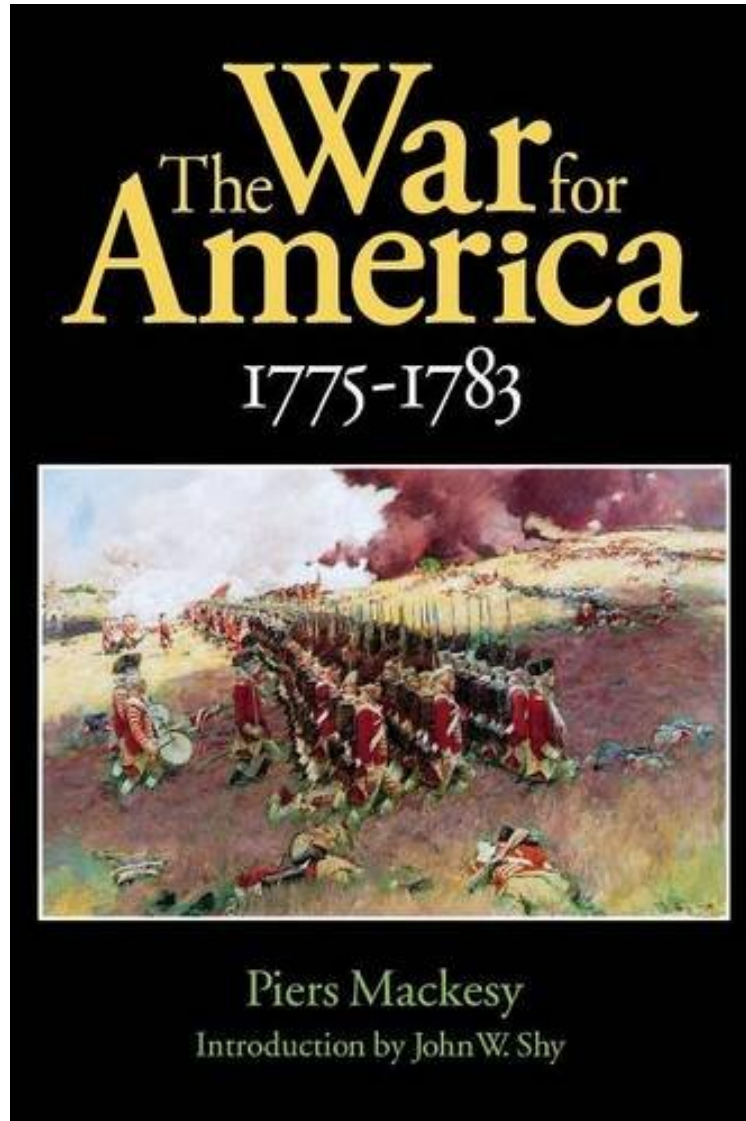


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The War for America, 1775-1783

Piers Mackesy

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Piers Mackesy : The War for America, 1775-1783 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War for America, 1775-1783:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Some Different Lessons By 2N2Make4 One of the things you can gain from reading history is a new, different outlook on familiar subjects. While I was generally familiar with the events of the Revolutionary War, Piers Mackesy's *The War for America* not only provides an illuminating view from the English side, it gives an object lesson in how knowing the events of history can help one avoid making similar mistakes. I have always wondered how England, one of the super powers of the day, could have lost this war to a group

of undisciplined farmers. Mackesy provides a detailed account of the problems facing the English and the decisions which led to their defeat. The book is painstakingly annotated throughout and shows a depth of research that gives credit to the efforts of the author. It is written from the English point of view, with detailed descriptions of the English leaders' strategies, their internal politics and how they responded to the events on the ground. Be ready for a wealth of detail concerning English politicians, their relationships, culture, and how all these factors affected their actions in pursuit of the war. This strength is also its weakness: it would have been a stronger book if more information had been given about the strategies of the Colonial forces and the other European nations in the conflict. The book was written in 1964 as the US involvement in Viet Nam was just beginning. The similarities between the difficulties faced by the English and the difficulties the American forces faced 200 years later and a continent away were too clear to be overlooked. Perhaps if the problems faced by the English had been better absorbed by our military leaders, we would have pursued a different path. While occasionally Mackesy's roots show through in his semi-apologetic descriptions of the English side's problems and losses, all in all it is a well written and dispassionate description of the times and the conflict. I recommend it for readers looking for a deeper understanding of the Revolutionary War and of the problems faced by any nation attempting to impose its will on a foreign population.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tabulous read putting the American War into Perspective
By Edward N. Stoner
This is an excellent history from the British point of view and provides many interesting insights for the American reader. I found that its detail was impressive. But even more impressive was the author's ability to put the various conflicts into perspective. Well, gosh, the French fleet appeared off Yorktown, the Royal Navy could not get past them, and the war was won. Well, not so fast. I encourage anyone with an interest in the age of sail to invest some time in this wonderful book. You will be well rewarded. Cheers Ed.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Serious scholarship
By MICHAEL MCMURRAY
But still engrossing reading. I found it a page-turner. One cannot have a real understanding of our Revolutionary War - War for Independence without looking at the British side. As well as how "the great game" was played among the colonial powers (England, France, Spain, Holland) in the 18th century. This book provides that perspective, and valuable insight into the personalities and pressures of the individuals pulling the levers of power in that conflict.

The events of the American Revolution signified by Lexington, Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, Saratoga, and Yorktown are familiar to American readers. Far less familiar is the fact that, for the British, the American colonies were only one front in a world war. England was also pitted against France and Spain. Not always in command of the seas and threatened with invasion, England tried grimly for eight years to subdue its rebellious colonies; to hold Canada, the West Indies, India, and Gibraltar; and to divide its European enemies. In this vivid history Piers Mackesy views the American Revolution from the standpoint of the British government and the British military leaders as they attempted to execute an overseas war of great complexity. Their tactical response to the American Revolution is now comprehensible, seen as part of a grand imperial strategy.

"Mackesy's War for America still stands as the classic account of the British conduct of the American Revolutionary War. Based on extensive research in British archives, it embodies the mature judgments of a masterful military historian." John W. Shy