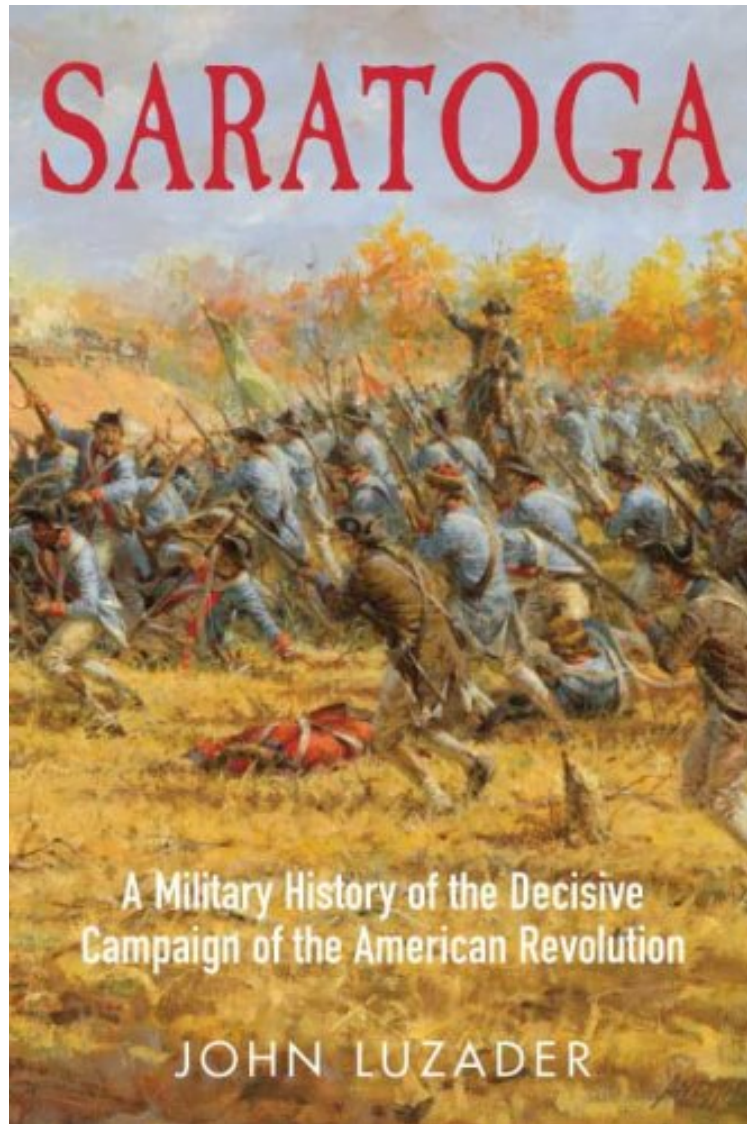


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Saratoga: A Military History of the Decisive Campaign of the American Revolution

John F. Luzader

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John F. Luzader : Saratoga: A Military History of the Decisive Campaign of the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saratoga: A Military History of the Decisive Campaign of the American Revolution:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Tipping Point at SaratogaBy Dean R. SnowJohn Luzader is a superb military historian, and the Saratoga Campaign is what he knows best. His book ranks with Richard M. Ketchum's

"Saratoga, Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War," another excellent treatment of the most pivotal months of the American War of Independence. Both cover the broad sweep of the long failed British effort to put a quick end to the American uprising in 1777. There are other more focused books on the subject, including Douglas Cubbison's "Burgoyne and the Saratoga Campaign: His Papers," and my own forthcoming book "1777: Tipping Point at Saratoga," but Cubbison concentrates on the British commander while I concentrate on just 33 climactic days on the Saratoga fields of battle. Like Ketchum, Luzader provides broader context for these and other more focused works. Reading them rewards students of American history, for there was a moment during the chaos and tragedy that played out at Saratoga when the chances that the United States of America would survive and thrive as a nation tipped from unlikely to inevitable. It is a story packed with heroes and heroines on both sides, including Benedict Arnold, whose reputation today would be very different had a German musket ball shattered his heart rather than his leg on an October afternoon at Saratoga.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. too much discussion on politics
By trailrunner
This book suffers from too much discussion on the internal politics between the military and political leaders on both sides of the conflict. There is way too much discussion on correspondence and the back-and-forth of the decisions that were made far from the battlefield. Certainly, some of this is useful and relevant to the story, but I think there was way too much of this, and not enough about the military side of the campaign. Some of this discussion occurs out of sequence, and some reaches back too many years. I also thought the writing style was a bit haughty, but I can overlook that. There were lots of quotes and quoted passages from correspondence and other sources; perhaps this book was intended to be a scholarly work and not a popular telling of the story. One thing that annoyed me in the quoted passages was the frequent (but not altogether consistent) use of [sic] when words were misspelled or not spelled according to our modern convention. I take it for granted that when quoting a passage from 1777 that this will be common, and I don't need an editorial apology for every instance.

The Kindle version also suffered from terrible formatting. The spacing was in the wrong places. Many words were broken, and some broken words were combined with adjacent words. I could eventually figure it out, but this made the reading more difficult, and there's really no excuse for that.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Kindle Edition Review
By Aaron Shipman
After reading the book, I find that it is very well written and researched. Mr. Luzader wrote the book in such a way that both the new student and long time historian of the campaign can find useful and new information. Mr. Luzader does a fine job of giving the back story of how the campaign was formulated by the British and the early American responses to their invasion. Mr. Luzader also gives the reader an appropriate selection of maps that helps the reader see the troop movements and placement of units on the fields of battle. It is true that Mr. Luzader falls into a form of Gates worship, but I do not believe that it is substantial enough to detract from the work or show a biased view against the other commanders in the field of battle.

The reason for the four stars are these two points: 1.) I believe that Chapter 7 should have been placed earlier in the book. The reader is transported from the close of action along the Mohawk River to the middle part of 1776. Mr. Luzader takes this opportunity to then explain the personalities of the two commanders, the beginnings of the Northern department, and the rift between Schuyler and Gates. This chapter is important to the story of the campaign, do not misunderstand me there, but its placement disrupts the flow of the campaign narrative being inserted at this point. 2.) In the Kindle edition there are many instances of misplaced/misused spaces. There are times when three or four words are all crammed together to form one or there are three spaces within one word. Also, the software used made Jger sometimes spells it as Jgers, using the symbol instead of the symbol. Also, the maps are a little hard to read with writing inside of the maps being fuzzy. This might not be an issue on the Kindle Fire due to being able to zoom, but on the original Kindle it made the maps hard to read. Before being released for Kindle, maybe the editor should have spent a little more time reviewing this book.

The months-long 1777 Saratoga campaign was one of the most decisive of the entire Revolutionary War. The crushing British defeat prompted France to recognize the American colonies as an independent nation, declare war on England, and commit money, ships, arms, and men to the rebellion. John Luzaders impressive *Saratoga: A Military History of the Decisive Campaign of the American Revolution* is the first all-encompassing objective account of these pivotal months in American history.

British General John Burgoyne assembled his command at St. Johns in June 1777. His force consisted of numerous warships, more than 130 pieces of artillery, and 7,800 men including two large divisions of rested veteran British Regulars. Burgoyne intended to capture Albany, New York, wrest control of the vital Hudson River Valley from the colonists, and divide the Northern American colonies in half. Initial colonial opposition included widely separated fixed positions, small garrisons and commands, and feuding American commanders. Burgoyne's primary opponent was General Horatio Gates, a haughty and divisive leader whose 8,000 men included several capable field commanders, including Benedict Arnold and Daniel Morgan. The series of battles large and small these men would engineer stunned the world and spun the colonial rebellion in an entirely different direction. The British offensive kicked off with a stunning victory at Fort Ticonderoga, followed by a sharp successful engagement at Hubbardton. Other actions erupted at Fort Stanwix, Oriskany, and Bennington. However, serious supply problems dogged Burgoyne's column and, assistance from General William Howe failed to materialize. Faced with hungry troops and a powerful gathering of American troops, Burgoyne decided to take the offensive by crossing the Hudson

River and moving against Gates. The complicated maneuvers and command frictions that followed sparked two major battles, one at Freemans Farm (September 19) and the second at Bemis Heights (October 7). Seared into the public consciousness as the battle of Saratoga, the engagements resulted in the humiliating defeat and ultimately the surrender of Burgoyne's entire army. Decades in the making, former National Park Service staff historian John Luzader's *Saratoga* combines strategic, political, and tactical history into a compelling portrait of this decisive campaign. His sweeping prose relies heavily upon original archival research and the author's personal expertise with the challenging terrain. Complete with stunning original maps and photos, *Saratoga* will take its place as one of the important and illuminating campaign studies ever written. FINALIST / RUNNER-UP: The Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award for Operational / Battle History, 2008

provides a very balanced account of the campaign includes excellent maps to follow along with the battle an excellent account and analysis of the Saratoga campaign of 1777. (Collected Miscellany) "outstanding military history and a great read." (James Durney) a must have book for anyone interested in learning more about our American Revolutionary War. (LONE STAR) About the Author A veteran of World War II and graduate of West Virginia University and the University of Texas, John Luzader worked for the U.S. Department of Defense as a research historian. Transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service, he conducted research for the preservation and interpretation of the Saratoga National Historic Park. Luzader planned and researched museum and outdoor exhibits for twelve national historical parks and served as the NPS's central history office staff historian for the colonial and revolutionary periods. He lives with his wife Jean in a West Virginia retirement community.