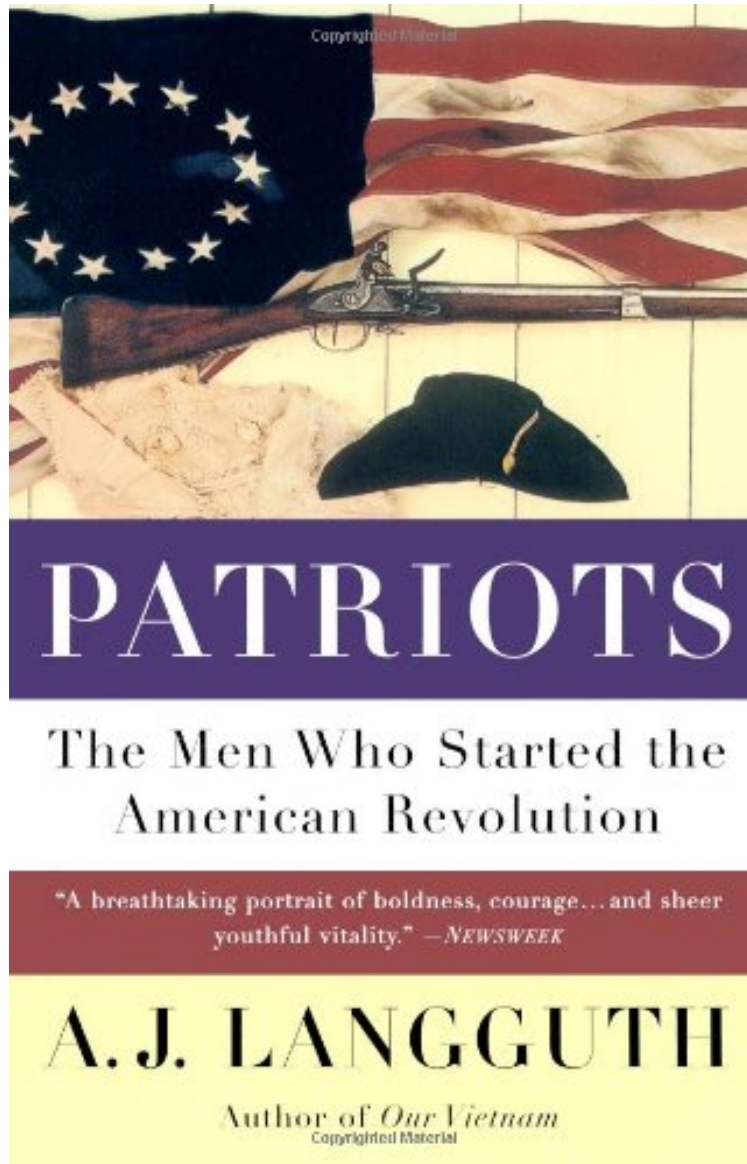


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Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution

A.J. Langguth

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#562567 in Books A J Langguth 1989-03-15 1989-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x 1.60 x 5.50l, 1.78 #File Name: 0671675621640 pages Patriots | File size: 45.Mb

A.J. Langguth : Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A Compelling and Informative Book on the American Revolution By Steve This is a well written book that held my interest throughout. Like a good novel, it tells a story that kept me turning to the next pages to find out "what happened." The story, in this case, involves the events that led up to the American Revolution, starting with James Otis's opposition to the writs of assistance in 1761 and ending with

George Washington's farewell to his troops in 1783. In between, A. J. Langguth (a professor of journalism, who wrote *Our Vietnam*) generally does a masterful job of telling us about the dynamic, brave, sometimes vain, and often brilliant leaders (most notably, Samuel and John Adams, John Hancock, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Joseph Warren, and Benjamin Franklin), who rebelled against the mother country. And there are also the not so great, who made terrible mistakes on the battlefield (Charles Lee) or switched to the other side (Benedict Arnold). Langguth also does a very good job in describing the key battles of the war, and the strategy of both sides. The details provided are excellent: The Minute Men and their duck-hunting rifles, picking off British troops withdrawing from Concord; John Stark's men hiding behind hay and stones to stop William Howe's flanking maneuver at Breed's Hill; Washington's nine-hour crossing of the Delaware River, ending at 3 AM and his defeat of the Hessians at Trenton when the enemy commander did not bother to read a note of warning from a loyalist; Horatio Gates's victory at Saratoga, when British forces led by John Burgoyne were trapped and attacked from three sides; von Steuben ordering the American soldiers to place kitchens and latrines at opposite sides of their camps; Washington begging his troops to stay for six more weeks for ten dollars in hard money in the winter of 1776; sentries at Valley Forge standing barefoot inside their hats in December 1777. This book not only fascinated me by providing such details, but also answered a lot of the questions I had about the war for independence, and what led up to it: What was the Stamp Act? How did groups of farmers and tradesmen defeat the British Empire? What tactics did Washington and his generals employ to defeat tens of thousands of British and Hessian troops? What role did the French play? What exactly did Sam Adams and others do to move us towards independence? How many people were loyalists and what part did they play in the events? This book answered all of these questions, and more. The only real problem I had with the book was that the fighting in the South was not covered adequately, I believe, along with leaders like Francis Marion and Thomas Sumter. The heroes are heroic (especially Washington), and deservedly so, but we also read about their less-than-admirable qualities. There is also the factor of the mistakes made by opponents. The author does not devote much attention to social, economic, racial, and legal trends and effects. That is not his purpose. A good, little book to read on these matters is *The American Revolution: A History* by Gordon S. Wood. *Patriots* by A. J. Langguth is an excellent, journalistic account (mainly chronological) of this period in American history. I am recommending it because it brings the leaders and events that founded our country to life, in a clear and interesting way. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good Read By R. Hanes Excellent read for those interested in the behind the scene personalities of the Patriots who got this nation going. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is the best I have ever read about the making of America. By Paul Allen This book is the best I have ever read about the making of America. Reads like a good novel. So good that I bought another for a friend. It illuminates many facts that I never knew about the beginning of our country. Read it. You will love it.

With meticulous research and page-turning suspense, *Patriots* brings to life the American Revolution the battles, the treacheries, and the dynamic personalities of the men who forged our freedom. George Washington, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry these heroes were men of intellect, passion, and ambition. From the secret meetings of the Sons of Liberty to the final victory at Yorktown and the new Congress, *Patriots* vividly re-creates one of history's great eras.

From Publishers Weekly Working with contemporary letters and public statements, Langguth, who heads the journalism department at the University of Southern California, produces a closely knit and continuously interesting drama of the American Revolution by following the principal and secondary actors, from Prime Minister George Grenville and his plan to raise revenues by a stamp tax in the colonies to General Washington's farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern. Figures whose names are familiar but whose deeds are vaguely known are brought into sharp focus. We know, for instance, that Benedict Arnold is our most infamous traitor, but not necessarily what drove him to do whatever it was he did, precisely. Washington definitely crossed the Delaware, but what did he do when he reached the other side? Read this rousing history and find out. Illustrations. BOMC main selection. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Langguth, a journalism professional and a former Vietnam correspondent, offers a narrative history of the American Revolution (1761-1783). Writing in a dramatic style, he focuses on major political figures, e.g., Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, the Adamses, and on such notable events as the Boston Tea Party, the meetings of the Sons of Liberty, battles in the Continental Congress, and the final victory at Yorktown. Though well written, the book deals with characters, military battles, and political machinations that have been described in detail by countless authors. It adds little to an understanding of the impetus behind the American Revolution. David Szatmary, Univ. of Washington, Seattle Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A breathtaking portrait of boldness, courage...and sheer youthful vitality." (Time) "Brilliantly illuminating." (The Philadelphia Inquirer) "A grand, irresistible book." (The Washington Post Book World) "The winning of the American Revolution in all its glory, gore, and mortal frailty" (Los Angeles Times) "History as it should be written -- with illuminating insight into character, a sweeping narration of events, and a splendid eye for detail." (Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of *Team of Rivals*) "With bold colors and unremitting pace, *Patriots* recaptures the drama and vital

importance of the American Revolution and the towering figures who waged it." (Michael Beschloss, author of Kennedy and Roosevelt)