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History: The American Revolution

These nonfiction books are all about the American Revolution and the related historical events and people that made American independence possible. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans by Joyce Oldham Appleby

Read by Kerry Cundiff

Reading time 12 hours 25 minutes

Historian of early America examines the political, economic, religious, and cultural transformations brought about by the generation born between 1776 and 1800. Describes ordinary citizens' contributions to the creation of a national identity. Assesses the effects of individual aspiration and free enterprise.

Explores the divisions engendered by slavery and race issues.

[Download from BARD: Inheriting the Revolution: the First Generation of...](#)

Also available on cassette RC055473

Plain, Honest Men: the Making of the American Constitution By Richard R. Beeman

Read by Steven Carpenter

Reading time 17 hours, 52 minutes

Historian provides a day-by-day account of the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Uses primary and secondary sources to illustrate the debates and negotiations that raged between the states before the document's ratification. Discusses the failure to come to an agreement about the issue of slavery. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Plain, Honest Men: the Making of the American...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070182

Forgotten Patriots the Untold Story of American Prisoners During the Revolutionary War By Edwin G. Burrows

Read by Butch Hoover

Reading time 14 hours, 44 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning coauthor of *Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898* (RC 47282) exposes the treatment of Revolutionary War prisoners captured by the British and held in New York. Uses primary sources and first-person accounts to describe deliberate mistreatment and starvation under Provost Marshal Captain William Cunningham. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Forgotten Patriots the Untold Story of American...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068748

Washington a Life By Ron Chernow

Read by Michael Scherer

Reading time 38 hours, 55 minutes

Award-winning author pens a comprehensive biography of America's first president. Uses previously unavailable letters and papers to delve into the personality behind the icon. Details Washington's private life, including his beliefs about slavery, while chronicling the wars and political conflicts that shaped the country's path. Some violence. Pulitzer Prize. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Washington a Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072132

The Fourth of July--and the Founding of America by Peter De Bolla

Read by Joe Wilson

Reading time 6 hours 41 minutes

British professor traces the history of this American day of celebration from its origin in July 1776. Analyzes the events leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence; Thomas Jefferson's role in the document's creation; and the symbols, meanings, and activities associated with the federal holiday. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Fourth of July and the Founding of America](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067730

The Federalist Papers a Collection of Essays Written in Support of the Constitution of the United States : from the Original Text of Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay Roy P. Fairfield

Read by Bob Butz

Reading time 13 hours, 28 minutes

Written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison to urge the voters of New York to ratify the U.S. Constitution, the "Federalist Papers" were the first important commentary on that document and continue to provide the basis for its interpretation. Fifty-one of these landmark essays are presented here along with extensive notes and a guide to writings about the "Federalist Papers."

[Download from BARD: The Federalist Papers a Collection of Essays...](#)

Also available on cassette RC026691

Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence by

John E. Ferling

Read by Jake Williams

Reading Time 33 hours, 21 minutes

Historian chronicles the military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War. Explains the reasons the colonies barely won the conflict and describes the tactics of eighteenth-century war. Highlights the deaths of many civilians, including Native Americans, and the impact of diseases.

[Download from BARD: Almost a Miracle The American Victory in the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066732

The Signers of the Declaration of Independence by Robert G. Ferris

Read by Randy Atcher

Reading time 6 hours 14 minutes

Brief biographies of each of the fifty-six patriots who signed the American Declaration of Independence and were subsequently branded as traitors to the English crown. Includes text, summary, and historical background of the 1776 document. 1973.

[Download from BARD: The Signers of the Declaration of Independence](#)

Also available on cassette RC052815

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13719](#)

Also available in braille BR013719

Washington's Crossing By David Hackett Fischer

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 25 hours, 5 minutes

Details George Washington's December 1776 campaign to lead the Continental Army from Pennsylvania and across the frozen Delaware River to attack a Hessian garrison at Trenton and a British brigade at Princeton. Examines strategic, operational, and tactical decisions and the crucial victory's significance to the Revolution. Pulitzer Prize. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Washington's Crossing](#)

Also available on cassette RC058946

The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers By Thomas J. Fleming

Read by Jim Zeiger

Reading time 20 hours, 39 minutes

Historian explores the personal lives of founding fathers George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. Discusses their marriages and the characters of their wives, lovers, and children. Speculates on the first ladies' influence and the erosion of some reputations. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072044

The Perils of Peace America's Struggle for Survival After Yorktown By

Thomas J. Fleming

Read by Jake Williams

Reading time 14 hours, 53 minutes

Focuses on the time period immediately after the 1781 American victory at Yorktown until the 1783 final treaty. Highlights the British, French, and colonial statesmen involved in peace negotiations. Posits that George Washington's renunciation of absolute power to become a private citizen was the pivotal affirmation of democracy. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Perils of Peace America's Struggle for...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066275

Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin & Selections from His Other Writings

By Benjamin Franklin

Read by Rick Rohan

Reading time 8 hours, 10 minutes

Memoirs of the early American newspaperman, scientist, philosopher, and statesman Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), addressed to his son. Describes his intellectual development, wide-ranging interests, and diverse enterprises. Includes selections from his newspaper columns and journal. With an introduction by Stacy Schiff. 2001.

[Download from BARD: Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056823

Also available on cassette RC056823

Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution By Woody Holton

Read by Peter Johnson

Reading time 11 hours, 19 minutes

History professor asserts that the ratifiers of the Constitution were more concerned with attracting investors to America than with protecting civil liberties. Discusses citizens' reactions to the original document and the small-farmers rebellions that impelled the passage of the Bill of Rights. Nat'l Book Award Finalist. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Unruly Americans and the Origins of the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066397

Patrick Henry First Among Patriots By Thomas S. Kidd

Read by Karl Miller

Reading time 8 hours, 53 minutes

Biography of Patrick Henry (1736-1799), who is best known for the 1775 "liberty or death" speech that he delivered at the onset of the American Revolution. Chronicles his Scottish background, political role in colonial Virginia, and his later denunciation of the U.S. Constitution. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Patrick Henry First Among Patriots](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076179

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19854](#)

Also available in braille BR019854

George Washington's Secret Six the Spy Ring that Saved the American Revolution By Brian Kilmeade

Read by Bill Wallace

Reading time 8 hours, 4 minutes

Relays the exploits of the New York-based Culper Spy Ring, five men and one woman whose activities enabled General George Washington to defeat the British during the Revolutionary War. Profiles the group's leader, Quaker merchant Robert Townsend, and describes the unmasking of traitor Benedict Arnold. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: George Washington's Secret Six the Spy Ring...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077861

Patriots the Men Who Started the American Revolution by A. J. Langguth

Read by Bruce Huntley

Reading time 18 hours 25 minutes

This lively study of early American patriots provides portraits of Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and other major figures. It also offers a sense of what the Revolutionary War was like for the common people. Arranged chronologically and covering the years from 1768 to 1785, the book describes numerous Boston riots, battles at Lexington, Bunker Hill, and elsewhere, and the first postwar Congress. Bestseller. 1988.

[Download from BARD: Patriots the Men Who Started the American...](#)

Also available on cassette RC027404

Thomas Jefferson the Art of Power By Jon Meacham

Read by Michael Scherer

Reading time 26 hours, 6 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of American Lion (DB/RC 68010) pens a biography of the third U.S. president, focusing on Jefferson's use of political power to advance his philosophical ideas of progress and individual freedom. Discusses Jefferson's birthright and family, pre-Revolutionary life, diplomatic roles, and years in the White House. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Thomas Jefferson the Art of Power](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075864

1776 by David G. McCullough

Read by Alec Volz.

Reading time 13 hours 11 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian chronicles the struggles of the Continental Army during the disastrous year of 1776. Highlights George Washington's failed New York campaign and the retreat across New Jersey. Assesses the political, economic, and social problems the young nation encountered during the turbulent months from August to December. Bestseller. 2005

[Download from BARD: 1776](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB060330

Also available on cassette RC060330

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16114](#)

Also available in braille BR016114

Betsy Ross and the Making of America By Marla R. Miller

Read by Kerry Dukin

Reading time 21 hours, 44 minutes

Professor explores the life of Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross (1752-1836), a prominent flag maker during the American Revolution and through the War of 1812. Discusses Ross's three marriages, her family's support of the colonies' rebellion, and her descendants. Depicts the roles of middle-class artisans in forging a new nation. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Betsy Ross and the Making of America](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072863

George Washington's Great Gamble: And the Sea Battle That Won the American Revolution By James L. Nelson

Read by Patrick Downer

Reading time 15 hours, 30 minutes

Maritime historian details the Battle of the Capes, when a French armada defeated the British Navy at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay in late summer 1781. This decisive combat led to Lord Charles Cornwallis's surrender to George Washington at Yorktown that October. 2010.

[Download from BARD: George Washington's Great Gamble: and the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077166

Common Sense, Rights of Man, and Other Essential Writings of Thomas

Paine by Thomas Paine

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 14 hours, 18 minutes

Essays by American philosopher and patriot Thomas Paine (1737-1809).

Includes Common Sense, which advocates America's moral obligation for independence; Rights of Man, which condemns hereditary monarchy; and selections from The Age of Reason, Agrarian Justice, and The Crisis, published to boost morale among Washington's troops during the American Revolution. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Common Sense, Rights of Man, and Other...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066685

Patriot Pirates: the Privateer War for Freedom and Fortune in the

American Revolution By Robert H. Patton

Read by Jake Williams

Reading time 10 hours, 2 minutes

Details America's maritime conflicts with the British during the Revolutionary War that consisted primarily of commissioned private American vessels attacking enemy ships. Describes the huge profits the privateer owners made from their wartime activities and discusses the ways their newfound wealth propelled the nation's entrepreneurialism. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Patriot Pirates: the Privateer War for Freedom...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068001

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18129](#)

Also available in braille BR018129

Nathan Hale: the Life and Death of America's First Spy By M. William

Phelps

Read by Phil Gigante

Reading time 8 hours, 14 minutes

Biography of famed patriot and American Revolution hero Nathan Hale (1755-1776), who was hung by the British for spying. Uses primary sources to detail Hale's years at Yale and his teaching career before he joined the Connecticut militia. Some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Nathan Hale: the Life and Death of America's...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068402

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18453](#)

Also available in braille BR018453

Bunker Hill: a City, a Siege, a Revolution By Nathaniel Philbrick

Read by Jake Williams

Reading time 21 hours, 52 minutes

Award-winning historian explores the grievances of the New England colonists who began the Revolutionary War in June, 1775, when they took a stand against the British in Boston. Describes the events that led to the battle of Bunker Hill and profiles the individuals who were involved. Violence. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Bunker Hill, a City, a Siege, a Revolution](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB76816

1775 a Good Year for Revolution By Kevin Phillips

Read by Arthur Morey

Reading time 25 hours, 45 minutes

Author posits that 1775 was the year that the American Revolution established its basis for armed resistance to Great Britain. Discusses the war's causes, battlegrounds, and worldwide consequences while emphasizing the roles of religion and ethnicity and slaves, indentured servants, and natives in the conflict. Some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2012.

[Download from BARD: 1775 a Good Year for Revolution](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075715

Ethan Allen his Life and Times By Willard Sterne Randall

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 19 hours, 15 minutes

Biography of Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen (1738-1789) of Vermont highlights colonial frontier life, religious turmoil, land speculation, and guerilla warfare. Describes Allen's capture of New York's Fort Ticonderoga--which he accomplished without firing a shot--and the inhumane treatment Allen endured as a British prisoner of war. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Ethan Allen his Life and Times](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074802

Robert Morris Financier of the American Revolution By Charles Rappleye

Read by Lou Harpenau

Reading time 24 hours, 35 minutes

Biography of Robert Morris (1734-1806) chronicles the personal and political life of the British-born Philadelphia businessman who, as superintendent of finance for the Continental Congress, provided General Washington's army with supplies. Discusses Morris's role as a Federalist and the real-estate speculation that landed him in debtors' prison. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Robert Morris Financier of the American...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074725

Shays's Rebellion the American Revolution's Final Battle By Leonard L. Richards

Read by Fred Major Reading time 7 hours, 21 minutes
Author of *The California Gold Rush and the Coming of the Civil War* (RC 66763) analyzes the armed insurrection that brought George Washington out of retirement. Describes the 1786 tax revolt that farmer/veteran Daniel Shays led against the state of Massachusetts and which hastened adoption of the U.S. Constitution. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Shay's Rebellion the American Revolution's...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068561

Samuel Adams: A Life by Ira Stoll

Read by John Haag Reading time 12 hours 30 minutes
Biography of American revolutionary leader and newspaper editor Samuel Adams (1722-1803) highlights the religious convictions of this founding father. Discusses Adams's role in instigating the Boston Tea Party, his belief that the call to arms was God's plan to free America, and his post-war political career. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Samuel Adams: A Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068849

The Radicalism of the American Revolution By Gordon S. Wood

Read by Art Metzler Reading time 16 hours, 59 minutes
In this Pulitzer prize-winning account, the author examines how the American Revolution, unlike any other event, reshaped society. Wood claims that colonial America, in all of its monarchical deference, was transformed into a democratic and self-reliant force. And he asserts that it was the behavior and desires of ordinary people, not that of their elected officials, that brought about this remarkable change. Pulitzer Prize.

[Download from BARD: The Radicalism of the American Revolution](#)

Also available on cassette RC036630