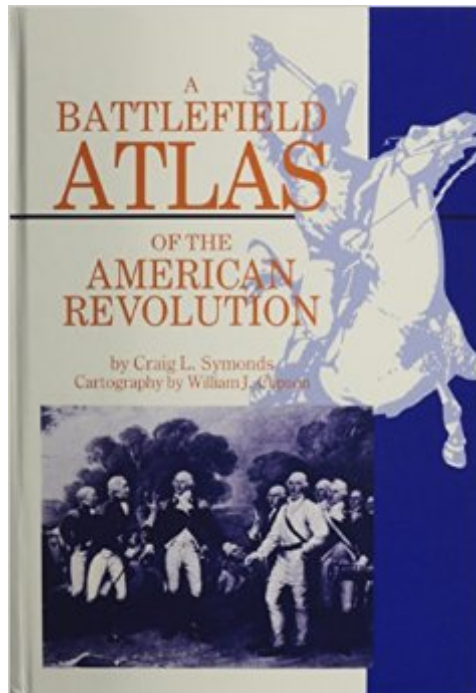


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A Battlefield Atlas Of The American Revolution



Synopsis

This volume is a rich visual and narrative overview of the principal military engagements of the American War for independence. Two-color, full-page maps, aid the visual comprehension of students as well as military history buffs, making this book an ideal classroom aid, easy-to-handle battlefield tour-guide, or library reference. Symonds narrates each battle in clear, concise, and readable text. Four introductory essays draw the narrative together, each highlighting a new facet of the British-American conflict. The maps provided by cartographer William J. Clipson are specifically suited to each description. This book is the second collaboration between the two scholars. "This is an excellent introduction to the major military events of the Revolution, and a most useful reference." -Infantry

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Recently read David McCullough 1776. Good book but maps terrible. It was difficult understanding Washington's movements by narration alone. Found some internet maps which helped, but still deficient. The Battlefield Atlas really filled in the gaps. Additionally, Symonds brief write up were perfect supplements to each map. Also great summaries for memory refreshment after reading a dozen pages of detail. Really recommend this book as a companion to other revolutionary war books.

I had tried many times to form a solid idea about the American War of Independence reading a number of books on the subject, but I had never been so satisfied and enthralled as when I finished

Craig Symond's excellent atlas. This is the ideal book for beginners on that important 18th century war and the better way to visualize battles and campaigns, since they are connected to specific maneuvers on the ground. The maps are very good (two-color) and the text is short but also very informative. It is an indispensable reference work and I'm glad that I have it in my library.

Both the casual reader and the serious Revolutionary War aficionado will find this slim volume valuable. For me, it brought to life even the most complicated, multi-fronted battle. The maps are clear with just the necessary elements included. Numbers mark the succession of events that the accompanying text refers to, making even the more complicated situation easy to understand. Few Revolutionary War authors (fiction as well as non-fiction) use maps to illustrate their work so this book is a welcome reference. That alone made it a great find for me but, incredibly, the text that accompanies the maps gives a succinct and accurate account making it good reading aside from its value as a reference.

"A Battlefield Atlas of the American Revolution" is an excellent book to provide a brief overview on the major battles of the American Revolution. Craig Symonds and Cartographer William Clipson team up to provide readers with the 'Cliff's Notes' version of the Revolution. The book provides a map and one page summaries of 41 different battles -- from the 'shot heard round the world' at Lexington, to the siege of Yorktown in 1781. The book is broken out into four parts: Early Campaigns; The Turning Point; A Global War; and The War Moves South; each focusing on various phases of the war. Symonds provides a strategic summary at the beginning of each part to provide the historic context for why the series of battles broke out the way they did. For example, in Part Two: The Turning Point, Symonds discusses General Burgoyne's ambitious plan to cut off the Rebellious New Englanders from the rest of the colonies. This part of the book moves on to discuss the Battles of Ticonderoga; Fort Stanwix; Bennington; Freeman's Farm; the Highlands; Bemis Heights; Brandywine; Germantown; and the Siege of Philadelphia. The maps are easy to understand. I especially liked the proportional bars Clipson used to designate the combatant units. Revolutionary Era units with similar terms such as Regiment had variable sizes, especially when dealing American militia units. Clipson's bars are based on the number of men in the unit, so a one-thousand man unit in both sides would be the same size on the chart. There were a few minor editing errors, such as the word 'Jine' instead of 'June' in a subtitle for the map of Bunker Hill; and a duplicated paragraph at the end of the chapter on Concord. This is an excellent book for providing an overview of the key battles of the American Revolution. It won't make you an expert on any one

battle, but the book quickly provides a summary of the main events and key outcomes from each of the significant battles.

I'm listing this review as 3 Stars - IN ORDER TO SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE: 5 Stars for historian, Craig L. Symonds; 2.5 Stars for cartographer, William J. Clipson; and 1.5 Stars for the cartography proofreader. As someone who has studied the American Revolutionary period and war for more than 50 years, I applaud the clarity and accuracy of the author, Craig Symonds. Historians writing of this period often vary in their focus, in their interpretations - and sometimes even in the facts. ... As relates to the ARW battles, battlefield events, and historic impact of these, Mr. Symonds is consistent with the most esteemed and substantial historians. Though his descriptions are succinct, his clarity and completeness in simplifying complex events IS REMARKABLE. 5 STARSThe cartographer and map proofreader ought to be ashamed of themselves. In ascending order of the flaws: * Several of the maps are out of chronological order; * Where the main map shows "See insert below," many of the inserts aren't clearly related; * Where the map should reflect the numbers listed by the author to show significant battle events, on several of the maps some of the numbers are omitted; * AND THIS IS THE KICKER! The maps are supposed to show Continental activity in blue and British activity in black and on at least one map, both armies are shown in blue. So, on that map, the Continentals are shown destroying the Continentals. ON A POSITIVE NOTE: the writing is excellent - and very worthwhile on its own. The physical book is BEAUTIFUL.

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