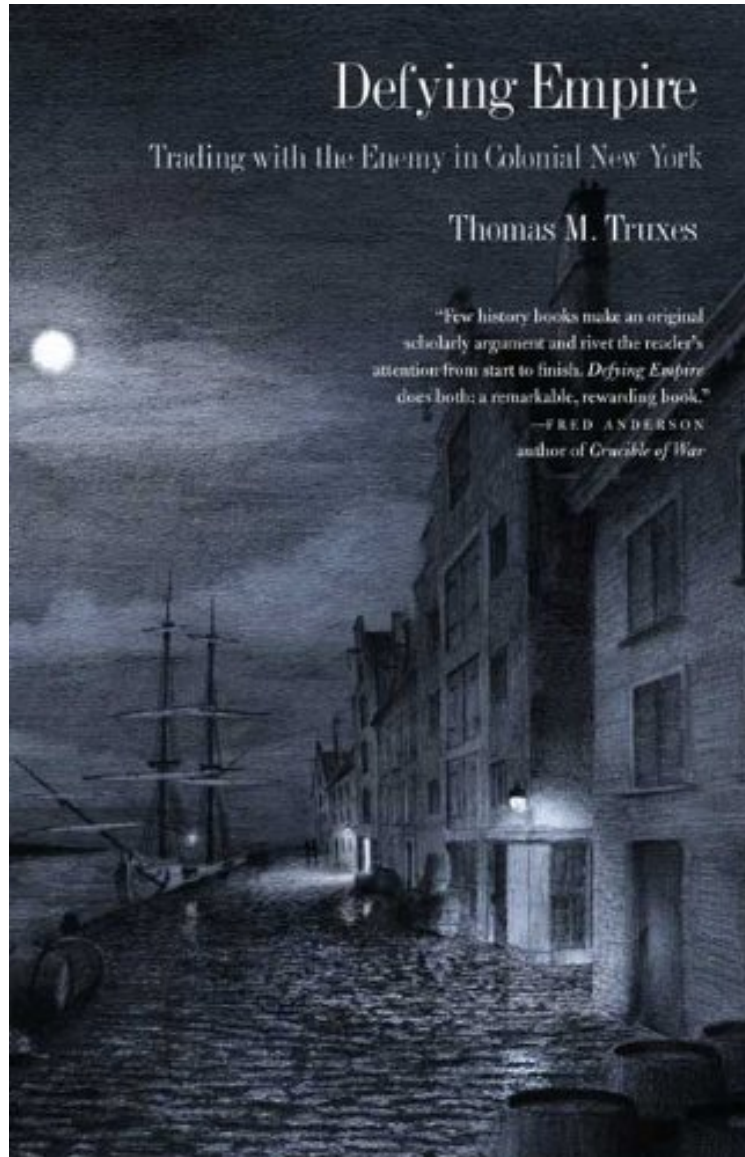


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Defying Empire: Trading with the Enemy in Colonial New York

Thomas M. Truxes

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Thomas M. Truxes : Defying Empire: Trading with the Enemy in Colonial New York before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Defying Empire: Trading with the Enemy in Colonial New York:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly, yet highly readableBy lscollisonI bought Thomas M. Truxes' "Defying Empire" based on Rick Spilman's review on the [...] as research for my fictional trilogy-in-progress Barbados Bound (Patricia McPherson Nautical Adventure).The subject of commerce, of trading with the enemy during

the Seven Years War, is one that is usually dealt with in a piecemeal manner. I was delighted to find an entire book on the subject which lies at the heart of the American Revolution which was shortly to follow. The author brings to life colonial New York during the 1750's-60's, in a thoroughly researched text. I was immediately swept up in the clear, vividly written, footnoted account. Numerous maps, a chronology, and glossaries of terms and persons enhance this fascinating text, which both academics and armchair historians will relish. Not many authors with the necessary credentials can bridge that gap, but I believe Truxes has. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Defying Empire By Chip Ford The overall arching question this work asks is "What part did economics play in the colonial Atlantic World?" According to Truxes, quite a bit actually. Basically the work concentrates on the trade economics of the colony of New York shortly before and during the Seven Years War. What it explores is the ways that New York traders kept on trading with the French during this period and how that exemplified an interdependence and interconnection within the colonies of North America rather than the interdependence and interconnections between colony and metropole. One other theme this work explores is the effects of Imperialism on North America and how colonists reacted, adapted, and accommodated it. If you are studying Atlantic World, First British Empire, or Colonial North America I would recommend reading this book. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. History comes to life By Mad Mac This book dispels any preconceived notions that history is dull, unless Disneyfied or, even worse, distorted and hyperbolized beyond recognition in order to peddle it to the unsuspecting masses. (please...let's do away with "based on a true story") Truxes has sifted through archives, documents, letters, and newspaper stories of colonial New York City to bring an untold story to life and this is one incredibly rich, exciting tale. The characters are not the upstanding colonial saints we've come to expect in any American history book. The plot is not one of patriotic fervor or self-sacrificing martyrs but greed, revenge, and illegal trade which reveals the sordid underbelly of New York City's populace, both rich and poor. For history nuts, this is what we live for. For those who like tales of intrigue, this is a gripping story made all the better because it's not fiction. For those who like fiction, this will convert you to the pleasures of reading well-written, true stories. This will knock your socks off and leave you wanting more. And I do hope Truxes will write more!

This enthralling book is the first to uncover the story of New York City merchants who engaged in forbidden trade with the enemy before and during the Seven Years War (also known as the French and Indian War). Ignoring British prohibitions designed to end North America's wartime trade with the French, New York's merchant elite conducted a thriving business in the French West Indies, insisting that their behavior was protected by long practice and British commercial law. But the government in London viewed it as treachery, and its subsequent efforts to discipline North American commerce inflamed the colonists. Through fast-moving events and unforgettable characters, historian Thomas M. Truxes brings eighteenth-century New York and the Atlantic world to life. There are spies, street riots, exotic settings, informers, courtroom dramas, interdictions on the high seas, ruthless businessmen, political intrigues, and more. The author traces each phase of the city's trade with the enemy and details the frustrations that affected both British officials and independent-minded New Yorkers. The first book to focus on New York City during the Seven Years War, *Defying Empire* reveals the important role the city played in hastening the colonies' march toward revolution.

Few history books make an original scholarly argument and rivet the readers' attention from start to finish. *Defying Empire* does both: a remarkable, rewarding book. Fred Anderson, author of *Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*