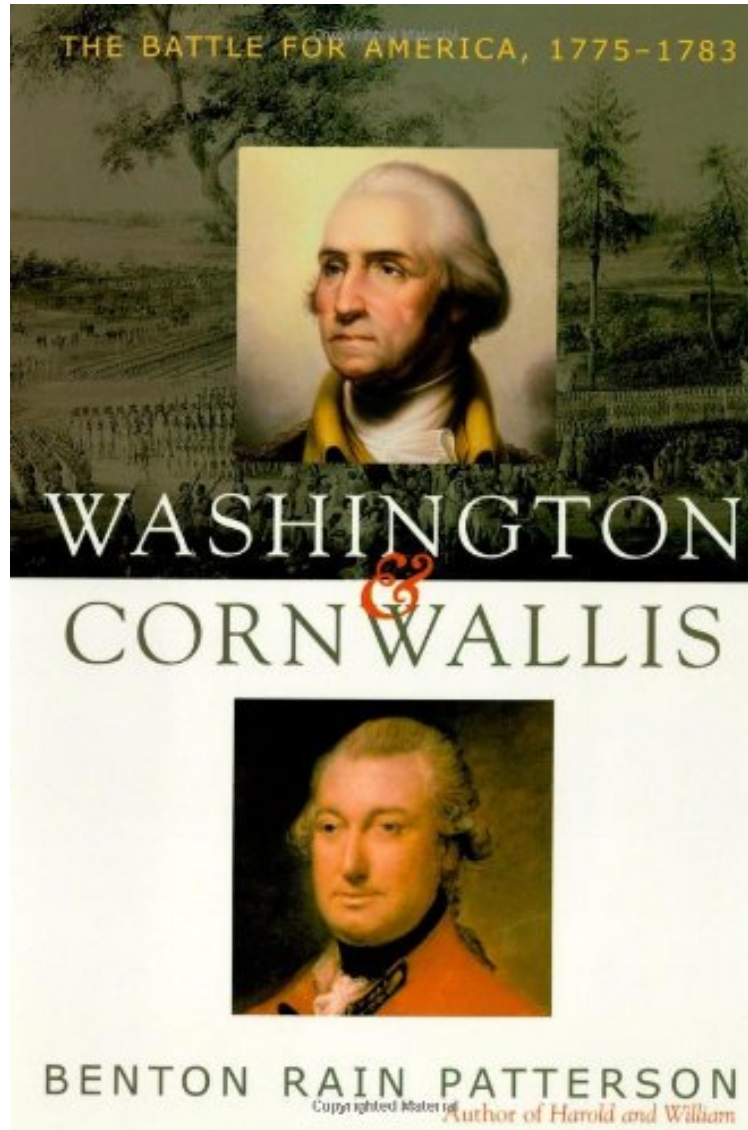


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Washington and Cornwallis: The Battle for America, 1775-1783

Benton Rain Patterson

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Benton Rain Patterson : Washington and Cornwallis: The Battle for America, 1775-1783 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Washington and Cornwallis: The Battle for America, 1775-1783:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed every minute of it By Charles Hall Everything the other reviewers say is true. The author uses a lot of secondary sources, his background on Cornwallis is not as in-depth as the title of the book implies and he makes a few comments you wish he would back-up with more detail (esp. the one about Cornwallis' associates being known for their cruelty). But it's an entertaining book to read, especially so if you

aren't up on the details of the American Revolution (so many wars, so little time!). It is written in a brisk fashion punctuated by revealing quotes from the participants, both British and American. So what you learn about any individual battle is a little less than you'd pick up in a visit to the museum at the actual battleground, but here the battles are all strung together so you begin to get a sense of the strategy. If you've read other books about all this, then you can certainly skip this one. But if you're just coming to the party, this seems like a worthy starting point. I raced through it like I didn't know who was going to win! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Chris D Gilleland Informative and I discovered some details that I had never read before. Author is a good writer and the material flows well; very easy to read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The rivals up close By avidreader The author does a good job of telling us the story from both sides. This is not a George Washington was 100% right and made all the right decisions all the time while Cornwallis was 100% wrong and made bad decisions. This is a balanced report of both men. They were both flawed but worked hard to be the best they could be.

Washington and Cornwallis is a gripping narrative of the defeats and narrow victories that won the States' independence from the English crown. Patterson chronicles the battles waged between General George Washington and Lieutenant General Charles Lord Cornwallis, and examines their methods of command and their controversial military decisions, and ultimately brings into focus the personalities of these two pivotal Revolutionary War generals.

From Publishers Weekly In this engaging military history of the American Revolution, journalist Patterson (Harold and William) covers all the major campaigns and battles of the conflict, from the American siege of Boston in 1775 to the climactic surrender of Yorktown in 1781. The personal rivalry implied in the title is somewhat mythical, since Washington and Cornwallis rarely faced each other, but the contrast in character between the two generals is instructive. His army perpetually outnumbered and outclassed by the Redcoats, Washington struggled with shortages of money, weapons, food and men (who simply went home when their brief enlistments expired) while fending off plots by enemies in the Continental Congress and soothing his touchy French allies. Yet he managed to win enough victories and put enough positive spin on his defeat to keep a credible force in the field and Patriot spirits buoyed until French aid and British war-weariness tipped the scales. By contrast, Cornwallis and the British largely squandered their advantages with aimless strategy, sluggish campaigning and internal dissension. Patterson goes easy on the psychobiography. He gives a straightforward account of his protagonists' performances as commanders, while offering vivid thumbnails of secondary characters like Benedict Arnold and Lafayette, the whole embedded in a detailed but well-paced and often rousing campaign-and-battle narrative. The result is both vigorous history and an illuminating study of the tenacity that made Washington so indispensable to the revolution. Photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. ...a gripping tale... Patterson worked diligently to present his subjects as more than just hero or villain. (Marla E. Nobles Gainesville Sun) About the Author Benton Rain Patterson has written for the New York Times and the Saturday Evening Post. He is the author of Harold and William and is professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he lives.