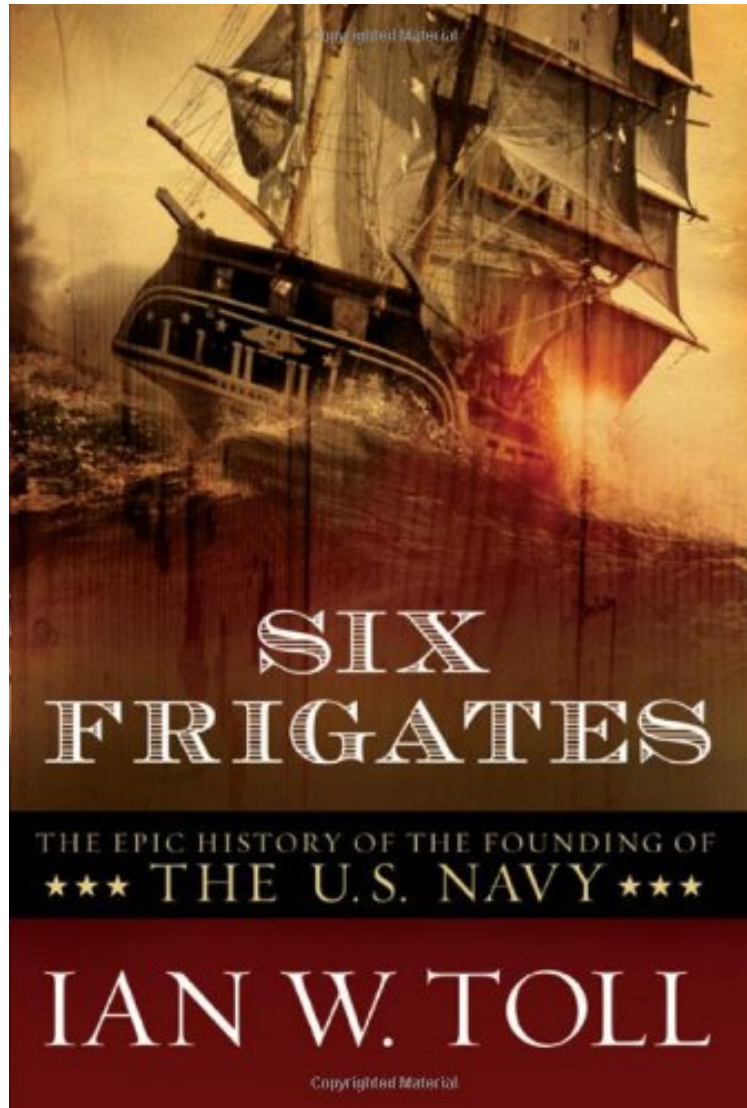


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Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy

Ian W. Toll

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Ian W. Toll : Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy:

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the more they stay the same. I look forward to getting back to Boston and visiting Old Ironsides now that I have in depth knowledge of its history and why it is so special in American history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Detailed accounts of the US Navy founding By Walker Shaw Detailed story of how the United States Navy came into existence and why. Ian W. Toll brings to life the events and the politics of our early democracy struggling with a limited budget but big problems at sea. Fascinating accounts and details of life at sea, the harsh and dangerous conditions men faced during this time of tall ships. I retired after serving 20 years in the U.S. Navy with pride. This look at those first sailors to serve was sobering and insightful. Highly recommend it to those with a deep love of all things naval. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fantastic Read for Anyone By Mike Moody This captivating read details the birth of the US Navy from the Navy Act of 1794 to the end of the War of 1812. From the politics of creating a standing navy, to details of the construction of the frigates, to thrilling accounts of battles with Barbary pirates and the British in the War of 1812, this book is well-written and compulsively readable. The author has a knack for making historical figures come to life and for making the action scenes breathtaking. The story of the USS Constitution spending days fleeing a British squadron in near windless conditions is particularly riveting. Also, the story of the USS Chesapeake and her Captain, Stephen Lawrence, and his dying command of Don't give up the ship, fight her till she sinks! is equal parts moving and thrilling. To be clear, the book isn't all action. There is much detail on the politics of the day and the political and economic conditions of the era covered. The author also gives enough details about the British and the Pasha of Tripoli to give an understanding of their motivations and thinking processes. Although a large part of the book is spent on the War of 1812, it is not a comprehensive history of the conflict, since it primarily focuses on the actions of the US Navy frigates and their role, and covers other battles in only enough detail to put them in context. If you love naval history this is a must read. If you don't, this book will make you love naval history. 5 stars.

"A fluent, intelligent history...give[s] the reader a feel for the human quirks and harsh demands of life at sea." New York Times Book Review Before the ink was dry on the U.S. Constitution, the establishment of a permanent military became the most divisive issue facing the new government. The founders particularly Jefferson, Madison, and Adams debated fiercely. Would a standing army be the thin end of dictatorship? Would a navy protect from pirates or drain the treasury and provoke hostility? Britain alone had hundreds of powerful warships. From the decision to build six heavy frigates, through the cliff-hanger campaign against Tripoli, to the war that shook the world in 1812, Ian W. Toll tells this grand tale with the political insight of Founding Brothers and the narrative flair of Patrick O'Brian.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Toll, a former financial analyst and political speechwriter, makes an auspicious debut with this rousing, exhaustively researched history of the founding of the U.S. Navy. The author chronicles the late 18th- and early 19th-century process of building a fleet that could project American power beyond her shores. The ragtag Continental Navy created during the Revolution was promptly dismantled after the war, and it wasn't until 1794 in the face of threats to U.S. shipping from England, France and the Barbary states of North Africa that Congress authorized the construction of six frigates and laid the foundation for a permanent navy. A cabinet-level Department of the Navy followed in 1798. The fledgling navy quickly proved its worth in the Quasi War against France in the Caribbean, the Tripolitan War with Tripoli and the War of 1812 against the English. In holding its own against the British, the U.S. fleet broke the British navy's "sacred spell of invincibility," sparked a "new enthusiasm for naval power" in the U.S. and marked the maturation of the American navy. Toll provides perspective by seamlessly incorporating the era's political and diplomatic history into his superlative single-volume narrative a must-read for fans of naval history and the early American Republic. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Not confined to sea battles, Toll's history of the U.S. Navy's formative decades, from the mid-1790s to the War of 1812, rounds out affairs by anchoring the nascent navy to its financial supports. Navies are not inexpensive, and the costs of building and maintaining ships appear lightly but persistently in Toll's narrative. It centers on the first vessels purpose-built for the navy, the half-dozen frigates of which the USS Constitution moored in Boston today is the last survivor. Besides money, their construction involved politics; the Federalists favored the naval program (creating the Department of the Navy in 1798), while Jefferson's parsimonious Republicans were more diffident. Toll is as insightful about the essential domestic and diplomatic background as he is with his dramatizations of the naval engagements of the new navy, which produced a crop of national heroes such as Stephen Decatur. The maritime strategy and the highly developed sense of officers' honor, which influenced where particular battles occurred, emerge clearly in this fluent account. Vibrant and comprehensive, Toll makes an impressive debut. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Sweeping in scope, full of vivid descriptions... solidly grounded in the diplomatic landscape... a masterly work. - Chris Patsilelis, Houston Chronicle [A] wonderfully atmospheric account, brilliantly researched, full of stirring action and rich with the scent of the sea. - Simon Winchester, author of The Professor and the Madman Gripping... a masterful narrative... Toll captures the ambivalence of the government, and its reluctance to pay for even a tiny navy, very well. - Joe Mysak, Bloomberg News Toll has a light touch, much like noted historian David McCullough; well-researched facts are carefully balanced

by smooth narrative flow.... The result is a thoroughly readable book that adds depth and significance to an important era of American history. - Bruce Linder, San Diego Tribune
Vibrant and comprehensive, Toll makes an impressive debut. - Gilbert Taylor, Booklist