

american revolutions alan taylor review

american revolutions alan taylor review offers a comprehensive examination of Alan Taylor's acclaimed work on the American Revolutionary period. This review delves into Taylor's unique approach to the subject, highlighting his narrative style, scholarly research, and the fresh perspectives he brings to the history of the American Revolution. The article provides an in-depth analysis of the themes and interpretations presented in Taylor's book, emphasizing his focus on the broader global context and the diverse experiences of people during the revolution. Additionally, this review discusses the critical reception of the book, its contribution to historical scholarship, and its relevance for both academic and general audiences interested in American history. Readers will gain insight into how Taylor's work challenges traditional narratives and enriches understanding of the complexities surrounding the birth of the United States. The following sections outline the key aspects covered in this review.

- Overview of Alan Taylor's American Revolutions
- Historical Context and Scope
- Narrative Style and Structure
- Thematic Focus and Key Arguments
- Critical Reception and Scholarly Impact
- Contribution to Revolutionary History

Overview of Alan Taylor's American Revolutions

Alan Taylor's book, *American Revolutions*, presents a multi-faceted view of the Revolutionary era, challenging traditional single-nation narratives. The author situates the American Revolution within a wider Atlantic and global context, exploring its impact on various groups including Native Americans, African Americans, and Loyalists. Taylor's approach is notable for its emphasis on the diverse experiences and perspectives that shaped the revolutionary period. This overview introduces the reader to the book's purpose, scope, and key features that distinguish it from other works on the American Revolution.

Author Background and Expertise

Alan Taylor is a distinguished historian specializing in early American history and the colonial period. His expertise lends credibility and depth to *American Revolutions*, making it a significant contribution to the field. Taylor's previous works have also focused on nuanced interpretations of America's past, and this book continues that tradition.

Book's Place in Revolutionary Literature

American Revolutions stands out for its integrative approach, combining political, social, and cultural history. It moves beyond the focus on battles and founding fathers to analyze how the revolution affected different populations and regions, broadening the understanding of this transformative period.

Historical Context and Scope

The book covers the period from the early conflicts leading up to the revolution through the aftermath of American independence. Taylor's historical context encompasses not only the thirteen colonies but also the wider Atlantic world, including British, French, Spanish, and Indigenous territories. This expansive scope provides readers with a holistic picture of the revolutionary era's complexity.

Geographical and Political Landscape

Taylor explores the geopolitical dynamics in North America and beyond, detailing how imperial competition influenced revolutionary events. The inclusion of Native American nations, enslaved peoples, and European powers highlights the interconnectedness of local and global histories during this period.

Chronological Coverage

The narrative traces events from the mid-18th century through the 1780s, offering a continuous examination of causes, conflicts, and consequences. This chronological breadth allows for a detailed understanding of the revolution's evolution and its long-lasting effects.

Narrative Style and Structure

Taylor's writing style is scholarly yet accessible, balancing detailed research with engaging prose. The book's structure is carefully organized to guide readers through complex historical developments without oversimplification. This section examines how the narrative style and organization contribute to the book's effectiveness.

Use of Primary Sources

The author extensively utilizes letters, official documents, and contemporary accounts to provide authenticity and depth. These primary sources enrich the narrative and offer diverse viewpoints, supporting Taylor's inclusive historical approach.

Chapter Organization

The book is divided into thematic and chronological chapters that systematically address different

facets of the revolution. This organization facilitates comprehension and keeps readers engaged with a clear progression of ideas.

Thematic Focus and Key Arguments

American Revolutions presents several central themes that redefine conventional understandings of the revolutionary period. Taylor emphasizes the multiplicity of revolutions occurring simultaneously and the varied experiences of different groups. This section explores these themes and the main arguments advanced in the book.

Multiplicity of Revolutions

Taylor argues that the American Revolution was not a singular event but a series of interconnected upheavals affecting diverse populations. This perspective challenges traditional narratives centered on elite political actors and national independence.

Role of Marginalized Groups

The book highlights the crucial roles of Native Americans, African Americans, women, and Loyalists, whose stories are often marginalized in revolutionary histories. Taylor's focus on these groups adds complexity and nuance to the understanding of the era.

Global and Imperial Context

By situating the revolution within global imperial conflicts, Taylor demonstrates how American independence was influenced by and influenced international power struggles. This approach broadens the analytical framework beyond the colonies.

Critical Reception and Scholarly Impact

Since its publication, *American Revolutions* has received significant attention from historians and critics. The book is praised for its innovative approach and comprehensive scholarship. This section reviews the critical reception and its impact on historical discourse.

Positive Reviews

- Commendation for broadening the narrative scope of the American Revolution
- Recognition of meticulous research and source integration
- Appreciation for highlighting underrepresented perspectives

Scholarly Critiques

Some critiques focus on the book's ambitious scope, suggesting that the wide-ranging narrative may dilute specific regional or thematic details. Nonetheless, these criticisms often acknowledge the value of Taylor's fresh perspectives.

Contribution to Revolutionary History

Alan Taylor's *American Revolutions* significantly enriches the field of revolutionary studies by offering a multidimensional analysis that incorporates global, social, and cultural dimensions. Its contributions extend beyond academic audiences, providing educators and readers with a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in America's founding.

Educational Value

The book serves as a valuable resource for courses on American history, revolution, and Atlantic studies. Its inclusive narrative encourages critical thinking about the formation of the United States and its diverse peoples.

Influence on Future Research

American Revolutions sets a precedent for future scholarship to adopt broader, more inclusive approaches when studying revolutionary periods. Taylor's work inspires historians to explore interconnected histories and the roles of marginalized actors in shaping historical events.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of Alan Taylor's 'American Revolutions' according to the review?

Alan Taylor's 'American Revolutions' focuses on the complex and multifaceted nature of the American Revolution, emphasizing the multiple perspectives and experiences of various groups involved in the conflict.

How does the review describe Alan Taylor's writing style in 'American Revolutions'?

The review praises Alan Taylor's writing style as engaging and accessible, combining scholarly rigor with vivid storytelling that brings the historical period to life for readers.

Does the review mention any new insights offered by 'American

Revolutions'?

Yes, the review highlights that 'American Revolutions' offers fresh insights by exploring lesser-known narratives and challenging traditional interpretations of the American Revolution.

What audience does the review suggest 'American Revolutions' is best suited for?

The review suggests that 'American Revolutions' is well-suited for both scholars and general readers interested in American history, as it balances depth of analysis with readability.

Are there any criticisms noted in the review about 'American Revolutions'?

The review mentions that while the book is comprehensive, some readers might find the breadth of perspectives overwhelming or the narrative occasionally dense due to the complexity of the subject matter.

How does Alan Taylor address the roles of different groups in the American Revolution in his book?

According to the review, Alan Taylor thoroughly examines the roles of diverse groups including Native Americans, African Americans, women, and loyalists, highlighting their significant but often overlooked contributions and experiences.

What makes 'American Revolutions' by Alan Taylor stand out among other books on the same topic?

The review notes that 'American Revolutions' stands out for its nuanced approach that moves beyond a single narrative, offering a pluralistic view that captures the revolution as a series of interconnected conflicts involving various communities.

Additional Resources

1. *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804* by Alan Taylor

This comprehensive work by Alan Taylor offers a panoramic view of the American Revolution, expanding the narrative beyond the thirteen colonies to include the broader North American continent. Taylor explores the diverse motivations and experiences of various groups, including Native Americans, loyalists, and enslaved people. The book provides a nuanced understanding of the revolution's impact on the entire continent and challenges traditional heroic narratives.

2. *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World* by Maya Jasanoff

Jasanoff's book focuses on the loyalists who opposed the revolution and were forced to flee after the war. It sheds light on their experiences in various parts of the British Empire, revealing the wider consequences of the American Revolution. This work complements Alan Taylor's continental approach by emphasizing the global dimensions of the conflict.

3. *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* by Gordon S. Wood

Wood's classic analysis delves into the ideological and social transformations brought about by the revolution. He argues that the American Revolution was far more radical than just a political upheaval, reshaping American society and values. This book provides important context to understand the revolutionary changes that Alan Taylor discusses in a broader continental scope.

4. *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence* by Carol Berkin

Berkin highlights the critical roles women played during the American Revolution, from managing households to participating in protests and espionage. This book enriches the traditional military and political focus of revolution histories, including those by Alan Taylor, by bringing gender into the conversation. It reveals how the revolution affected and was shaped by women's experiences.

5. *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832* by Alan Taylor

Another important work by Alan Taylor, this book investigates the impact of the revolution on enslaved African Americans in Virginia. It explores the complex relationships between slavery, war, and freedom, showing how the revolution's promises contrasted with the realities of bondage. This detailed study complements Taylor's broader continental narrative by focusing on a critical regional and social

aspect.

6. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis

Ellis's Pulitzer Prize-winning book examines the intertwined lives and politics of key revolutionary leaders such as Washington, Jefferson, and Hamilton. It provides insight into the personal and political dynamics that shaped the new nation. This work offers a closer look at the elite figures often central to the narratives that Alan Taylor situates within a wider context.

7. *Washington's Crossing* by David Hackett Fischer

Fischer's vivid narrative recounts George Washington's daring crossing of the Delaware River and the subsequent battles that turned the tide of the revolution. The book combines military history with cultural analysis, illustrating the significance of this pivotal moment. It complements Alan Taylor's broader historical scope with a focused examination of a key revolutionary event.

8. *The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution, 1763-1789* by Robert Middlekauff

This detailed and well-regarded history covers the origins, major events, and aftermath of the American Revolution. Middlekauff provides a thorough narrative that balances political, military, and social aspects. His work serves as a solid foundational text that pairs well with Alan Taylor's innovative continental perspective.

9. *Unsettled Empire: Violence, Dispossession, and Indian Resilience in the Revolutionary Borderlands* by Andrew Lipman

Lipman explores the violent and tumultuous interactions between Native Americans and European settlers during the revolutionary era. The book highlights Native resistance and resilience, offering a critical perspective often overlooked in traditional revolution histories. This focus aligns with Alan Taylor's emphasis on the wider continental and multicultural dimensions of the American Revolution.

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american revolutions alan taylor review: American Revolutions Alan Taylor, 2016-09-06

Alan Taylor is featured in THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, a film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt on PBS Excellent...deserves high praise. Mr. Taylor conveys this sprawling continental history with economy, clarity, and vividness. —Brendan Simms, Wall Street Journal The American Revolution is often portrayed as a high-minded, orderly event whose capstone, the Constitution, provided the nation its democratic framework. Alan Taylor, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, gives us a different creation story in this magisterial history. The American Revolution builds like a ground fire overspreading Britain's colonies, fueled by local conditions and resistant to control. Emerging from the continental rivalries of European empires and their native allies, the revolution pivoted on western expansion as well as seaboard resistance to British taxes. When war erupted, Patriot crowds harassed Loyalists and nonpartisans into compliance with their cause. The war exploded in set battles like Saratoga and Yorktown and spread through continuing frontier violence. The discord smoldering within the fragile new nation called forth a movement to concentrate power through a Federal Constitution. Assuming the mantle of "We the People," the advocates of national power ratified the new frame of government. But it was Jefferson's expansive "empire of liberty" that carried the revolution forward, propelling white settlement and slavery west, preparing the ground for a new conflagration.

american revolutions alan taylor review: The Long American Revolution and Its Legacy

Lester D. Langley, 2019-10-01 This book brings together Lester D. Langley's personal and professional link to the long American Revolution in a narrative that spans more than 150 years and places the Revolution in multiple contexts—from the local to the transatlantic and hemispheric and from racial and gendered to political, social, economic, and cultural perspectives. It offers a reminder that we are an old republic but a young nation and shows how an awareness of that dynamic is critical to understanding our current political, cultural, and social malaise. The United States of America is still a work in progress. A descendant on his father's side from a long line of Kentuckians, Langley grew up torn between a father who embodied the idea of the Revolution's poor white male driven by economic self-interest and racial prejudices and a devoted and pious mother who saw life and history as a morality play. The author's intellectual and professional "encounter" with the American Revolution came in the 1960s as a young historian specializing in U.S. foreign relations and Latin American history, an era when the U.S. encounter with the revolution in Cuba and with the civil rights movement at home served as a reminder of the lasting and troublesome legacy of a long American Revolution. In a sweeping account that incorporates both the traditional, iconic literature on the Revolution and more recent works in U.S., Canadian, Latin American, Caribbean, and Atlantic world history, Langley addresses fundamental questions about the Revolution's meaning, continuing relevance, and far-reaching legacy.

american revolutions alan taylor review: The Idea of Europe and the Origins of the

American Revolution D. H. Robinson, 2020-09-02 In *The Idea of Europe and the Origins of the American Revolution*, Dan Robinson presents a new history of politics in colonial America and the imperial crisis, tracing how ideas of Europe and Europeanness shaped British-American political culture. Reconstructing colonial debates about the European states system, European civilisation, and Britain's position within both, Robinson shows how these concerns informed colonial attitudes towards American identity and America's place inside - and, ultimately, outside - the emerging British Empire. Taking in more than two centuries of Atlantic history, he explores the way in which colonists inherited and adapted Anglo-British traditions of thinking about international politics, how they navigated imperial politics during the European wars of 1740-1763, and how the burgeoning patriot movement negotiated the dual crisis of Europe and Empire in the between 1763 and 1775. In the process, Robinson sheds new light on the development of public politics in colonial America, the Anglicisation/Americanisation debate, the political economy of empire, early American art and poetry, eighteenth-century geopolitical thinking, and the relationship between international affairs, nationalism, and revolution. What emerges from this story is an American Revolution that seems

both decidedly arcane and strikingly relevant to the political challenges of the twenty-first century.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Spain and the American Revolution* Gabriel Paquette, Gonzalo M. Quintero Saravia, 2019-10-31 Though the participation of France in the American Revolution is well established in the historiography, the role of Spain, France's ally, is relatively understudied and underappreciated. Spain's involvement in the conflict formed part of a global struggle between empires and directly influenced the outcome of the clash between Britain and its North American colonists. Following the establishment of American independence, the Spanish empire became one of the nascent republic's most significant neighbors and, often illicitly, trading partners. Bringing together essays from a range of well-regarded historians, this volume contributes significantly to the international history of the Age of Atlantic Revolutions.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *The Oxford Handbook of the American Revolution* Edward G. Gray, Jane Kamensky, 2015 The Oxford Handbook of the American Revolution introduces scholars, students and generally interested readers to the formative event in American history. In thirty-three individual essays, the Handbook provides readers with in-depth analysis of the Revolution's many sides.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Contesting Slave Masculinity in the American South* David Stefan Doddington, 2018-07-12 Contesting Slave Masculinity in the American South demonstrates the significance of internal divisions, comparison, and conflict in shaping gender and status in slave communities of the American South. David Stefan Doddington seeks to move beyond unilateral discussions of slave masculinity, and instead demonstrates how the repressions of slavery were both personal and political. Rather than automatically support one another against an emasculatory white society, Doddington explores how enslaved people negotiated identities in relation to one another, through comparisons between men and different forms of manhood held up for judgment. An examination of the framework in which enslaved people crafted identities demonstrates the fluidity of gender as a social and cultural phenomenon that defied monolithic models of black masculinity, solidarity, and victimization. Focusing on work, authority, honor, sex, leisure, and violence, this book is a full-length treatment of the idea of 'masculinity' among slave communities of the Old South.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Missouri Historical Review* , 2017

american revolutions alan taylor review: *American Revolutions in the Digital Age* Nora Slonimsky, Mark Boonshoft, Ben Wright, 2024-08-15 The interdisciplinary essays in American Revolutions in the Digital Age explore what digital tools can tell us about the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century United States and reveal how an understanding of the American past can make sense of our digital present. By employing a host of innovative digital research methods, these authors challenge long-held assumptions about the American past. In addition, this collection uniquely demonstrates how contemporary anxieties about an array of topics, including media disinformation, patriarchy, economic inequality, and public memory, can be better understood through careful considerations of early American history. Open Access edition funded by Iona University

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Settling Ohio* Timothy G. Anderson, Brian Schoen, 2023-06-06 Scholars working in archaeology, education, history, geography, and politics tell a nuanced story about the people and dynamics that reshaped this region and determined who would control it. The Ohio Valley possesses some of the most resource-rich terrain in the world. Its settlement by humans was thus consequential not only for shaping the geographic and cultural landscape of the region but also for forming the United States and the future of world history. Settling Ohio begins with an overview of the first people who inhabited the region, who built civilizations that moved massive amounts of earth and left an archaeological record that drew the interest of subsequent settlers and continues to intrigue scholars. It highlights how, in the eighteenth century, Native Americans who migrated from the East and North interacted with Europeans to develop impressive trading networks and how they navigated complicated wars and sought to preserve national identities in the face of violent attempts to remove them from their

lands. The book situates the traditional story of Ohio settlement, including the Northwest Ordinance, the dealings of the Ohio Company of Associates, and early road building, into a far richer story of contested spaces, competing visions of nationhood, and complicated relations with Indian peoples. By so doing, the contributors provide valuable new insights into how chaotic and contingent early national politics and frontier development truly were. Chapters highlighting the role of apple-growing culture, education, African American settlers, and the diverse migration flows into Ohio from the East and Europe further demonstrate the complex multiethnic composition of Ohio's early settlements and the tensions that resulted. A final theme of this volume is the desirability of working to recover the often-forgotten history of non-White peoples displaced by the processes of settler colonialism that has been, until recently, undervalued in the scholarship.

american revolutions alan taylor review: Rethinking America's Past Robert Cohen, Sonia E. Murrow, 2021-11-01 No introductory work of American history has had more influence over the past forty years than Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*, which since its publication in 1980 has sold more than three million copies. Zinn's iconoclastic critique of American militarism, racism, and capitalism has drawn bitter criticism from the Right, most recently from President Donald Trump, who at his White House Conference on American History in 2020 denounced Zinn as a Left propagandist and accused teachers aligned with Zinn of indoctrinating students to hate America and be ashamed of its history. *Rethinking America's Past* is the first work to use archival and classroom evidence to assess the impact that Zinn's classic work has had on historical teaching and learning and on American culture. This evidence refutes Trump's charges, showing that rather than indoctrinating students, Zinn's book has been used by teachers to have students debate and rethink conventional versions of American history. *Rethinking America's Past* also explores the ways Zinn's work fostered deeper, more critical renderings of the American past in movies and on stage and television and traces the origins and assesses the strengths and weaknesses of *A People's History* in light of more recent historical scholarship.

american revolutions alan taylor review: Entangling the Quebec Act Ollivier Hubert, François Furstenberg, 2020-12-30 Beyond redrawing North American borders and establishing a permanent system of governance, the Quebec Act of 1774 fundamentally changed British notions of empire and authority. Although it is understood as a formative moment - indeed part of the textbook narrative - in several different national histories, the Quebec Act remains underexamined in all of them. The first sustained examination of the act in nearly thirty years, *Entangling the Quebec Act* brings together essays by historians from North America and Europe to explore this seminal event using a variety of historical approaches. Focusing on a singular occurrence that had major social, legal, revolutionary, and imperial repercussions, the book weaves together perspectives from spatially and conceptually distinct historical fields - legal and cultural, political and religious, and beyond. Collectively, the contributors resituate the Quebec Act in light of Atlantic, American, Canadian, Indigenous, and British Imperial historiographies. A transnational collaboration, *Entangling the Quebec Act* shows how the interconnectedness of national histories is visible at a single crossing point, illustrating the importance of intertwining methodologies to bring these connections into focus.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Writing the History of Slavery* David Stefan Doddington, Enrico Dal Lago, 2022-01-13 Exploring the major historiographical, theoretical, and methodological approaches that have shaped studies on slavery, this addition to the *Writing History* series highlights the varied ways that historians have approached the fluid and complex systems of human bondage, domination, and exploitation that have developed in societies across the world. The first part examines more recent attempts to place slavery in a global context, touching on contexts such as religion, empire, and capitalism. In its second part, the book looks closely at the key themes and methods that emerge as historians reckon with the dynamics of historical slavery. These range from politics, economics and quantitative analyses, to race and gender, to psychohistory, history from below, and many more. Throughout, examples of slavery and its impact are considered across time and place: in Ancient Greece and Rome, Medieval Europe, colonial Asia, Africa, and the

Americas, and trades throughout the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Also taken into account are thinkers from Antiquity to the 20th century and the impact their ideas have had on the subject and the debates that follow. This book is essential reading for students and scholars at all levels who are interested in not only the history of slavery but in how that history has come to be written and how its debates have been framed across civilizations.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *The Forgotten Financiers of the Louisiana Purchase* Larry Neal, 2024-04-30 This book provides a comprehensive account of how the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 was financed. Where existing research has focused predominantly on the political and diplomatic significance of the Purchase, this book demonstrates the importance of the Purchase to global financial history. The book provides context and background for the Louisiana Purchase and examines the role of key actors and companies, focusing particularly on the 'forgotten financiers' of the Purchase - individuals from the US, France and the UK including Alexander Baring, Albert Gallatin, Pierre Cesar Labouchere and Francois Barbe-Marbois. Based on extensive, original archival research, the chapters will illuminate the role played by these individuals in bringing about financial innovation and facilitating a major transaction that doubled the size of the original United States and helped set the country on a path to global power. The book will be a valuable resource for historians of Europe and America, particularly those with interests in economic and financial history, as well as banking and finance scholars who are interested in the emergence of large-scale international finance in the 19th century.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Lakota America* Pekka Hamalainen, 2019-10-22 The first comprehensive history of the Lakota Indians and their profound role in shaping America's history Named One of the New York Times Critics' Top Books of 2019 - Named One of the 10 Best History Books of 2019 by Smithsonian Magazine - Winner of the MPIBA Reading the West Book Award for narrative nonfiction Turned many of the stories I thought I knew about our nation inside out.--Cornelia Channing, Paris Review, Favorite Books of 2019 My favorite non-fiction book of this year.--Tyler Cowen, Bloomberg Opinion A brilliant, bold, gripping history.--Simon Sebag Montefiore, London Evening Standard, Best Books of 2019 All nations deserve to have their stories told with this degree of attentiveness--Parul Sehgal, New York Times This first complete account of the Lakota Indians traces their rich and often surprising history from the early sixteenth to the early twenty-first century. Pekka Hämäläinen explores the Lakotas' roots as marginal hunter-gatherers and reveals how they reinvented themselves twice: first as a river people who dominated the Missouri Valley, America's great commercial artery, and then--in what was America's first sweeping westward expansion--as a horse people who ruled supreme on the vast high plains. The Lakotas are imprinted in American historical memory. Red Cloud, Crazy Horse, and Sitting Bull are iconic figures in the American imagination, but in this groundbreaking book they emerge as something different: the architects of Lakota America, an expansive and enduring Indigenous regime that commanded human fates in the North American interior for generations. Hämäläinen's deeply researched and engagingly written history places the Lakotas at the center of American history, and the results are revelatory.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Summary of The 1619 Project* Alexander Cooper, 2022-01-22 Summary of The 1619 Project - A Comprehensive Summary The famed 1619 Project of the New York Times is as interesting for the second half of its title as it is for the first. What is the project of this vast undertaking; what are its main findings and messages, as well as its underlying methodologies and objectives? There is an elusiveness, almost a malleability, pervading a piece of journalism—or history, or perhaps anything in between—founded on the specificity of a particular date. Part of the difficulty in evaluating it stems from the variety of ways in which the project has been presented: There's the Aug. 18, 2019, print and online edition of the New York Times Magazine special issue; a broadsheet edition that same day; a podcast spinoff; a new, lengthy book version; an illustrated children's book; and the many responses, updates, and essays published by the Times defending, enhancing, or otherwise explaining the project. These themes combine to create an ongoing and robust work that sparked a national seismic discussion about the legacy of slavery and

persistent racial injustice in American society. It's also a work with many opposing impulses, which may be confusing and conflicting at times. This is apparent in *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, a book that softens some of the previous magazine collection's edges while also transcending its... To be continued... Here is a Preview of What You Will Get: [□ A Full Book Summary](#) [□ An Analysis](#) [□ Fun quizzes](#) [□ Quiz Answers](#) [□ Etc.](#) Get a copy of this summary and learn about the book.

american revolutions alan taylor review: [Geography Is Destiny](#) Ian Morris, 2022-06-07 In the wake of Brexit, Ian Morris chronicles the ten-thousand-year history of Britain's relationship to Europe as it has changed in the context of a globalizing world. When Britain voted to leave the European Union in 2016, the 48 percent who wanted to stay and the 52 percent who wanted to go each accused the other of stupidity, fraud, and treason. In reality, the Brexit debate merely reran a script written ten thousand years earlier, when the rising seas physically separated the British Isles from the European continent. Ever since, geography has been destiny—yet it is humans who get to decide what that destiny means. Ian Morris, the critically acclaimed author of *Why the West Rules—for Now*, describes how technology and organization have steadily enlarged Britain's arena, and how its people have tried to turn this to their advantage. For the first seventy-five hundred years, the British were never more than bit players at the western edge of a European stage, struggling to find a role among bigger, richer, and more sophisticated continental rivals. By 1500 CE, however, new kinds of ships and governments had turned the European stage into an Atlantic one; with the English Channel now functioning as a barrier, England transformed the British Isles into a United Kingdom that created a worldwide empire. Since 1900, thanks to rapid globalization, Britain has been overshadowed by American, European, and—increasingly—Chinese actors. In trying to find its place in a global economy, Britain has been looking in all the wrong places. The ten-thousand-year story bracingly chronicled by *Geography Is Destiny* shows that the great question for the current century is not what to do about Brussels; it's what to do about Beijing.

american revolutions alan taylor review: [Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution](#) Eric Jay Dolin, 2022-05-31 Winner of the Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature Winner of the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award A Massachusetts Center for the Book Must-Read Finalist for the New England Society Book Award Finalist for the Boston Authors Club Julia Ward Howe Book Award Samuel Eliot Morison Book Award for Naval Literature National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) Excellence in American History Book Award The bestselling author of *Black Flags, Blue Waters* reclaims the daring freelance sailors who proved essential to the winning of the Revolutionary War. The heroic story of the founding of the U.S. Navy during the Revolution has been told many times, yet largely missing from maritime histories of America's first war is the ragtag fleet of private vessels that truly revealed the new nation's character—above all, its ambition and entrepreneurial ethos. In *Rebels at Sea*, best-selling historian Eric Jay Dolin corrects that significant omission, and contends that privateers, as they were called, were in fact critical to the American victory. Privateers were privately owned vessels, mostly refitted merchant ships, that were granted permission by the new government to seize British merchantmen and men of war. As Dolin stirringly demonstrates, at a time when the young Continental Navy numbered no more than about sixty vessels all told, privateers rushed to fill the gaps. Nearly 2,000 set sail over the course of the war, with tens of thousands of Americans serving on them and capturing some 1,800 British ships. Privateers came in all shapes and sizes, from twenty-five foot long whaleboats to full-rigged ships more than 100 feet long. Bristling with cannons, swivel guns, muskets, and pikes, they tormented their foes on the broad Atlantic and in bays and harbors on both sides of the ocean. The men who owned the ships, as well as their captains and crew, would divide the profits of a successful cruise—and suffer all the more if their ship was captured or sunk, with privateersmen facing hellish conditions on British prison hulks, where they were treated not as enemy combatants but as pirates. Some Americans viewed them similarly, as cynical opportunists whose only aim was loot. Yet Dolin shows that privateersmen were as patriotic as their fellow Americans, and moreover that they greatly contributed to the war's success: diverting critical British resources to protecting their shipping, playing a key role in bringing France into the war on the side

of the United States, providing much-needed supplies at home, and bolstering the new nation's confidence that it might actually defeat the most powerful military force in the world. Creating an entirely new pantheon of Revolutionary heroes, Dolin reclaims such forgotten privateersmen as Captain Jonathan Haraden and Offin Boardman, putting their exploits, and sacrifices, at the very center of the conflict. Abounding in tales of daring maneuvers and deadly encounters, *Rebels at Sea* presents this nation's first war as we have rarely seen it before.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Revolutionary Networks* Joseph M. Adelman, 2021-02-02 An engrossing and powerful story about the influence of printers, who used their commercial and political connections to directly shape Revolutionary political ideology and mass mobilization. Honorable Mention, St. Louis Mercantile Library Prize, Bibliographical Society of America During the American Revolution, printed material, including newspapers, pamphlets, almanacs, and broadsides, played a crucial role as a forum for public debate. In *Revolutionary Networks*, Joseph M. Adelman argues that printers—artisans who mingled with the elite but labored in a manual trade—used their commercial and political connections to directly shape Revolutionary political ideology and mass mobilization. Going into the printing offices of colonial America to explore how these documents were produced, Adelman shows how printers balanced their own political beliefs and interests alongside the commercial interests of their businesses, the customs of the printing trade, and the prevailing mood of their communities. Adelman describes how these laborers repackaged oral and manuscript compositions into printed works through which political news and opinion circulated. Drawing on a database of 756 printers active during the Revolutionary era, along with a rich collection of archival and printed sources, Adelman surveys printers' editorial strategies. Moving chronologically through the era of the American Revolution and to the war's aftermath, he details the development of the networks of printers and explains how they contributed to the process of creating first a revolution and then the new nation. By underscoring the important and intertwined roles of commercial and political interests in the development of Revolutionary rhetoric, this book essentially reframes our understanding of the American Revolution. Printers, Adelman argues, played a major role as mediators who determined what rhetoric to amplify and where to circulate it. Offering a unique perspective on the American Revolution and early American print culture, *Revolutionary Networks* reveals how these men and women managed political upheaval through a commercial lens.

american revolutions alan taylor review: *Remaking North American Sovereignty* Jewel L. Spangler, Frank Towers, 2021-05-20 This essay collection presents a transnational history of mid-nineteenth century North America, a time of crisis that forged the continent's political dynamics. North America took its political shape in the crisis of the 1860s, marked by Canadian Confederation, the US Civil War, the restoration of the Mexican Republic, and numerous wars and treaty regimes conducted between these states and indigenous peoples. This crisis wove together the three nation-states of modern North America from a patchwork of contested polities. *Remaking North American Sovereignty* brings together distinguished experts on the histories of Canada, indigenous peoples, Mexico, and the United States to re-evaluate this era of political transformation in light of the global turn in nineteenth-century historiography. They uncover the continental dimensions of the 1860s crisis that have been obscured by historical traditions that confine these conflicts within a national framework.

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The revolutionary lawyers, including John Adams's idol James Otis, Jr., Pennsylvania's John Dickinson, and Virginians Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry, along with Adams and others, deployed the skills of their profession to further the public welfare in challenging times. They were the framers of the American Revolution and the governments that followed. Loyalist lawyers and lawyers for the crown also participated in this public discourse, but because they lost out in the end, their arguments are often slighted or ignored in popular accounts. This division within the colonial legal profession is central to understanding the American Republic that resulted from the Revolution.

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