

**Criticism of Franklin's historical review of the
constitution and government of Pennsylvania**

Circa 1760

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Summary Information

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- Penn, Thomas, 1702-1775

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This manuscript offers a critique of *A Historical Review of the Constitution and Government of Pennsylvania* (1759). *A Historical Review* was anonymously published, but it has been credited to either Benjamin Franklin or Richard Jackson. Written in the wake of the politically divisive 1750s, the pamphlet attacked the proprietors of Pennsylvania and the proprietary nature of the colonial government and defended the actions of the Assembly and Quaker Party during the Seven Years' War. The manuscript in the APS's vault was written in 1759 or 1760, likely in London. It defends the proprietor and the government in general. Largely unknown to historians, this manuscript provides insight into the deep political divisions within colonial Pennsylvania by offering a clear view into the beliefs of the proprietors and the proprietary party. The anonymous author of the work is almost certainly Thomas Penn. The manuscript was never published.