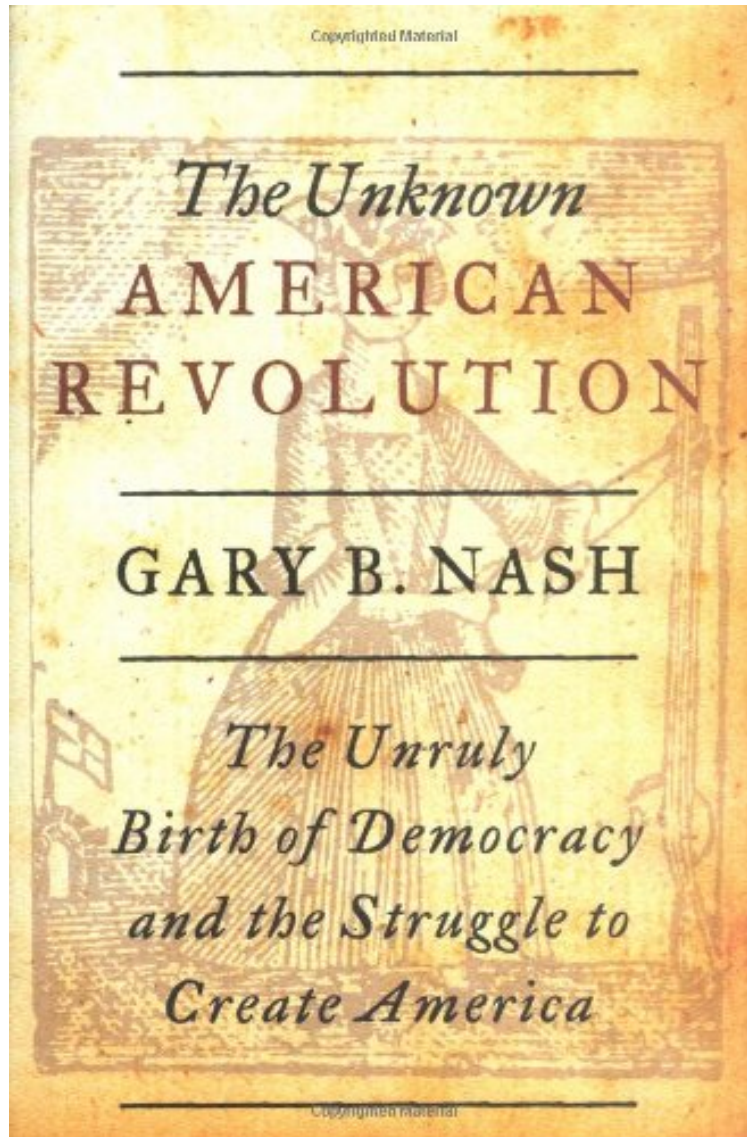


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The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America

Gary B. Nash

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Gary B. Nash : **The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great coverage of the Revolution from lesser known characters. By

Michael Troy If you are only going to read one book about the American Revolution, this is probably not the one you should choose. The author, as promised by the title, focuses on the lesser known aspects of the war. It supplements the well known narratives from the Revolution. We do not need another book about the Continental Army or George Washington. Other authors have covered those topics very well. Mr. Nash takes a look at how African Americans and Native Americans experienced the Revolution. He does this without being overly preachy about the evils of slavery (yes, we all agree it was bad) or the treatment of Native tribes (similar agreement). Rather, he sets forth a narrative that lets the reader better understand the successes and setbacks experienced by members of these groups. Nor is this book focused solely on minority issues during the war. Other more obscure characters also get some discussion. For example, Ebenezer MacIntosh plays a key role in the Boston protests that led to war, yet most traditional histories barely mention him. This book takes the time to flesh out his role in pre-war Boston. The author does not ignore the standard narrative of the war. He simply follows it from a different perspective. The book goes through the standard chronological progression of the Revolution. It is, however, more concerned with how slaves or tradesmen viewed events, rather than the mainstream focus on what George Washington or John Adams were thinking. While some have criticized this book as lacking ground-breaking new information, I don't see that as the point of this book. Yes, a reader could find most of this information scattered across dozens of articles in history magazines, or buried in lengthier academic tomes on the period. But this book brings those stories together for the casual reader in a compelling way. Overall, I found the book to be a great read. As I said at the outset, if you are looking for the standard history, you may want to start with a different book. But once you know the standard story, this book gives it more depth and dimension. It is well researched, well written, and provides useful end notes if you want to look at more primary materials on the topics involved. Even if you have read a dozen other books on the Revolution, you will learn something new from this one.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Teresa Fortenberry
Very well written and researched book about the beginnings of the American Revolution.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Customer
In great condition. New like explained. Can not wait to gift it!

In the rows of august marble busts that commemorate the American Revolution, we have lost sight of the true radical spirit of the longest and most disruptive upheaval in our history, argues distinguished American historian Gary B. Nash. In this brilliant reexamination of the swirl of ideology, grievance, outrage, and hope that animated the revolutionary decades, Nash demonstrates that though the Founding Fathers led the charge, the energy to raise a revolt emerged from all classes and races of American society. Millennialist preachers and enslaved Africans, frontier mystics and dockside tars, disgruntled women and aggrieved Indians all had their own fierce vision of what an independent America could and should be. According to Nash, the American Revolution was truly a people's revolution, a civil war at home as well as an armed insurrection against colonial control. In this ideal companion volume to Howard Zinn's classic *A People's History of the United States*, Nash re-creates the heady and often-violent excitement that convulsed American lives during the last three decades of the eighteenth century and presents a unique look at the struggle to create a new country.

From Publishers Weekly
The history of the American Revolution that most of us have absorbed is but "a fable," writes UCLA historian Nash. In this insightful, challenging "antidote to historical amnesia," Nash (*Race and Revolution*) deftly illustrates that while the Revolution has been implanted in our collective memory as the idealized "Glorious Cause," in reality it was more a chaotic and bloody civil war, replete with fragile alliances, a multitude of fronts and clashing cultures. He especially succeeds in detailing the crucial role and often overlooked plight of Native Americans, adding the obscure names of men such as Cornplanter, Dragging Canoe and Mohawk chief Joseph Brant, who allied the Iroquois nation with the British, to the pantheon of the Revolution's players. By 1789 Washington was forced to commit a third of his army to destroying the Iroquois, explicitly ordering that their villages "not be merely overrun but destroyed." Of course, Native Americans who remained neutral or fought alongside the Americans fared no better later at the hands of settlers. Tightly though densely written, this expertly researched tome shakes the "stainless steel" history of the American Revolution to its core. (June 27) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. You will never think about the Revolution in the same way. -- Alfred F. Young, author of *Masquerade: The Life and Times of Deborah Sampson, Continental Soldier*
From the Back Cover "A unique and captivating interpretation of American independence, and one that is more democratic than traditional histories of the period." Chicago Tribune "What Nash does in *The Unknown American Revolution* is dislodge the founding fathers to give the dynamism of urban craftsmen, slaves, dockside tars, and club-wielding farmers a more prominent place in the history of the movement." The Boston Globe