stretching from Plato to Montesquieu. This major revisionist study shows that the distinction Adams drew between principles of liberty and principles of political architecture is central to his entire political philosophy. Thompson first chronicles Adamss conceptualization of moral and political liberty during his confrontation with American Loyalists and British imperial officers...



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