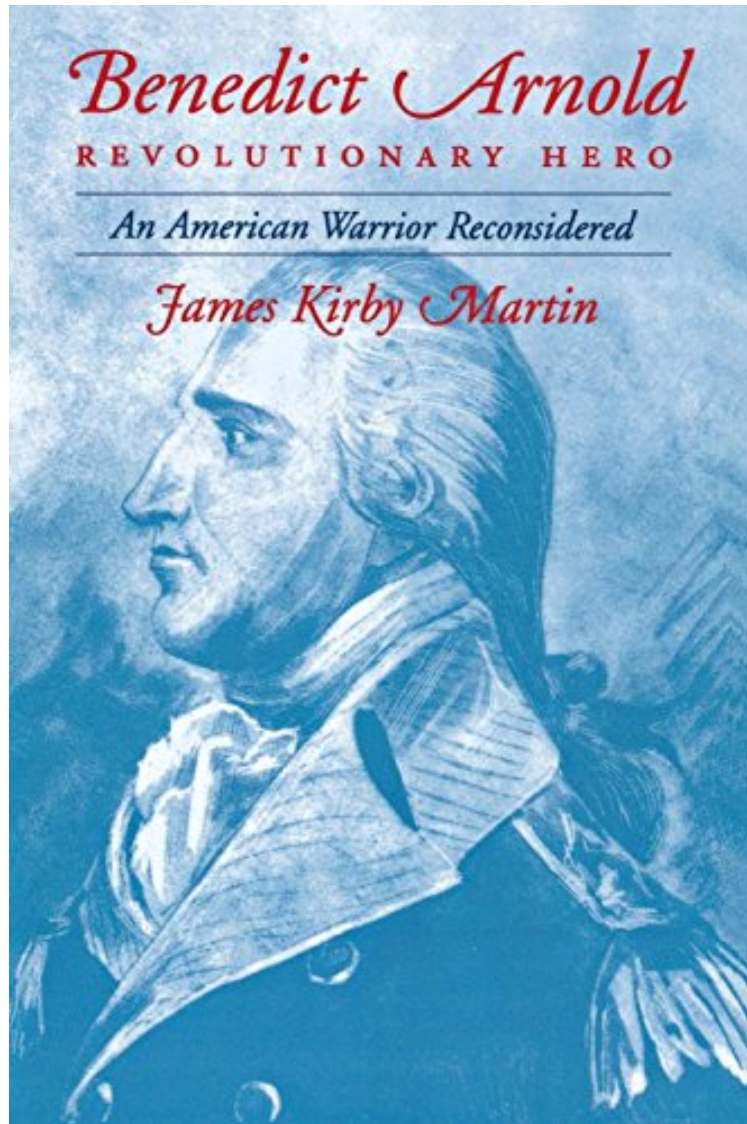


Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary Hero: An American Warrior Reconsidered

James K. Martin

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#281660 in Books NYU Press 2000-08-01 2000-08-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x 1.30 x 5.981, 1.74 #File Name: 0814756468558 pages | File size: 79.Mb

James K. Martin : Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary Hero: An American Warrior Reconsidered before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary Hero: An American Warrior Reconsidered:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Realistic Look at Benedict Arnold By Shawn McAllister Excellent biographical analysis of a figure in American history that has been stigmatized as the personification of evil and

betrayal, yet Martin has created a realistic reflection of a man challenged by the politics and climate of his age. We tend to glamorize our history, without considering the agonizing choices that all must face throughout life. We tend to forget the American Revolution was a civil war -- brother against brother and neighbor against neighbor. They were British subjects, colonists that had a tough choice to make. Without the foresight of knowing the outcome, what choice would you make? This is a compelling piece of work about one of history's most dynamic and interesting characters. There is a realism in this story that we fail to sense in history text books. I highly recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Half a Loaf By Steven P. Mark Martin's book is a welcome addition to the study of the complicated character of hero-traitor, Benedict Arnold. The book is well researched and written in a highly readable style. There's much to admire about Arnold up to May of 1779 when his coat began to turn color. Martin covers little of the more well-known history. Instead he focuses on the pre-treasonous man and makes the case for a true American hero. My difficulty with the book is that Martin so thoroughly covers Arnold's heroic efforts, that one is tempted to lose sight of the damage this hero could have done had his 'sale' of West Point been consummated. There are other books that cover Arnold's life in its entirety (Flexner/Randall) including his heroic actions but there's a fascinating experience one gets reading Martin--even knowing how dangerous Arnold became, how self-interested he was and how disloyal he ended up--Arnold's exploits show much of the positive contributions Arnold made before his darker character got the best of him. A must read for anyone wanting to get a full picture of the American once-Patriot with the worst press of the Revolutionary War. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not enough here. By Alan Goldfeder I did enjoy reading this. However, when all was "said and done," I have to say that this is an incomplete work. It does deal nicely with what likely caused Arnold's treason. Critical important details of the actual act of treason were, to be kind, glossed over and much of that part of the history is simply absent. Perhaps I would say that this is a good start. Some previous accounts were reread and ultimately Wiki helped with that which was missing.

Benedict Arnold stands as one of the most vilified figures in American history. Stories of his treason have so come to define him that his name, like that of Judas, is virtually synonymous with treason. Yet Arnold was one of the most heroic and remarkable men of his time, indeed in all of American history. A brilliant military leader of uncommon bravery, Arnold dedicated himself to the Revolutionary cause, sacrificing family life, health, and financial well-being for a conflict that left him physically crippled, sullied by false accusations, and profoundly alienated from the American cause of liberty. By viewing Arnold's life backward through the prism of his treason, we invariably succumb to the demonizations that arose only after his abandonment of the rebel forces. We thereby overlook his critical role as one of the influential actors in the American Revolution. Distinguished historian James Kirby Martin's landmark biography, the result of a decade's labor, stands as an invaluable antidote to this historical distortion. Careful not to endow the Revolutionary generation with mythical proportions of virtue, Martin shows how self-serving, venal behavior was just as common in the Revolutionary era as in our own time. Arnold, a deeply committed patriot, suffered acutely because of his lack of political savvy in dealing with those who attacked his honor and reputation. Tracing Arnold's life, from his difficult childhood through his grueling winter trek across the howling Maine wilderness, his valiant defense of Lake Champlain, and his crucial role in the Quebec and Saratoga campaigns, Martin has given us an entirely new perspective on this dramatic and exceptional life, set against the tumultuous background of the American Revolution.

.com The name Benedict Arnold survives today as a synonym for treachery. Author James Kirby Martin points out that Arnold's life, however, was not a simple black-and-white morality play--high-school textbook narratives to the contrary. Indeed, under different circumstances the American Judas might have gone down in history as the most revered military leader of the Revolutionary War, save George Washington. "His treason was shocking because of the magnitude of his contributions to the Revolutionary effort," writes Kirby, a professor at the University of Houston. In this revisionist account, Kirby suggests that Arnold was more a victim of his own inept political skills than a slave to base motives. A complex psychology was at work as well: Arnold always felt underappreciated by his colleagues, especially after victories at Saratoga. Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary Hero presents a detailed account of an often misunderstood man. From Library Journal Arnold is the best-known traitor in U.S. history. In this revisionist study, Martin (history, Univ. of Houston) directs attention to a less-well-known period of his subject's life. During the years before he became a turncoat, he was a devoted, skilled, and courageous Revolutionary officer. Had the war ended in 1780, the year Arnold switched allegiance, he would have likely been remembered as one of the most accomplished American military leaders of the War for Independence. However, he rightfully believed his contributions were undervalued and insufficiently rewarded. Martin presents an outstanding analysis of Arnold's pretreason years; his grasp of the details of Arnold's life and the context of the era are extraordinary. Readers will be frustrated by the author's failure to provide more than a brief summary of Arnold's years after treason, but this work is strongly recommended. ?Charles K. Piehl, Mankato State Univ., Minn. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Martin provides a well-balanced revisionist biography of Benedict Arnold, the most infamous and reviled traitor in the annals of U.S. history. Contending that previous Arnold biographers grossly distorted their subject's

character and experiences in order to provide him with a suitably checkered background, this author refuses to minimize or to gloss over his tremendous contributions to the Revolutionary War effort. Arnold's initial patriotic fervor and his exemplary record of military service are both meticulously detailed. A brilliant general who performed with courage and flair during the assault upon Quebec and in the Saratoga campaign, Arnold was left physically, emotionally, and financially debilitated by his commitment to the cause of liberty. Feeling neglected and betrayed by the callous civilian and political leaders that populated Congress and the state governments, he made his fateful decision to switch allegiance to the British. A new slant on an old villain that succeeds in humanizing Arnold and debunking much of the popular mythology associated with the Revolutionary War. Margaret Flanagan