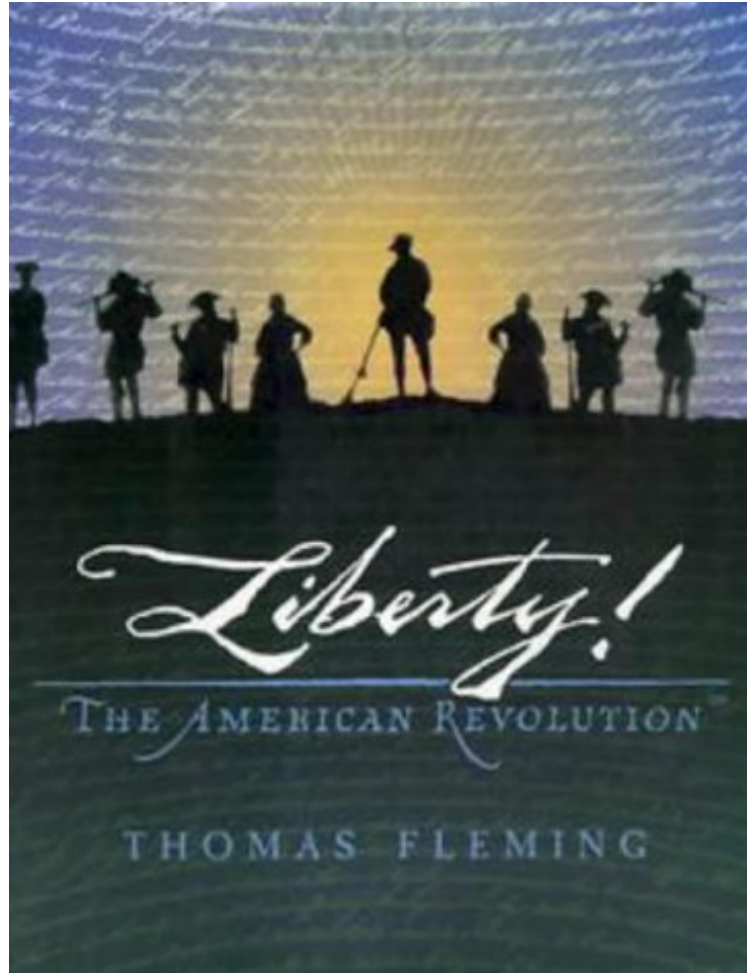


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Liberty!: The American Revolution

Thomas Fleming

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Thomas Fleming : Liberty!: The American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liberty!: The American Revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The motivational power of a single word ...By JCUpheavals to the standard order in history are the product of many random variables, chief among them certainly are unforeseen circumstances, miscalculations, and misunderstandings. While it is obvious that those variables play into the fateful decisions of historical characters, what is not so obvious is that misunderstanding can also bias the interpretation of history by both historians and readers of history. The source of that misunderstanding is nothing more than taking for granted the meaning of words that serve as principles, and assume one's own definitions are universal. In this recount of the American Revolution, Fleming demonstrates that semantic ignorance not only divided a people, but served as a powerful (and stubborn) motivation on both sides to the point that a cause became worth fighting for. Surprisingly, the momentous word that sparked the upheaval was not "independence", but rather "liberty". 0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Required reading. By Mac 1 This is a book that should be used as a text book and every immigrant should have to read it prior to naturalization. To insure he or she understands the true meaning of the story a written and or an oral test should be required. Other similar books should be required on our history from that period on. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Americans Fought to Retain Their Liberty, not to gain it. By uluvhistory This is a great read even though I have some issues on various points in regard to Thomas Fleming's views and conclusions. None of them interfered with my intense pleasure in this well written book which not only gives us a dramatic narrative that is both personal and yet comprehensive, politically and militarily, but it evokes the suffering, the sacrifices and the individual price this war cost more effectively than other books I have read on the topic. In addition, no one I have read shows us the contribution that horses made and their suffering as well. I did take exception to Fleming telling us that Benedict Arnold and James Wilkerson shot their horses in the head when they left Canada which I found disconcerting, disturbing and gratuitous. He did not comment on it or make any point about it one way or the other. It did not seem at all justifiable and if not, I do think that Fleming should have made such an observation. While it is intimidating to question a historian the stature of Fleming nonetheless, I do take issue with his disdainful attitude toward the British Parliament because only 2% of the population elected the House of Commons. To me we need more balance and perspective; better 2% than 0% as was the case in almost every other country except in the American colonies. I have a deep appreciation for those 2% British elections in spite of their limitations. It still embodied the concept of the consent of the governed. Without the eternal rights of Englishman guaranteed in the colonial Charters rooted in the British constitution, the American colonies would not have made such advances including consent of the governed, elected lower houses with the power of the purse. It reminds me of Isaac Newton who said that if he had seen further than other men it was because he was standing on the shoulders of giants. Similarly if the American colonies had progressed more in widening the base of participation in government, it was because they also had been standing on the shoulders of giants. The Americans had learned liberty from the British. There is no time to go on and do an in-depth review I might do but let me add this one thing. There is one person more than any other single individual who is responsible for the American Revolution and that is King George III and I did not think Fleming put that squarely on his head to my satisfaction. The king had no concept or appreciation for what those written charters meant and what the American colonists had done to govern themselves before he came to the throne in 1760 during the French and Indian War. Regardless of my caveats, I love this book and cannot recommend it highly enough. I was sorry when it was done. If you have any interest in the American Revolution, you will find it as compelling as I did. I wanted more attention to Benedict Arnold and it took too many pages before Fleming finally properly depicted the American General Horatio Gates for the coward that he was. Fleming never quite gave enough credit for the bravery, and bold leadership provided by Arnold on the battle field. There are so many good quotations all through the book that you will want to record some of them. However I must disagree with Fleming when he said the choice was between American liberty vs British liberty. The choice was between American liberty and British soft tyranny under King George III, make no mistake.

Liberty! The American Revolution brings to life one of the most important and compelling stories in our country's history: the struggle for independence and the birth of the American nation. Historian and novelist Thomas Fleming's gripping narrative captures the high drama of the revolutionary years and the unyielding courage and political genius of the men and women who imagined a new set of political possibilities for mankind - laying the foundation for the identity and character of the American people in the process. The companion volume to the PBS television series of the same name, *Liberty!* is illustrated with more than 200 full color paintings and photographs, illuminating the revolutionary period as never before. Most important, *Liberty!* traces the evolution of the ideals that inspired a generation of Americans to struggle against Britain - then the most powerful nation in the world - to establish the free society and democratic system that is so inherently and uniquely American. A remarkable work that surges with human drama, it is a book that every American family will read and treasure for decades to come.