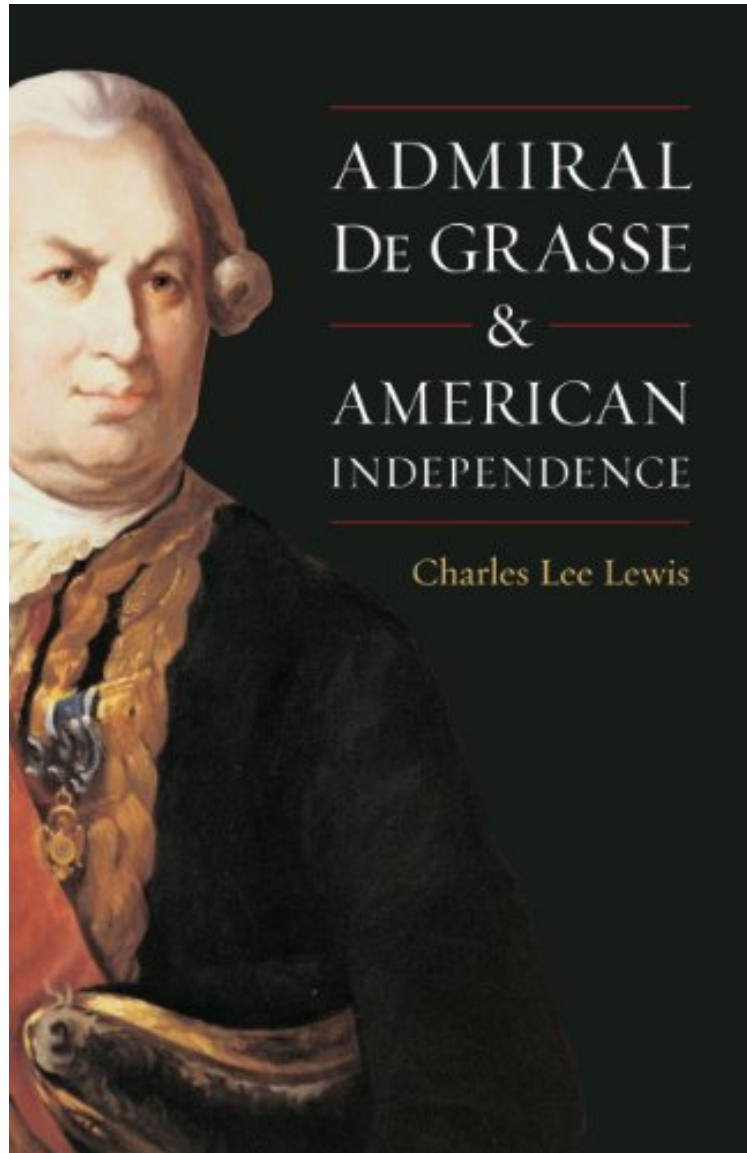


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Admiral de Grasse and American Independence

Charles Lee Lewis

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Charles Lee Lewis : Admiral de Grasse and American Independence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Admiral de Grasse and American Independence:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Forgotten ValorBy VA DuckThis is a book from an earlier era; written in 1945, author Charles Lee Lewis tells the naval exploits of French Admiral de Grasse - a hero to all Americans at the end of the 18th century and forgotten by nearly all Americans by start of the 21st century. The

Admiral, Francois-Joseph Paul, marquis de Grasse Tilly, comte de Grasse denied the British fleet access to the Chesapeake Bay in September 1781, thereby removing any hope of retreat, or resupply to the stranded army of General Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. The naval "skirmish" preventing British Admiral Graves access to the Bay certainly doomed Cornwallis, demoralizing British voters, causing the fall of Lord North's government, leading to the treaty of Paris which produced American independence. Ultimately and sadly, America's hero dies in 1788, ignored in his native France, out of favor with the court of Louis XVI for his loss in the Caribbean at the battle of Saint's Passage and then his subsequent, ill advised - all too public- defense of his actions. The book tells the naval history of de Grasse, but comes short of presenting a biography: by the end the reader has been exposed to a full spectrum of naval engagements, but still seems to know little of the man behind the uniform. And in fairness to the author - he may well have, as a naval historian, accomplished his objective. The read will take some patience: Lewis begins with the assumption that he is teaching naval warfare at the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Names like Gaxotte, Callander (Geoffery), and Mahan are presented without introduction or explanation (Naval Historians). Lewis has facility with the French language that he loves to flaunt - forgetting (or taunting) that the readership does not. Whole sentences are presented sans translation, in one-up-manship style. Then too, there are times when whole chapters pass with the barest presence of the subject, causing the cynical reader to wonder whether the research became too thin to support the story. The book is, however, easily readable - the afore mentioned shortcomings may be either simply ignored or fact-found in parallel with the read. de Grasse is an incredibly important contributor to American independence and it is difficult to find biographic description outside of naval analysis, the purpose of which is different by design. If you are interested in the period, the War, or 18th century naval engagements, and certainly in de Grasse himself, this is a recommended (though specialized) read.

The average American knows little or nothing of the great service rendered by Admiral de Grasse, a French admiral, to the cause of American independence in the battle off Cape Henry in 1781. The battle off Cape Henry had ultimate effects more important than those of Waterloo. De Grasses action entailed upon the British the final loss of the thirteen colonies in America. This biography by Charles Lee Lewis places this supremely important naval battle off the Virginia Capes in its proper historical perspective, and gives de Grasse the full credit for rendering the aid which made possible the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Washington fully recognized this aid, when he wrote to de Grasse following the surrender of Cornwallis and expressed his gratitude in the name of America for the glorious event for which she is indebted to you. Without de Grasses victory all the military efforts on land made by Rochambeau, Lafayette, and Washington would have been in vain. The battle off Cape Henry was only one of numerous battles fought by this dashing Gallic sea captain. Over fifty years of his long life, 1722-1788, were spent in the service of Louis XV and Louis XVI, in the Mediterranean, in India, on the North American coast, and in the West Indies. He fought in all the wars of his day, the War of the Austrian Succession, the Seven Years War, and the War of the American Revolution which developed into a general European struggle.

From the Back Cover The defeat of the British fleet by Admiral Francois Joseph Paul, Comte de Grasse, in the battle off Cape Henry in 1781 set the stage for the independence of the thirteen American colonies. This biography places the supremely important naval battle off the Virginia Capes in its proper historical perspective and gives the French admiral full credit for making Cornwallis surrender possible at Yorktown. George Washington fully recognized this aid when he wrote to de Grasse and expressed his gratitude in the name of America for the glorious event for which she is indebted to you. The battle off Cape Henry was only one of many engaged by the dashing Gallic sea captain, who fought in all the wars of his day: the War of the Austrian Succession, the Seven Years War, and the War of the American Revolution. About the Author The late Charles Lee Lewis, born in 1886, was a prominent naval historian and for many years a professor of English and History at the United States Naval Academy. He has written biographies of Matthew Fontaine Maury, Admiral Franklin Buchanan, David Glasgow Farragut, and Commodore Stephen Decatur and two volumes of biographical sketches of famous sea fighters.