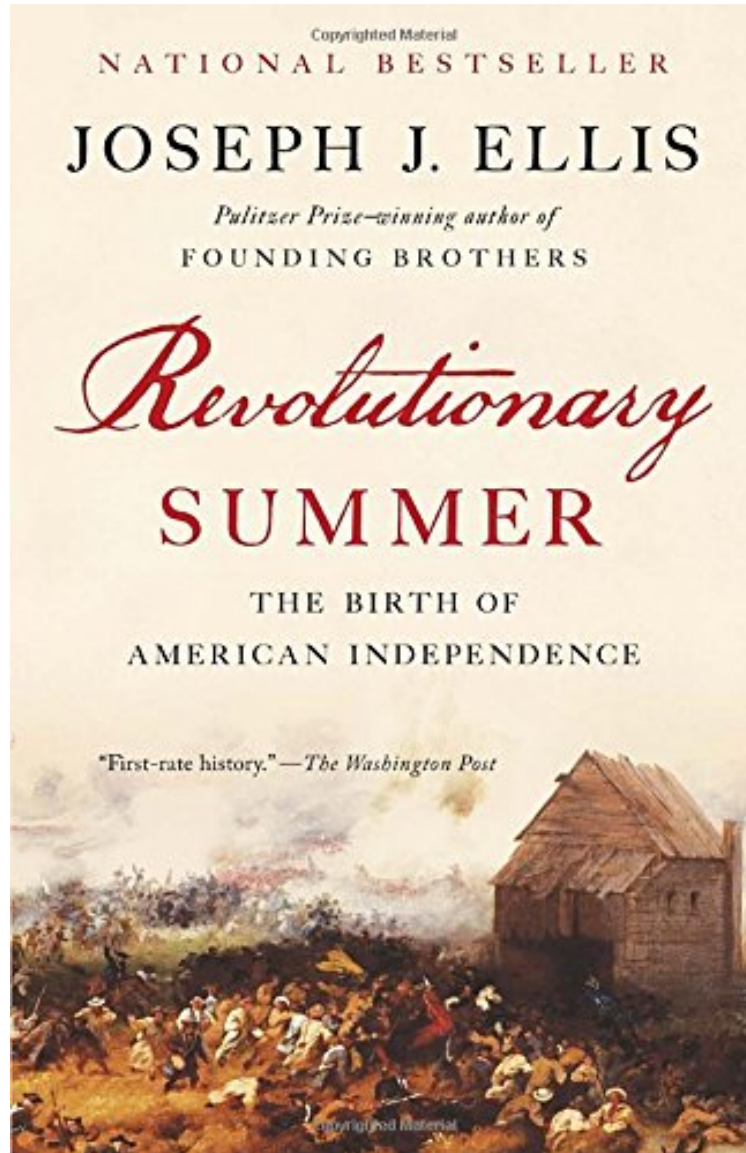


(Mobile ebook) Revolutionary Summer: The Birth of American Independence

Revolutionary Summer: The Birth of American Independence

Joseph J. Ellis

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#292568 in Books Joseph J Ellis 2014-06-03 2014-06-03Format: Deckle EdgeOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.20l, .62 #File Name: 0307946371288 pagesRevolutionary Summer The Birth of American Independence | File size: 36.Mb

Joseph J. Ellis : Revolutionary Summer: The Birth of American Independence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revolutionary Summer: The Birth of American Independence:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. along with lesser lights like Thomas PaineBy Brian Indians FanMost

people when asked to recall the Spirit of '76 that led to American independence will most likely focus on the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Granted, that was the event that started the horses carrying the cause out of the barn, but this event did not take place in a vacuum. The duty behind Joseph Ellis' book is to pull back to a 30,000 foot view of the events in the summer of 1776. In one sense, the American Revolution began a full year earlier with the April 1775 battles of Lexington and Concord, where colonists and British traded lead in anger in a war that would last over 8 years. American luminaries such as John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and John Hancock were taking their places on the world stage, along with lesser lights like Thomas Paine. In fact, it is the contribution of the heretofore unknown Paine - Common Sense - that lights the fire under the revolutionary faction of both the Continental Congress and the American public. Ellis dedicates his work to showing in excellent detail the goings-on from the American point of view. He picks up this historical jewel and examines it from all sides, checking and finding stress, controversy and contentious debate. This was an exercise that needed to be done - one does not break away from the greatest power in the world on a whim. Unbeknownst to the Continental Congress, the Howe brothers (Admiral Richard and General Sir William) were getting ready to meet up in New York City bearing an iron fist inside of a silk glove. William was forced to leave Boston after the Battle of Bunker Hill and would lead the ground assault on America's prized port if the colonists refused to come to their senses. Seeing that the Howes were both "Peace Commissioners" and the leaders of battle should it be given rightly gave the colonial representatives pause. Of course, given British arrogance in refusing to treat the colonials with respect (which continues right up to Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown) leads to the war that we come to read about. In the midst of trying to make names for themselves by even after declarations of war to bring the colonies home, the Howes refuse to engage the Colonial Army in a manner that would end the war in a decisive victory. The brothers mistakenly believe that all that is required is to bloody the nose of Washington and his troops, and they will see the light. It is a mistake that proves costly as the Colonial Army soon begins to believe they can win and Congress believes they can do it. Ellis crafts a good narrative of the events, spinning them as a good story with backstories. He also takes the effort to show the failings of Washington the general, yet placing it within the context of the code of honor among gentlemen of the 18th century. An army wouldn't fight like that today, but absent that, there were strategic blunders that almost got the Revolution strangled in the cradle.

BOTTOM LINE: An excellent book for the turbulent events of 1776. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good not great interpretation of the summer of 1776

By N Ferguson Joseph Ellis has established himself as one of the premier crossover historians: academics who successfully write for the mainstream market. His book "Founding Brothers" was outstanding; insightful, interesting, clear, and accessible. His books on Jefferson and Washington were also good. Revolutionary Summer is a good addition but not great to analyses of American independence. First, Ellis' writing remains strong and I would recommend the book foremost because of his skill at creating fluid, engaging prose. Second, Ellis makes an interesting argument about the pivotal nature of military and political decisions in the summer of 1776. He argues that American political unity, British political intransigence, and most critically, British military caution made eventual American triumph inevitable. His examination of both military and political decision-making - on both the British and American sides - is helpful and insightful. He is persuasive in arguing the pivotal nature of these months and decisions. However, there are a few problems with the book. First, most of his arguments are not new, although he tells the story well. Second, and more importantly, he ends the analysis abruptly in late summer 1776. He argues that American victory by this time was basically assured; it might be a long and difficult journey but the pieces were in place for successful independence. This discounts how precarious the American military situation continued to be and the importance of Washington's victory at Trenton in December. Maybe Ellis is correct but I do not find his argument persuasive. David McCullough, in his book 1776, argues more compellingly for the uncertainty of the American cause far beyond Aug/Sep 1776 and for the central role played by Washington. This is more in line with the consensus among historians, I believe. It is ironic that McCullough, who has been criticized for being a 'Barnes and Noble' historian has made what I would consider to be a more persuasive analysis than the esteemed Ellis. With all that in mind, Ellis remains an engaging, enjoyable writer and I recommend this book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A PRIMER ON OUR AMERICAN FREEDOM

By richard e whitelock As the title infers, this is the birth of the revolution approximately 10 years after the end of the French and Indian War, Circa 1763. Joseph J. Ellis is a masterful author. A lot was happening during this 10 year period. No single event would have brought about the Declaration, but once you put all events together, our Founding Fathers had no choice but to declare our independence. Ellis does a masterful job of weaving all these different events into a solid tapestry that is easy to read and understand. Our struggle for independence began long before the meeting of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1774. Relive these events as they actually occurred and see for yourself why our fight for independence was inevitable.

A Washington Post Notable Book A Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction Book of the Year The summer months of 1776 witnessed the most consequential events in the story of our country's founding. While the thirteen colonies came together and agreed to secede from the British Empire, the British were dispatching the largest armada ever to cross the Atlantic to crush the rebellion in the cradle. The Continental Congress and the Continental Army were forced to

make decisions on the run, improvising as history congealed around them. In a brilliant and seamless narrative, Ellis meticulously examines the most influential figures in this propitious moment, including George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Britains Admiral Lord Richard and General William Howe. He weaves together the political and military experiences as two sides of a single story, and shows how events on one front influenced outcomes on the other.

.com In *Revolutionary Summer*, the eminent historian Joseph Ellis describes the events surrounding the birth of America during the summer of 1776 (loosely defined as May through October of that year). Ellis's stated aim is to treat the military and political events of the period in tandem, and he skillfully establishes that there were two different sets of goals at stake: George Washington's Continental Army considered independence an inevitability, while the Continental Congress considered it a last resort. A Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winner, Ellis recently retired as the Ford Foundation Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College. Reading *Revolutionary Summer* is like receiving a distinguished lecture from a man who has dedicated many fruitful decades to breathing life into our understanding of history—he makes Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and others of the era come alive for the reader.

Chris Schlupe From Booklist A specious coherence marks narratives of 1776 in which the Declaration of Independence inevitably occurs while the Continental army's doughty defense of New York ensures that independence would become fact. Events are not, however, so tidily told, avers historian Ellis, who restores contingency to his account of the storied summer and fall of 1776. Identifying a central problem of the historical situation: Was there any realistic chance for the British to win? Ellis recounts efforts of moderates within each warring party. On the American side was the rout of anti-independence John Dickinson by the radical John Adams, while Ellis portrays the British side as misunderstanding the colonial rebellion. The commanders George III sent believed in reconciliation with the Americans, and so William Howe conducted the battles of New York cautiously, negotiated futilely with a Ben Franklin serenely sure of American success, and never delivered the decisive blow against George Washington's army. Even had Howe destroyed the Continental army, Ellis suggests that the British still would have confronted strategic failure against an enemy determined to continue the war. With cogent argument and compact prose, Ellis augurs to attract the history audience.

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Ellis commands a 100,000-plus print run for his latest installment on the American Revolution, tapping his popularity built on such standards as *American Sphinx* (1997), *Founding Brothers* (2000), and *First Family* (2010). --Gilbert Taylor First-rate history. . . . [Ellis] books are chock full of penetrating analysis, from their often-innovative structures to the provocative insights woven into their narratives. *Revolutionary Summer* is no exception. . . . Ellis's admiration for Adams is infectious. The *Washington Post* Accessible and electric. . . . [Ellis] crisply covers the decisive and improbable events of 1776. . . . [A] dramatic slice of history. . . . Thoughtful and colorful history, filled with facts left out of most school versions. USA Today Throughout this volume we see the clear-eyed mastery of a historian with the acuity to distill a historical moment into a clash for the ages. The *Boston Globe* Superb and dramatic. . . . A poignant counterpoint to the well-worn narrative of Washington's deification and a tribute to Mr. Ellis's sympathetic grasp of human nature. The *Wall Street Journal* Ellis, who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, is always a dependable guide through the early days of the new nation. . . . [He] gives us a feeling of that time when the quest for liberty began. *Washington Independent of Books* The best thing about Joseph Ellis's vast writings on Early America is his ability to construct unvarnished and original accounts, clear away myth and yet leave the reader with a sense of the color, irony, humor and . . . the great good luck present throughout our country's history. The *Seattle Times* Joseph J. Ellis's tenth book does not disappoint. . . . *Revolutionary Summer* reads like a good yarn by a kindly uncle who, the listener comes to feel, may well have been a participant in the events he describes. . . . [Ellis] captures this critical moment in our history with clarity, as well as a soft-spoken authority that is endearing. The *Christian Science Monitor* Fast-paced. . . . Ellis writes with such lan and deep understanding of this era and its exceptional leaders that anyone interested in a succinct . . . account of this crucial period in American history will eagerly seize upon this volume. The *New York Times* Quite good . . . in a relatively few pages the author makes clear how very close the American rebellion came to failing. *Richmond Times-Dispatch* Illuminating. . . . Ellis argues lucidly in *Revolutionary Summer* that political events and military actions during those vital months were intertwined. The *Courier-Journal* A focused examination. . . . Ellis writes in a chatty manner, avoiding the dryness of some historical tomes. *Houston Chronicle* A worthwhile chapter in the excellent library of Ellis-produced literature on the American Revolution. *Smithsonian.com* With revolutionary-period expertise and extensive knowledge of the founders, Ellis contends that American independence was born during this long summer. . . . This thought-provoking, well-documented historical narrative is packed with insightful analysis. *Library Journal* The definitive book on the revolutionary events of the summer of 1776. Ellis's prose is characteristically seductive, his insights frequent, his sketches of people and events captivating, and his critical facility always alive. . . . Another brilliantly told story, carried along on solid interpretive grounds, by one of our best historians of the early nation. *Publishers Weekly*, starred review An insightful history. *Kirkus*, starred review As usual, Ellis combines powerful narrative with convincing analysis. His tale of the crucial summer of 1776 shows how political and military events wove together to create a new

nation. Read this book and understand how America was born. Walter Isaacson, author of *Steve Jobs* Joseph Ellis has once again liberated the American Revolution from powdered wigs and patriotic cant. Riding briskly through the summer of 1776, he portrays the birth of independence as untidy, improvised, and at times, miraculous. This is a lucid and revelatory read for novices and buffs alike. Tony Horwitz Ellis once again demonstrates that a proper narrative of events, considered to be so well known as to present no puzzles, can exhibit the deep causes of the conflicts that forced men to war. His lucidity and insight make him the master story teller of the Revolutionary moment. Edmund S. Morgan, author of *Benjamin Franklin In Revolutionary Summer*, Joseph J. Ellis serves up the spirit of 1776 with sparkling prose, lucid analysis, and knowing portraits of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and Adams. Best of all, he captures the subtle and often complex interplay between the lofty rhetoric pouring forth from the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and the perilous plight of the Continental Army in New York. This invaluable addition to the rich literature of the Revolutionary War is a volume to savor, ponder, and simply enjoy. Ron Chernow, author of *Washington, A Life*