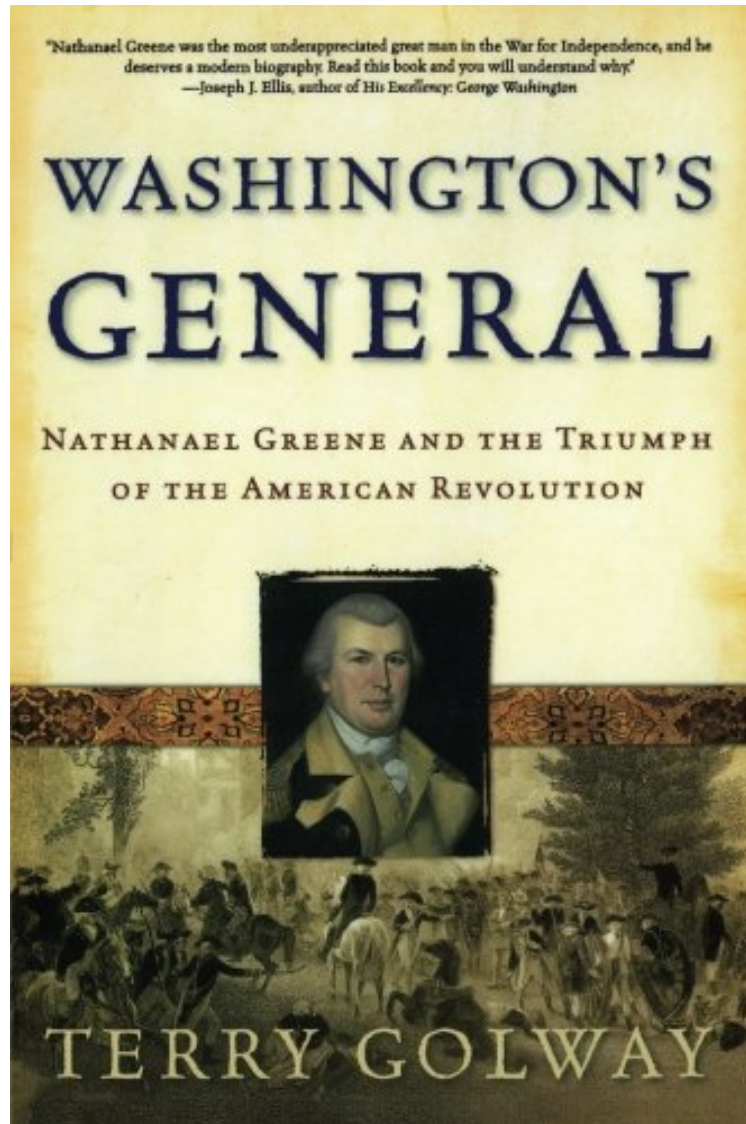


Washington's General: Nathanael Greene and the Triumph of the American Revolution

Terry Golway

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#241051 in Books Golway, Terry 2006-01-10 2006-01-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 228.60 x .82 x 6.001, 1.20 #File Name: 0805080058368 pages | File size: 63.Mb

Terry Golway : Washington's General: Nathanael Greene and the Triumph of the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Washington's General: Nathanael Greene and the Triumph of the American Revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Greene Gets His DueBy Wayne A. SmithNathanael Greene gets his due in Terry Golway's "Washington's General..."This undereducated but intelligent patriot played a crucial role with

brilliant strategic management of the American cause in the South. His direction exhausted the British and led to their retreat upon Yorktown and their eventual bagging by George Washington and our French allies. Galway's book details Greene's early life and his start with Rhode Island troops during the siege of Boston. Quickly becoming one of Washington's most dependable generals, he played a crucial role in the Battle of Long Island. His years of toil as the army's quartermaster was indispensable to our cause, but caused him great regret as Greene yearned for the fame and recognition that only field command could bring. A master organizer and well tempered, he was also incredibly vain and quick to perceive slights. Given his vanity, it is all the more impressive that Greene, when detailed by Washington to rescue the southern effort, was able to resist the urge to undertake offensive forays that might win him laurels if successful but could prove disastrous if not. Thus in his few on-the-field commanding roles, he avoided tarrying in front of the enemy when he had achieved limited objectives and did not risk the army in pursuit of the recognition he craved. His theater strategic command was brilliant. If he did not design the actual battle of Cowpens, his decisions and management of men like General Morgan set the table for his field commanders to wage battles from at least even-up if not superior positions with the British and their loyalists. A good biography of a patriot who deserves to be much better known. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good and valuable to the picture of the American Revolution. By CustomerHistory often is more importantly understood through those who are pivotal actors to the broader events. Reading about Nathanael Greene changes the Revolution by his piece to the battles and issues lying behind who won. This book is a first look at this man who mastered the Southern Department issues and difficulties to help win American independence. A good book but maybe just a bit short in style to tell the tale of this important figure to our becoming a nation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Patriot By JULIAN D. PRINCE This is a well told tale of Washington's favorite general. Green carried a sense of optimism through the entire war though conditions around him daunted others. He proved to be a brilliant scholar of military tactics. His academic education came by hard personal study despite being denied anything but the most basic training as a child. This self-taught military genius outlasted the best Britain had to offer to drive their armies out of the south.

The overlooked Quaker from Rhode Island who won the American Revolution's crucial southern campaign and helped to set up the final victory of American independence at Yorktown Nathanael Greene is a revolutionary hero who has been lost to history. Although places named in his honor dot city and country, few people know his quintessentially American story as a self-made, self-educated military genius who renounced his Quaker upbringing-horrifying his large family-to take up arms against the British. Untrained in military matters when he joined the Rhode Island militia in 1774, he quickly rose to become Washington's right-hand man and heir apparent. After many daring exploits during the war's first four years (and brilliant service as the army's quartermaster), he was chosen in 1780 by Washington to replace the routed Horatio Gates in South Carolina. Greene's southern campaign, which combined the forces of regular troops with bands of irregulars, broke all the rules of eighteenth-century warfare and foreshadowed the guerrilla wars of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His opponent in the south, Lord Cornwallis, wrote, "Greene is as dangerous as Washington. I never feel secure when I am encamped in his neighborhood. He is vigilant, enterprising, and full of resources." Greene's ingenious tactics sapped the British of their strength and resolve even as they "won" nearly every battle. Terry Golway argues that Greene's appointment as commander of the American Southern Army was the war's decisive moment, and this bold new book returns Greene to his proper place in the Revolutionary era's pantheon. "Washington said if he went down in battle, Greene was his choice to succeed him. Read this book and you will understand why." -- Joseph J. Ellis, author of *His Excellency: George Washington*

From Publishers Weekly Born into a prosperous Quaker family in Rhode Island, Greene (1742-1786) had no formal education and remained at his family's forge into his 30s, when he abruptly abjured pacifism as the Revolution gathered steam. Through thorough research, Golway (*So Others Might Live: A History of New York's Bravest*), who has written for *American Heritage*, makes Greene's numerous and complex accomplishments accessible, committing few excesses of patriotism (and fewer of psychobiography). From the Revolution's earliest stages, Greene was appointed commanding general of the Rhode Island contingent in the Patriots' siege of Boston; Golway shows him as one of Washington's most trusted subordinates, with a mixed record as a field commander and a good one as a very reluctant quartermaster-general (a job that made making bricks without straw look simple). In the war's darkest days, in late 1780, Greene was appointed commander in the Southern theater, where the British had nearly swept all before them. Without ever winning a major battle, Greene, Golway shows, kept his army in the field, supported Patriot militias and suppressed Tory ones, undercut British logistics, eventually forced Cornwallis north to Yorktown and besieged Charleston. Along the way he married and had a lively family life, became a slave-owner (through owning land in Georgia) and then died of sunstroke and asthma. Golway makes a convincing case that Greene should be better known. (Feb. 2) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Nathanael Greene's historical fame arises from his thwarting of Britain's southern campaign in 1780-81 during the War of Independence. Since the appearance of the previous comprehensive biography more than four decades ago, scholars have collected and published Greene's papers, a project that works to this author's advantage in giving an

intimate impression of Greene's qualities, both positive and negative. Much of his correspondence to his wife survives (though hers to him doesn't), enabling Golway to narrate Greene's performance in the battles and campaigns of the war, in most of which he participated. Before the war, Greene was apparently politically inert but became radicalized over British depredations that damaged his Rhode Island enterprises. Although Golway is always attentive to Greene's personal interests (and alludes to Greene's possible embezzlement while quartermaster general of the army), Greene did acquire a nationalist outlook and in fact relocated to the South after the war, albeit to become a slaveholding plantation owner. In a solidly sourced, evenhanded portrait, Golway gives readers a Greene with faults but also with the military strengths on which George Washington relied. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved While researching and writing a book about George Washington, I concluded that Nathanael Greene was the most under appreciated great man in the War for Independence, and that he deserved a modern biography that told his incredible story. Now, here it is. Washington once said that, if he went down in battle, Greene was his choice to succeed him. Read this book and you will understand why. Joseph J. Ellis, author of His Excellency: George Washington Terry Golway has done a magnificent job of capturing the personal and professional Nathanael Greene and portraying him as a living, vibrant, exceptionally competent general whose significance has not been widely appreciated until now. The depth and breadth of research are outstanding, and the prose a joy to read. This should be regarded as the definitive biography for years to come. Robert M. Utley, author of The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull Terry Golway has written a remarkable book that brings the American Revolution alive for the 21st century reader in a new way. He gives us a Nathanael Greene that we can all understand: a modern man, ambitious but unsure of himself and the new political world he was creating, deeply in love but uncertain about his fidelity to his beautiful wife, not terribly fussy about the ethics of making money. Yet this Rhode Island Quaker risked his life and reputation to rescue the faltering Revolution in the South and incidentally proved himself a brilliant general. This is the American Revolution for adults. Thomas Fleming, author of Liberty! The American Revolution If George Washington was the one indispensable man in our Revolution, Nathanael Greene was surely Washington's one indispensable general. In a spirited, wholly engrossing narrative, Terry Golway summons this underappreciated figure back from the mists and puts the living man before us with all his crochets, self-pity, self-doubt--and the tenacious, high-hearted optimism that, along with a wholly self-taught military master, more than once saved his infant republic. This fine biography includes among its pleasures a love story (with its share of thorns amid the roses), a loquacious subject whose letters, for all their quaint spelling, are full of the eloquently-expressed passions of a gifted, beleaguered man, and perhaps most important of all, a wonderfully vivid reminder of what a reckless, audacious, almost miraculous adventure we Americans embarked upon when we decided we needed a nation of our own. Richard F. Snow, Editor-In-Chief, American Heritage Nathanael Greene lost every major battle he fought, and then he died young. Yet he was one of the greatest military geniuses America ever produced. Terry Golway triumphantly resurrects the pugnacious, self-taught optimist who helped Washington win the American Revolution. Richard Brookhiser, author of Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington