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## The Trouble with Tea: The Politics of Consumption in the Eighteenth-Century Global Economy (Paperback)

By Jane T. Merritt

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Americans imagined tea as central to their revolution. After years of colonial boycotts against the commodity, the Sons of Liberty kindled the fire of independence when they dumped tea in the Boston harbor in 1773. To reject tea as a consumer item and symbol of taxation without representation was to reject Great Britain as master of the American economy and government. But tea played a longer and far more complicated role in American economic history than the events at Boston suggest. In *The Trouble with Tea*, historian Jane T. Merritt explores tea as a central component of eighteenth-century global trade and probes its connections to the politics of consumption. Arguing that tea caused trouble over the course of the eighteenth century in a number of different ways, Merritt traces the multifaceted impact of that luxury item on British imperial policy, colonial politics, and the financial structure of merchant companies. Merritt challenges the assumption among economic historians that consumer demand drove merchants to provide an ever-increasing supply of goods, thus sparking a consumer revolution in the early eighteenth century. *The Trouble with Tea* reveals a surprising truth....



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