

WE THE PEOPLE

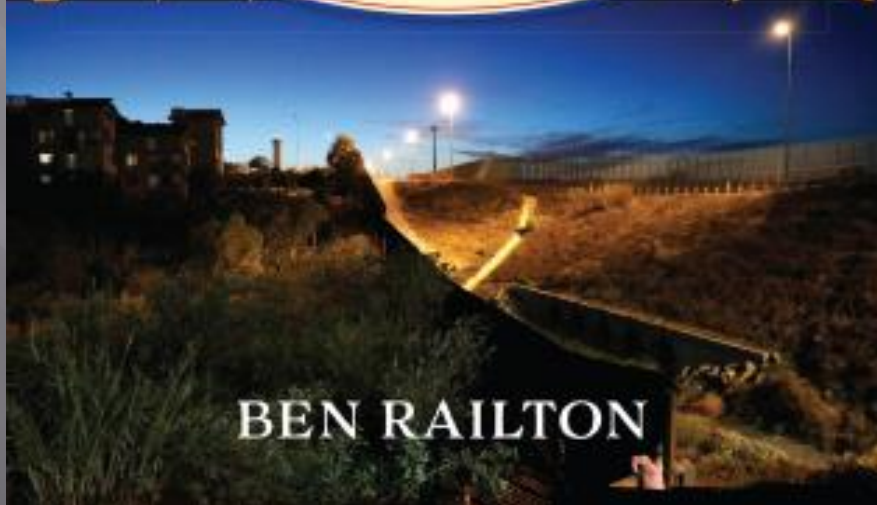
The 500-Year Battle over
Who is American
(and Public Scholarship)

Ben Railton
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A graphic element for the book cover featuring a yellow oval with a blue border. Inside the oval, the text "We the PEOPLE" is written in a mix of cursive and serif fonts. Above "We the" are four stars. Below the oval, the subtitle "The 500-Year Battle Over Who Is American" is written in a blue serif font. The background of this section shows silhouettes of people holding American flags against a sunset sky.

We the
PEOPLE

The 500-Year Battle Over
Who Is American



Book Chapters

- ▣ Native Americans and African Americans: Chapters on arrival/contact era; Indian Removal and resistance; *Slaves and the Revolution*
- ▣ Immigration Exclusions and Responses: Chinese Exclusion Act and aftermaths; Japanese Internment and WWII service
- ▣ Longstanding Communities: Mexican Americans after 1848; Filipino Americans in Early 20C; Muslim Americans in 21C

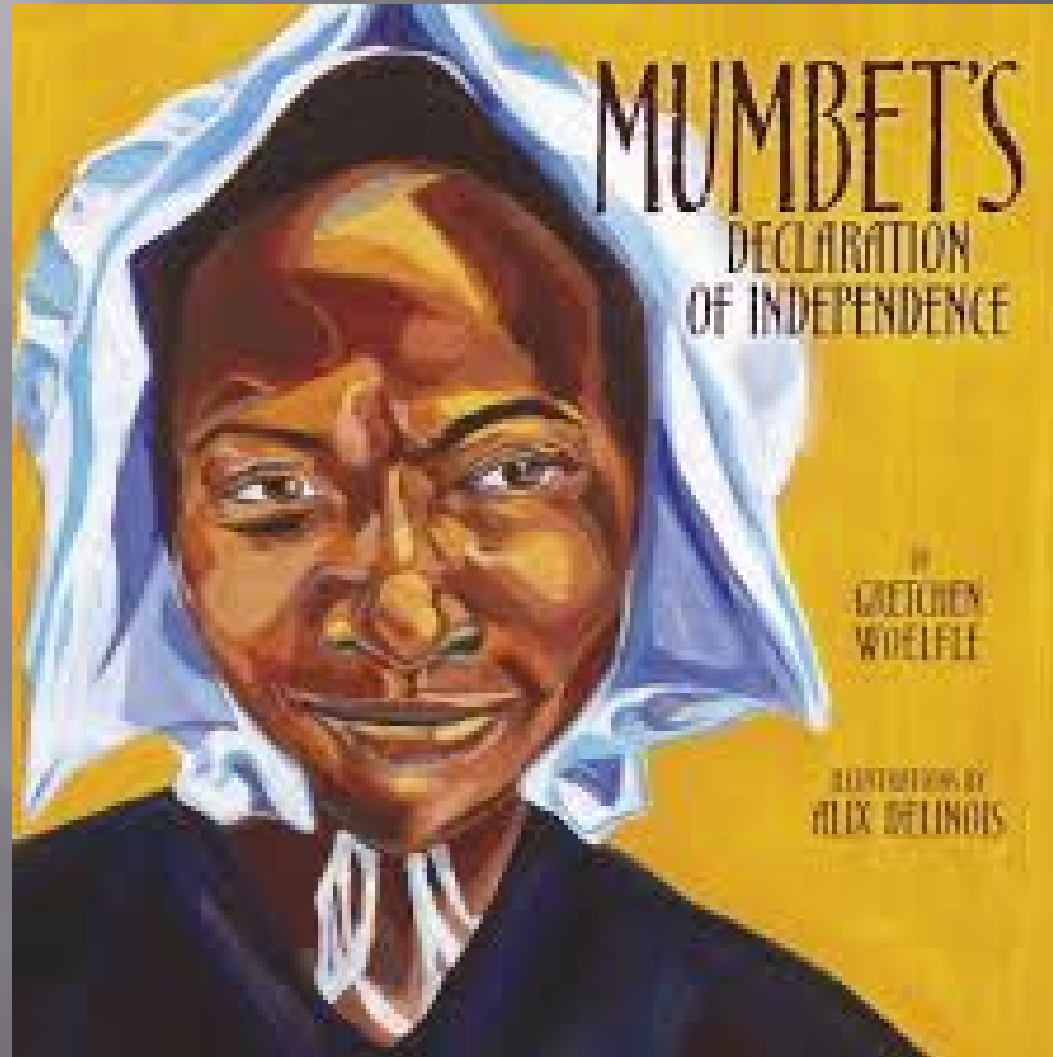
Crispus Attucks & Phillis Wheatley

□ From “To the Earl of Dartmouth”:



Should you, my lord, while you peruse my song,
Wonder from whence my love of Freedom sprung,
Whence flow these wishes for the common good,
By feeling hearts alone best understood,
I, young in life, by seeming cruel fate
Was snatch'd from Afric's fancy'd happy seat:
What pangs excruciating must molest,
What sorrows labour in my parent's breast?
Steel'd was that soul and by no misery mov'd
That from a father seiz'd his babe belov'd:
Such, such my case. And can I then but pray
Others may never feel tyrannic sway?

Elizabeth Freeman & Quock Walker Cases in 1780-3



Justice William Cushing, MA SJC decision in *Commonwealth v. Jennison* (1783)

- ▣ “But whatever sentiments have formerly prevailed in this particular or slid in upon us by the example of others, a different idea has taken place with the people of America, more favorable to the natural rights of mankind, and to that natural, innate desire of Liberty, with which Heaven (without regard to color, complexion, or shape of noses-features) has inspired all the human race. And upon this ground our Constitution of Government, by which the people of this Commonwealth have solemnly bound themselves, sets out with declaring that all men are born free and equal – and that every subject is entitled to liberty, and to have it guarded by the laws, as well as life and property – and in short is totally repugnant to the idea of being born slaves. This being the case, I think the idea of slavery is inconsistent with our own conduct and Constitution.”

Public Scholarship

- ▣ Scholarly blog
- ▣ Short-form online writing
- ▣ Book talks and public lectures
- ▣ Adult learning programs
- ▣ Secondary and primary school visits

Continuing Conversations

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- ▣ Let me know if you want an e-copy the proofs of *We the People!*