

# THE CITY-STATE OF BOSTON

---

*The Rise and Fall of an Atlantic Power,  
1630-1865*

MARK PETERSON

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS  
*Princeton & Oxford*



## CONTENTS

---

*Acknowledgments* · xiii

<i>Introduction</i>		1
<b>BOOK I</b>	<b>RENDER UNTO CAESAR</b>	<b>25</b>
<hr/>		
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	<b>Boston Emerges: From Hiding Place to Hub of the Puritan Atlantic</b>	<b>27</b>
	<i>The Disappointments of Silver and Gold</i>	32
	<i>The Insufficiency of Fish and Furs</i>	38
	<i>Wampum Troubles</i>	43
	<i>The West Indian Solution: Triangle Trade for a Settler Society</i>	55
	<i>Trouble with Trade: Atlantic Commerce and Commonwealth Values</i>	61
	<i>Atlantic Competition and the Challenge of Diplomacy</i>	66
	<i>The Birth of the Commonwealth, 1643</i>	82
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	<b>The World in a Shilling: Building the City-State's Political Economy</b>	<b>85</b>
	<i>Two Dowries: Boston and Potosí</i>	90
	<i>The Big Problem of Small Change</i>	96
	<i>The Trouble with Pieces of Eight</i>	100
	<i>From Spanish Silver to Boston Shillings</i>	104

	<i>The Virtues of Boston's Shillings</i>	110
	<i>Captain Hull, "Entreprenour"</i>	117
	<i>Financing King Philip's War</i>	122
	<i>Dealing in the Spoils of War</i>	129
	<i>Independence and Allegiance in the Land of the Shilling</i>	134
CHAPTER 3	Boston Pays Tribute: The Political Trials of an Expanding City-State	139
	<i>Absorbing the Eastern Frontier</i>	141
	<i>Restoration, Rendition, and Tribute</i>	144
	<i>Fending Off the Crown's Agents</i>	149
	<i>Financing the Colony's Agents</i>	156
	<i>The Lure of the "Wracks"</i>	163
	<i>Fighting the Dominion's Kleptocracy</i>	166
	<i>The Apotheosis of William Phips: Silver Makes a Bostonian</i>	173
	<i>From Silver to Paper: Moving the "Mountains of Peru"</i>	183
BOOK II	THE SELLING OF JOSEPH	189
<hr/>		
CHAPTER 4	<i>Theopolis Americana: Boston and the Protestant International</i>	191
	<i>Samuel Sewall and The Selling of Joseph</i>	195
	<i>Jonathan Belcher's Wanderjahr</i>	206
	<i>The Local Politics of Universal Truth</i>	217

	<i>Cotton Mather's Journey to Pietism</i>	234
	Theopolis Americana	242
CHAPTER 5	"God Deliver Me and Mine from the Government of Soldiers"	247
	<i>Boston and Acadia: Nos Amis, les Ennemis</i>	250
	<i>An Accidental Bostonian: Paul Mascarene</i>	257
	<i>A Soldier by Convenience: William Shirley</i>	265
	<i>Something Shocking: The Ordeal of Abijah Willard</i>	278
	<i>The Government of Soldiers and The Selling of Joseph</i>	290
CHAPTER 6	Cutting Off the Circulation: Phillis Wheatley and Boston's Revolutionary Crisis	294
	<i>Locating Phillis Wheatley in Theopolis Americana</i>	300
	<i>Phillis Wheatley's Connections: The Making of an Eighteenth-Century Celebrity</i>	303
	<i>Circulation and Salvation in Wheatley's British Empire</i>	310
	<i>Circulation Interrupted: The Destruction of Phillis Wheatley's World</i>	320
CHAPTER 7	John Adams, Boston's Diplomat: Apostle of Balance in a World Turned Upside Down	326
	<i>The Limited Reach of John Adams's Connections</i>	331
	<i>John Adams Reads History</i>	335

	<i>The Search for Stability within Crisis</i>	343
	<i>The Massachusetts Constitution: Restoring Balance to the Kingless Commonwealth</i>	352
	<i>Shays's Rebellion: The Massachusetts Regulation of 1786-87</i>	356
	<i>Diplomat to the American Republics: Fear of the "Eternal Yoke"</i>	363
	<i>International Disappointments: Constitutions in Need of Defense</i>	366
<b>BOOK III</b>	<b>A NEW KING OVER EGYPT</b>	<b>377</b>
<hr/>		
<b>CHAPTER 8</b>	<b>The Failure of Federalism: Boston's French Years</b>	<b>379</b>
	<i>Federalism and federalism</i>	381
	<i>Fisher Ames and the Frenchified Politics of the American Confederation</i>	387
	<i>The French Revolution and Greater Virginia</i>	400
	<i>Ames, the French Revolution, and the Rise of Bonaparte</i>	403
	<i>Josiah Quincy and the Lure of Secession</i>	408
	<i>The Embargo</i>	414
	<i>Louisiana and the Breaking of the Federal Compact</i>	422
	<i>The War of 1812 and Pressure for Separation</i>	429
	<i>"A GREAT PAMPHLET" and the Demise of Federative Politics</i>	436

CHAPTER 9	From Merchant Princes to Lords of the Loom: Remaking Boston's Political Economy	444
	<i>France Comes to Boston, and Boston Goes to France</i>	446
	<i>French Commerce and the House of Perkins</i>	452
	<i>Property and Theft: Industrial Espionage and the Rise of the Mills</i>	461
	<i>Lords of the Loom and Lords of the Lash</i>	473
	<i>Black Dan's Dilemma</i>	478
CHAPTER 10	On the German Road to Athens: Boston at a Crossroads	486
	<i>The Lure of Germany</i>	489
	<i>A Southern Interlude</i>	492
	<i>Göttingen</i>	494
	<i>Byron, Goethe, and Greece</i>	502
	<i>Literal Greeks: Edward Everett, Samuel Gridley Howe, and the Greek Revolution</i>	507
	<i>Figurative Greeks: German Reform in the Athens of America</i>	515
	<i>Philanthropy and Its Limits in the Age of Cotton</i>	523
	<i>Die Unbedingten: The Unconditionals in Boston</i>	530
CHAPTER 11	Dismembering the Body: Boston's Spatial Fragmentation	540
	<i>Separating City from State and Citizen from City</i>	542

	<i>Defortification: Dismantling the City's "Honor"</i>	548
	<i>Immigration and Ethnic Segregation in the Corporate City</i>	564
	<i>The Great Hunger and the Collapse of Christian Charity</i>	569
CHAPTER 12	"There Was a Boston Once"	578
	<i>"Extravasat Blood": Racial Segregation in the Corporate City</i>	579
	<i>"The Body Comprehends Men and Women of Every Shade and Color"</i>	588
	<i>A Phrenological Solution?</i>	597
	<i>Violent Renditions</i>	605
<i>Conclusion</i>	The Making of US History and the Disappearance of the City-State of Boston	623
<i>Coda</i>	Looking Forward to <i>Looking Backward</i>	633

*Notes* · 639

*Illustration Credits* · 721

*Index* · 725