

# TORRIES VERSUS PARSIS

Dr. Kersey Antia, Aug 11, 2019; updated Nov 10, 2019

The allegiance of the American Tories with the British in America during the War for Independence was so pronounced but Tanya ignores it and rather misinterprets the Good Parsi. In another book, "Tories," Thomas B. Allen (Harper, 2010) wonders how many Tories "were taunted, tortured or lynched we will never know." He observes that Loyalists courted trouble by fraternizing with the Redcoats. Allen finds the old estimate of a third of American as Tories rather outdated and settles it for 20%, that is about half a million. After the near collapse of the Continental Army in 1776, gloating loyalists – noting that the three sevens in 1777 looked gibbets – called it "the year of the hangmen and hoped the rebels would soon be swinging from British rope." Allen does not examine why some colonials remained loyal to the end while most did not but the famous historian Leonard LaBarce in 1948 found seven psychological reasons, including the belief that a resistance to the legitimate government would lead to anarchy if the lower classes ran wild, a concern shared by the Parsis especially after the constitutional movement for independence started by them was superseded by the Gandhian movement – a concern also shared by modern-day historians who see in it the seeds of present unrest and unruly mob behavior. It is interesting to note that Benjamin Franklin's son William rose to the position of royal governor of New Jersey but later betrayed his father by siding with England during the American Revolution.

There are many such examples as well. Parsis, on the other hand, never resisted or sabotaged the independence movement, in which they had had a big share and supported it all through, though they did not hesitate to express their legitimate concerns when called for.