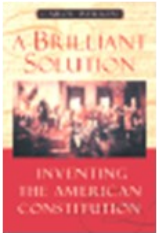




Celebrate Our Freedoms

Stir your blood and your mind. Discover these acclaimed accounts of a revolution: a nation of people willing to die for their freedoms.

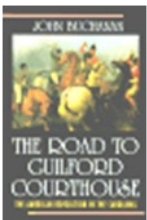


[A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution](#) by Carol Berkin (973.3 BERKI)

With this concise masterly book, Berkin joins the upper ranks of popular historians. In her account of the Constitutional Convention in the summer of 1787, Berkin uses a novelistic approach to convey the personalities of the delegates and the mood of those intense, sweltering days. Washington, Hamilton, Franklin, Mason, Dickinson, et al., may be familiar to most readers, but Berkin devotes equal attention to the maneuverings of the lesser-known delegates. As the central issues are debated (the election and powers of the executive, the extent of state sovereignty) and the "Great Compromise" emerges from the Committee on Postponed Matters, the achievement is shown to be nothing short of spectacular. – *Library Journal*

[Martha Washington: An American Life](#) by Patricia Brady (B WASHINGTON)

This solid, scholarly biography transforms Martha Dandridge Custis Washington from a stodgy historical figure into a charming and vibrant woman, and focuses on her indomitable spirit and her considerable influence as George Washington's wife and confidante. She is depicted as a very human but true heroine who remained steadfast through personal adversity and the uncertainties of war and revolution. Highly recommended. – *Library Journal*



[The Road to Guilford Courthouse: the British Campaign to Regain the Carolinas, 1780-81](#)

by John Buchanan

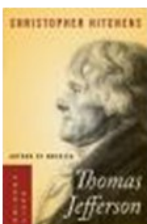
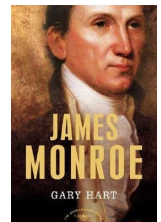
(973.3 BUCHA)

Buchanan (former archivist at Cornell and the Metropolitan Museum of Art) reminds us that the war for the southern colonies, a struggle "long, bloody, and obstinate," was of crucial importance to the revolution's outcome. The British, under Lord Cornwallis [and] Tarleton's hated British Legion, rode roughshod over the countryside, launching repeated swift, brutal attacks against civilians and militias, burning homes, confiscating livestock, and hanging some who resisted. The violence only rekindled opposition among Carolinians. Buchanan vigorously describes the nature of guerrilla warfare in the South and provides fine sketches of the many remarkable men who fought on both sides. A tense, exciting account displaying history writing at its best. – *Kirkus*

[James Monroe](#) by Gary Hart (B MONROE)

The American Presidents Series, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., General Editor

Former U.S. senator and presidential candidate Gary Hart studies James Monroe, the last of the Virginia dynasty, president at an important time in U.S. history (1817–25). Hart argues that Monroe was "the first 'national security president,' whose consistent motivation was to expand and establish the borders of the U.S. and to make it the dominant power in the Western Hemisphere, free of European interference." – *Library Journal*



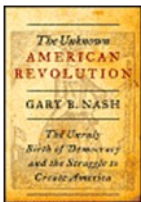
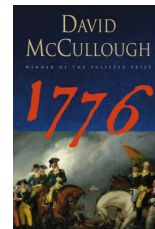
[Thomas Jefferson: Author of America](#) by Christopher Hitchens (B JEFFERSON)

In this brief biography, (HarperCollins's Eminent Lives series,) Hitchens proposes that Jefferson "designed America" when he wrote the Declaration of Independence, establishing "the concept of human rights, for the first time in history, as the basis for a republic." Hitchens reveals the Enlightenment ideas that shaped American policy, such as the separation of church and state and the prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment. This opinionated, lively narrative sheds light not only on Jefferson's complex personality but on the politics of his time, making it both a fascinating character study and an excellent review of early American history. – *Publishers Weekly*



1776 by David McCullough (973.3 MCCULL)

In his highly accessible book, "1776," best-selling historian David McCullough (two-time Pulitzer winner for "John Adams" and "Truman") follows the Continental Army [and Washington] through a single, fateful year, one filled with surprise victories, stunning reversals, perilous midnight retreats, and pure, grind-it-out perseverance. It's a story filled with drama. McCullough shows himself once again to be among our nation's great storytellers. - *San Francisco Chronicle* (Also try McCullough's [John Adams](#))

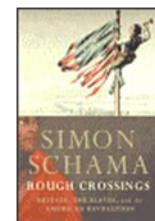


The Unknown American Revolution: the Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America by Gary B. Nash (973.3 NASH)

Nash examines the American Revolution from the perspective of the ordinary people involved: women, laborers, farmers, Native Americans, and slaves. As Nash reveals, the clean linear history of the Revolution taught in school is simply not true; it was a very messy, chaotic, and fragmented affair. Well written, thought provoking, and controversial. - *Library Journal*

Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves, and the American Revolution by Simon Schama (326.097 SCHAM)

Rough Crossings turns on a single question: if you were black in America at the start of the Revolutionary War, whom would you want to win? In response to a declaration by the last governor of Virginia that any rebel-owned slave who escaped and served the King would be emancipated, tens of thousands of slaves escaped from farms, plantations and cities to try to reach the British camp. A military strategy originally designed to break the American South unleashed one of the great exoduses in American history. Schama details the odyssey through the fires of war into Nova Scotia, where thousands who had served the Crown were [later] sent across the stormy ocean to Sierra Leone. - *Book Jacket*

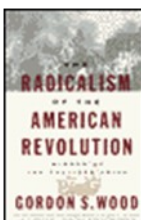
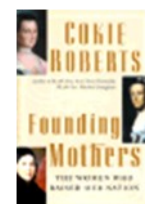


John Paul Jones: Sailor, Hero, Father of the American Navy by Evan Thomas (B JONES)

This superlative biography from Newsweek assistant managing editor Thomas adds interpretations and dimensions to practically every event that has been recorded elsewhere. His (frequently successful) pursuit of the ladies raised eyebrows, and his conduct during the famous ship to ship engagement between Bonhomme Richard and Serapis was more stubborn than sound. Jones was clearly prickly, socially ambitious, a difficult subordinate. Jones was also a superb practical seaman, a charismatic combat leader and a man with a vision of the American naval future. Both Jones and his latest biographer can justly be praised as masters of their respective crafts. - *Publishers Weekly*

Founding Mothers: the Women Who Raised Our Nation by Cokie Roberts (973 ROB)

Roberts ([We are Our Mother's Daughters](#)), well known as an NPR and ABC political analyst, interweaves the women's stories with the story of the developing nation. The well-researched text draws primarily from the extant letters of the mothers, wives, and daughters of the Founding Fathers. The retelling is so convincing that we speculate and anguish with the women over whether there will be a revolution, a war, a Continental Congress, enough food to eat, or imprisonment as a traitor because one is related to a signer. - *Library Journal*



The Radicalism of the American Revolution by Gordon S. Wood (973.3 WOOD)

In this beautifully written book [Pulitzer Prize, 1993], one of the most noted U.S. historians restores the radicalism to what he terms "one of the greatest revolutions the world has ever known." The change from a deferential, monarchical, ordered, and static society to a liberal, democratic, and commercial one was astonishing, all the more so because it took place without industrialization, urbanization, or the revolution in transportation. It was a revolution of the mind, in which the concept of equality, democracy, and private interest grasped by hundreds of thousands of Americans transformed a country nearly overnight. Exciting, compelling, and sure to provoke controversy, the book will be discussed for years to come. - *Library Journal*

Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different by Gordon S. Wood (973.309 WOOD)

Pulitzer and Bancroft Prize-winner Wood suggests that behind America's current romance with the founding fathers is a critique of our current leaders, a desire for such capable and disinterested leadership as was offered by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. - *Publishers Weekly*

