

A Profile of Loyalist Claims

(1780)

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Introduction

There is a sometimes forgotten reality of Revolutionary America: the fact that the colonial population was deeply divided on the issue of a complete break with England.

By focusing on the impact of the Revolution on the Crown's loyal subjects this document serves, first, as a reminder that revolutions are not and never have been polite disagreements among friends and, second, indicates who were likely to be Loyalists.

Questions to Consider:

1. What occupational groups were more likely to support the cause of the Crown? What was the relationship among social class, economic standing, and Toryism?
2. By referring to the table constructed from the data in "Charleston, South Carolina, Sons of Liberty (1766)" ... we are able to compare and contrast the socioeconomic profiles of the Revolutionaries vs. Loyalists.
3. Are there missing data or some other condition that would weaken a generalization based on this table?
4. To what extent is generalization possible on the question of Loyalist identity?
5. What precautions are necessary in analyzing the available social and economic data like that displayed in the table?

Source

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>No. of Claimants</u>	<u>% of Claimants</u>
Farmers	1,368	49.1
Commerce		
(a) Artisans	274	9.8
(b) Merchants and Shopkeepers	517	18.6
(c) Miscellaneous innkeepers, seamen.	92	3.3
Combined Commerce	883	31.7
Professions		
(a) Lawyers	55	
(b) Teachers and professors	21	
(c) Doctors	81	
(d) Anglican clerics	63	
(e) Other clerics	7	
(f) Miscellaneous	26	
Combined professions	253	9.1
Officeholders	282	10.1