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**RELUCTANT
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LIFE AND LEGACY OF
PASTOR ANDREW
ELIOT (1718-1778) OF
BOSTON (EUGENE, OR:
PICKWICK)**

*"DR OAKES HAS revealed an
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colonial ministerial culture"*

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1778) of Boston*
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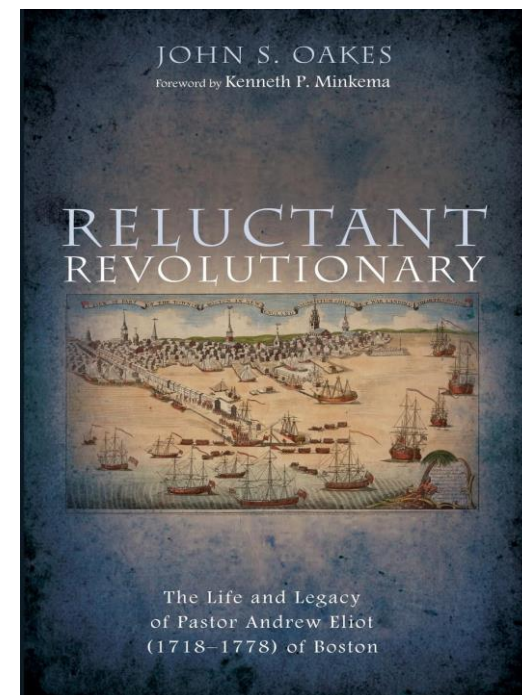
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*"IN THIS FIRST full-length
biography of eighteenth-century
Boston minister Andrew Eliot,
readers are treated to new insights
into this neglected figure that
correct longstanding partial and
even misleading conceptions of him
and his significance."*

KENNETH P. MINKEMA, Yale
University, in "Foreword"



Andrew Eliot: “Reluctant Revolutionary”

ANDREW ELIOT (1718–1778) was one of the most prominent Boston leaders in the second half of the eighteenth century. As minister of one of the city’s biggest churches, his was an important political, as well as religious voice into the earliest years of the American War for Independence. But Eliot has often been neglected or misunderstood. In this first full biography, John S. Oakes draws on multiple sources to offer a fresh portrait of the Boston minister as:

- a moderate, but orthodox Calvinist, who maintained a consistent witness at a time of theological turmoil
- a prosperous family man, who helped lay the foundations for future generations of Eliots

among the Boston “Brahmin”

- a “reluctant revolutionary,” whose devotion to Protestant British ideals prevented him from embracing the patriot cause in the War for Independence until hostilities were already under way.
- a dedicated pastor, who was one of very few ministers to choose to endure the hardships of Boston under British occupation.

“ELIOT WAS too cautious in his politics and too moderate in his theology to draw historians’ interest – until this well-researched and carefully argued book by John Oakes. . . rich in detail about Revolutionary Boston and full of insight about the virtue of faithful pastoral service through tumultuous times.”

MARK NOLL, Notre Dame University

A cautious and irenic leader, Eliot also provides an outstanding example of a leader who proved able to maintain his personal integrity and a wide network of diverse connections, despite ministering in a highly polarized intellectual and political climate.



About the Author

DR. JOHN S. OAKES is a Research Fellow of Wycliffe College, Toronto. He has previously served as an Adjunct Professor of History at Simon Fraser University, held a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Harvard Divinity School and a Visiting Fellowship at Yale Divinity School. He was educated at Oxford University, Regent College, the University of British Columbia, and Simon Fraser University, where he earned his PhD in history. He is also the author of *Conservative Revolutionaries: Transformation and Tradition in the Religious and Political Thought of Charles Chauncy and Jonathan Mayhew* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2016).