

# **Matthew Stewart: "Nature's God, The Heretical Origins Of The American Republic" (2015)**

**Post by "Cassius" of April 8, 2025 at 7:30 PM**

@Eikadistes - today I finished the chapter in this book on Epicurus - "Epicurus' Dangerous Idea."

It's got to be one of the deepest treatments of Epicurus that I've read in many a day, and given that it was released as recently as 2015 it's probably one of the longer recent treatments out there - certainly in a book meant for general readership.

It may not be quite as "broad," but it's a \*much\* deeper treatment of some of the core ideas than the chapter on Epicurus in Greenblatt's "The Swerve."

He's giving far more detail than I am familiar with, but one person I wish he had referenced (although she's after the revolutionary period so I can understand her being omitted) was Frances Wright and her *Few Days In Athens*.

I'm looking forward to reading it to the end but wanted to re-engage you on your overall impression of the book. Did it lead you to any additional reading on any of the many lesser-known figures that he talks about from the followers of Bruno (Vallini?) on up to the 1800's? It sounds like Thomas Young was a key figure and link to Epicurus.

There's also a lot of general reflection on how to present revolutionary religious ideas when you know that many people around you aren't ready to hear them.

This might be one of the best general-interest books to talk about Epicurus since "The Swerve," and it almost certainly deserves more attention than we've given it.