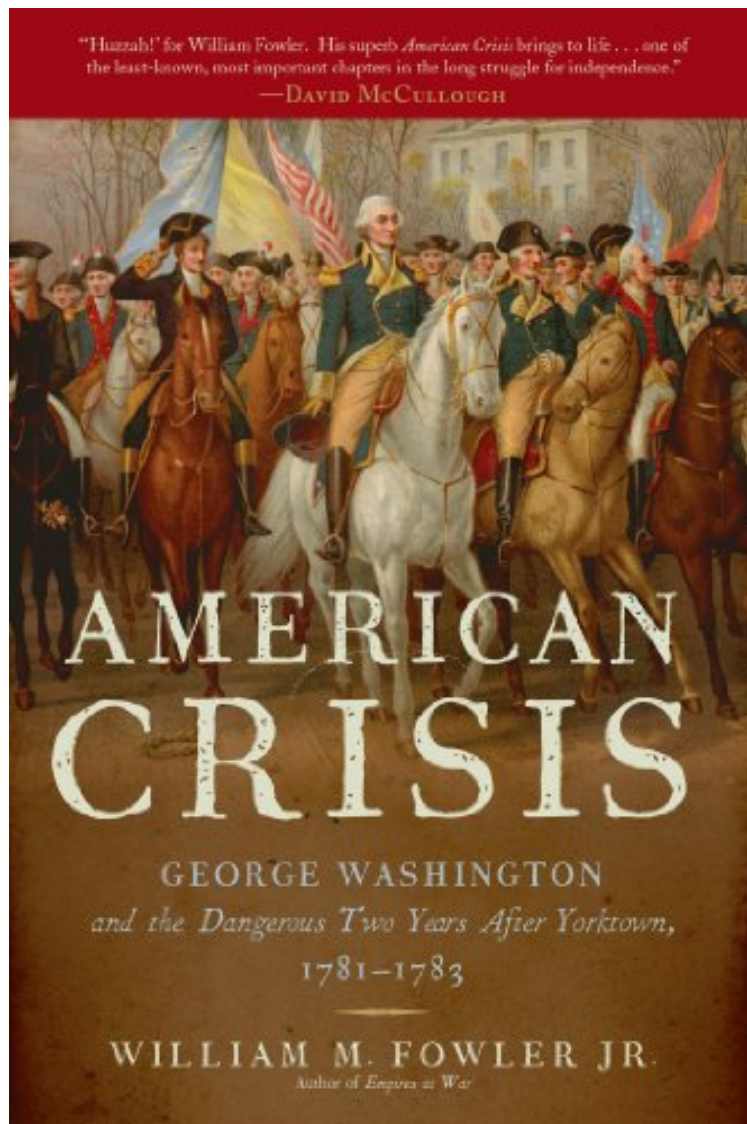


[E-BOOK] An American Crisis: George Washington and the Dangerous Two Years After Yorktown, 1781-1783

An American Crisis: George Washington and the Dangerous Two Years After Yorktown, 1781-1783

William M. Fowler Jr.

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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Ain't Over Until The Fat King SingsBy richard e whitelockEven

with the surrender of the British forces at Yorktown, it was still a full two years before the Treaty of Ghent was signed by both parties. Charleston and Savannah were still in the hands of the British. The South was clearly Tory dominated. New York city was a British stronghold. What to do with all the British loyalist? Where do you send them and who do you keep? And then America, with its new found freedom had to assume the reins of a new democracy among thirteen states that were as diverse as the word implies. New society, new economy, new banking system, new commerce system, new military, and a congress that had to make laws that all would adhere to. The fishing rights and shipping cargoes were clearly in the hands of the British Navy. Americans were being captured at sea and forced to serve in the British navy. We won the war, but what we did initially win? As a new nation, do we select a king or elect a president? How will the legislature be formed and how will it function? We had the declaration but needed the constitution and Bill of Rights. We needed money to run the new government. We had more questions than answers. So Washington was in a bit of a dilemma. Read this book and see how many of these obstacles challenged the new nation in the first two years after Yorktown. Everything was over but the fighting.⁵ of 5 people found the following review helpful. What you don't cover in school

By Dick
In your school history class you learn of Washington's victory at Yorktown and then you immediately go to Washington becoming our first president. Few even get a glimpse at the struggles and uncertainties of the two years between these events. While this book is a history book Fowler's writing style makes it a little less dense than many histories. He tries to bring out personalities and feelings and not just concentrate on events. A good book to cover an unknown period of American History.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent work. There is so much in a full ...

By D. L. Smith
An excellent work. There is so much in a full biography of Washington that this period doesn't really get my attention. It was great to understand better what the country, the Army and the General was put through in that time period. It made me understand better why the success of the Constitutional Convention was so important and why he was willing to leave Mt Vernon for the Convention and Presidency.

Many believe the American Revolution ended in October 1781, after Lord Cornwallis surrendered his British army at Yorktown. In fact, the war effectively continued for two more traumatic years. During that time, the American Revolution came as close to being lost as at any time since it began. In *American Crisis*, the distinguished historian William M. Fowler Jr. vividly chronicles this critical, rarely documented period through the eyes of those who lived and influenced it. He skillfully reveals the internal and personal tensions that paralyzed both the British government and Congress, antagonized loyalists and patriots still reeling from the years of conflict, and roiled the army from its leadership through the ranks-culminating in George Washington's legendary address to his officers on March 15, 1783, which may well have prevented the army from marching on Congress. Bringing original insight and fascinating perspective to the events and forces through which our independence was preserved, *American Crisis* fills an important gap in our understanding of the revolutionary period in America.

'Huzzah!' for William Fowler. His superb *American Crisis* brings to life, with great clarity and understanding, one of the least-known, most important chapters in the long struggle for independence, and leaves no doubt of how much, once again, was owed to George Washington for how things turned out. David McCullough, author of *John Adams, 1776*, and *The Greater Journey* Bill Fowler is the author of many important works of American history, but with *American Crisis* he has written the book of his long and distinguished career. Chronicling one of the least known portions of the American Revolution—the two years between Yorktown and the actual end of the war—he has created a page-turner full of intrigue, drama, and countless unexpected twists. You will never think of George Washington in quite the same way after reading *American Crisis*. Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *In the Heart of the Sea* and *Mayflower* The Revolutionary War did not end with the Allied victory at Yorktown. Two uncertain and perilous years elapsed before the peace treaty that ended the war finally took effect. At last, there is a book that examines these critical war years in detail. William Fowler's magnificent *American Crisis* treats General Washington's preparations for more war, the woeful American economy, peace negotiations, and the politics of the Continental army. In rich detail and graceful prose, Fowler fleshes out an often forgotten part of the War of Independence, a time that shaped and prepared Washington for the political battles on his horizon. John Ferling, author of *Independence: The Struggle to Set America Free* and several books on George Washington About the Author William M. Fowler Jr. is Distinguished Professor of History at Northeastern University in Boston. Prior to that, for eight years he was director of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He is the author of *Empires at War: The French and Indian War and the Struggle for North America, 1754-1763*; *Jack Tars and Commodores: The American Navy, 1783-1815*; *The Baron of Beacon Hill: A Biography of John Hancock*; and *Samuel Adams: Radical Puritan*. He lives in Reading, Massachusetts.