

The Character of an Independent Whig: a Study of the Work of John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon, including a comparative analysis of the social and political.

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The character of an independent Whig of John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon: a comparative analysis of the social and political thought of John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon and Bernard Mandeville

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[Abstract](#)

Traditionally Cato's Letters have been seen as a keynote perspective which has come to dominate contemporary thinking on the shaping of eighteenth century Britain and America. With the rise of the 'neo-Harringtonian' critique of Court Whig, there are significant problems with this interpretation and this thesis argues that the opposition towards Walpole's ministry was more nuanced than is currently understood. In their administration their support when occasion demanded was not based on ideological differences between Whigs and Tories, in opposition to the current view. This suggests that Trenchard and Gordon's position towards the Whig administration was based on a preoccupation with issues of wealth and power. Trenchard and Gordon were opposed to the Whig commitment to traditional Whig principles of freedom of commerce and the financial system.

society motivated by self-interest as a threat to civic vir political and moral philosophy both naturalised self-in process of calling into question 'Cato's' status as a civic between Trenchard and Gordon's thought and that of B represented as Cato's antithesis. By comparing the wor viewed by contemporaries, it is argued that in terms of points of convergence in their ideology.

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