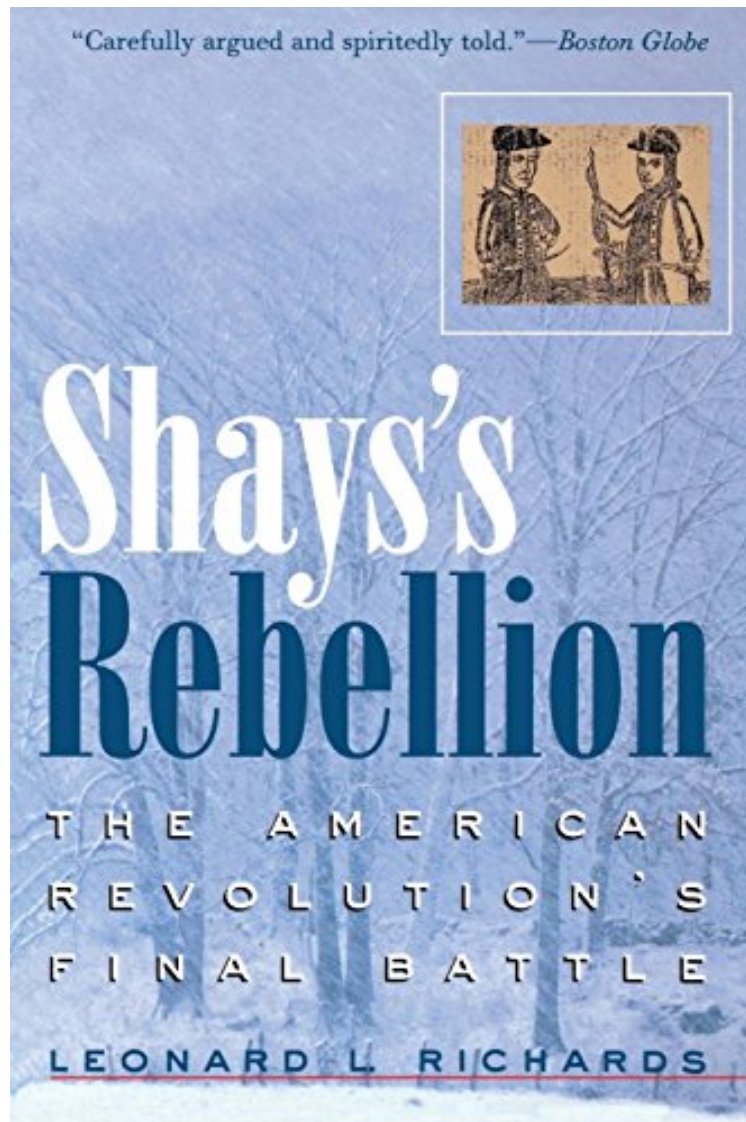


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Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle

Leonard L. Richards

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Leonard L. Richards : Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle:

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central government was planted. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Perfect 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book By John Smith Good history, but a slow and dry read.

During the bitter winter of 1786-87, Daniel Shays, a modest farmer and Revolutionary War veteran, and his compatriot Luke Day led an unsuccessful armed rebellion against the state of Massachusetts. Their desperate struggle was fueled by the injustice of a regressive tax system and a conservative state government that seemed no better than British colonial rule. But despite the immediate failure of this local call-to-arms in the Massachusetts countryside, the event fundamentally altered the course of American history. Shays and his army of four thousand rebels so shocked the young nation's governing elite even drawing the retired General George Washington back into the service of his country that ultimately the Articles of Confederation were discarded in favor of a new constitution, the very document that has guided the nation for more than two hundred years, and brought closure to the American Revolution. The importance of Shays's Rebellion has never been fully appreciated, chiefly because Shays and his followers have always been viewed as a small group of poor farmers and debtors protesting local civil authority. In *Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle*, Leonard Richards reveals that this perception is misleading, that the rebellion was much more widespread than previously thought, and that the participants and their supporters actually represented whole communities—the wealthy and the poor, the influential and the weak, even members of some of the best Massachusetts families. Through careful examination of contemporary records, including a long-neglected but invaluable list of the participants, Richards provides a clear picture of the insurgency, capturing the spirit of the rebellion, the reasons for the revolt, and its long-term impact on the participants, the state of Massachusetts, and the nation as a whole. Shays's Rebellion, though seemingly a local affair, was the revolution that gave rise to modern American democracy.

"A carefully argued and spiritedly told account." *Boston Globe* "Recommended for all library collections at every level." *Choice* "Serves a valuable purpose by fleshing out a crucial period when the fate of the American democratic experiment hung in the balance." *American History* About the Author Leonard L. Richards is Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Slave Power: The Free North and Southern Domination, 1780-1860* and *The Life and Times of Congressman John Quincy Adams*, a finalist in 1987 for the Pulitzer Prize for biography.