

[Pdf free] Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor

Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor

Willard Sterne Randall

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Willard Sterne Randall : Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A thorough picture of Benedict ArnoldBy Daniel PutmanThis heavily detailed biography has some real strengths. It introduces the reader to sides of Benedict Arnold that one never will get from the standard stereotype of him. For me it also showed me parts of the Revolution I was unfamiliar with. Randall goes into detail on the Battle of Quebec, the battles on Lake Champlain around Valcour Island, and the critically important Battle of Saratoga. In all of them Arnold played a vital role for the Americans. These battles are often mentioned in other histories of the Revolution but rarely will you get the details presented here for all of them. I also got a good sense of the economic, social and military factors that led to Arnolds betrayal. I think most readers will wonder what the psychological state of Arnold was. Even though he was an excellent military leader, he constantly had other people promoted over him. His soldiers loved him while many of his colleagues could not stand him. It is impossible for a historian to delve into the psychological issues of a person who lived over 200 years ago but the reader will wonder what happened with Arnold. Randall does as good a job as can be done from this distance in history.The problems with this book have been noted by some other reviewers. Randall often introduces characters who are not mentioned earlier or marginally mentioned and he does so with virtually no background for the reader. Sometimes in this book the details overwhelmed the writer. The book could also have used better editing. The most glaring example for me was in the center of the book where the images of people involved with Arnold are given. There are three sculptured casts of the men who captured John Andre whose capture was the key to discovering

Arnold's treason. But the description says the images are the casts taken from the living heads of Arnold's captors. Arnold was never captured. This sort of thing can make the reader wonder about the accuracy of other references that the reader has no other information about. This issue aside, Randall's biography will give the reader information about critical battles in the Revolution they may be unfamiliar with and it gives as thorough a picture of Benedict Arnold as a contemporary historian can give without jumping into speculation. It also shows clearly how a few changes in timing may have resulted in Canada being part of the U.S. and how close the British were to not only taking West Point but capturing Washington, Hamilton, Lafayette and many others in one coordinated action. Our history has had a good deal of luck in it and Randall clearly shows that. Overall I recommend the book for a thorough study of one of the most intriguing characters of the Revolution. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A misunderstood man By Robert G. Leroe We know from our history books that Arnold was a traitor, but I think few know why. What led him to turn? The answers are complex, and you may find yourself feeling sympathetic towards this much-maligned man. I read this as part of a reading group, and the consensus was that Arnold was betrayed by his own countrymen, perhaps out of resentment for his wealth and leadership abilities. History would have been different if only loyalty had been a two-way street. I had to ask myself what I might have done in his shoes. I'm surprised Arnold did not just resign and return to his personal business, but like many, he thought a British victory was inevitable. That's an oversimplification. Read the book, which is very well-written and engaging. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Best book on Benedict Arnold By mike6 This is the best and most detailed recent bio of Benedict Arnold available. It is a monumental work, well written, and absorbing to the final page. Arnold lived an incredible life, and despite his treason, we can still admire his military skill. He was easily one of the best fighting generals we had in the Revolution. His injuries crippled him, and a new wife and a taste for luxury set him on a tragic course with history. An excellent book, and you learn every side of this complicated man.

Part One Of Two Parts Benedict Arnold should have died in battle. For the first half of the American Revolution, he fought brilliant and successful campaigns. He built an American fleet on Lake Champlain, repulsed the British at Valcour Island, won the battle of Saratoga and nearly succeeded in making Canada the 14th state. So why did he turn coat? Motives are difficult, but there was something almost too ambitious about Arnold. Was he unstable? Overly ardent? Grandiose? Whatever the vice, it visited him fatally late in the war. In 1880 he sold himself and his secrets to the Brits. He got 6000 pounds, the contempt of his allies and a name that means "traitor" to this day. "A tale of high tragedy." (The Quarterly Journal of Military History)

From Publishers Weekly The most notorious traitor in American history, Benedict Arnold is little remembered for his impressive military accomplishments, which are recalled in this richly detailed biography. In 1776 he stemmed the British thrust from Canada in the naval battle of Lake Champlain and a year later reversed the course of the war with the great land victory at Saratoga. The main focus of this noteworthy book, however, is the general's complex character and his reasons for offering his services to the British in 1779. Randall (*A Little Revenge*) portrays his increasing bitterness over being court-martialed for malfeasance, as well as for not being promoted although four generals beneath him were. The author, who considers that Arnold was ill-treated by the country, uncovers new material about Peggy Shippen Arnold's important role in helping her husband plan and carry out his betrayal, about the American attempt to capture him in New York after his defection, and about his bitter postwar struggle to clear his name. Illustrated. BOMC and History Book Club alternates. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal An encyclopedic biography of the Revolutionary War general whose name became synonymous with treason. Randall's narrative covers Arnold's whole life, including his military heroics for the American Revolutionary War, and the often undeserved charges of misconduct leveled against Arnold after the Canadian campaign and by civilian authorities in Philadelphia (where he was military commander), which led to a humiliating public court martial and Arnold's defection to the British in 1780. A journalist and author of *A Little Revenge: Benjamin Franklin and His Son* (LJ 11/1/84) , Randall has written a narrative rather than interpretive study. Though well researched, it retells an account which has been standard for over half a century. Academic readers will find nothing new here. For the general reader, James Thomas Flexner's *The Traitor and the Spy* (1953) remains the popular standard.- David Szatmary, Univ. of Washington, Seattle Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Publisher 12 1.5-hour cassettes