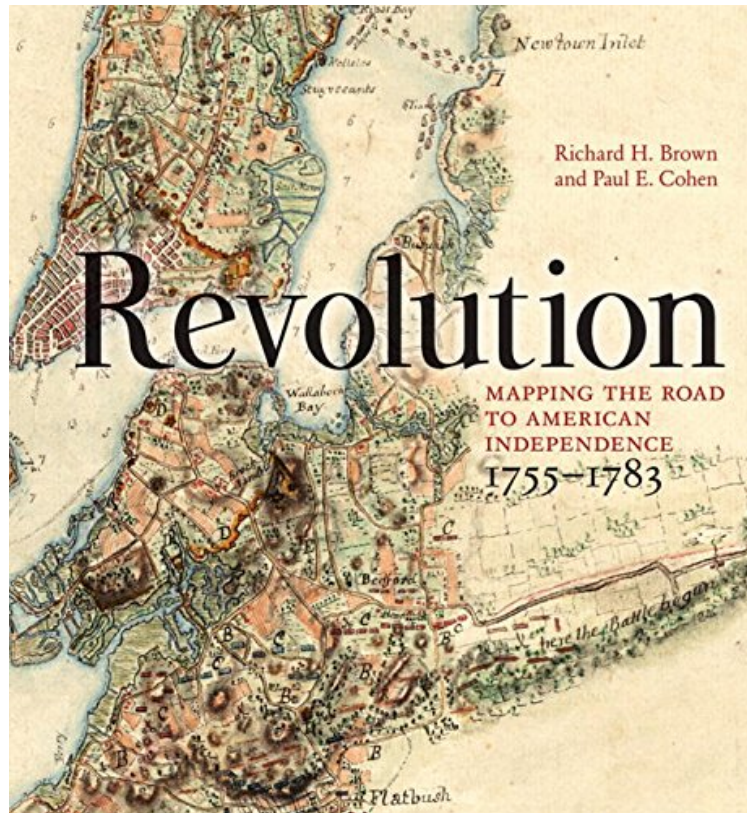


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Revolution: Mapping the Road to American Independence, 1755-1783

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revolution: Mapping the Road to American Independence, 1755-1783:

37 of 37 people found the following review helpful. A Stunning Book Inside and Out By Daniel W. Pyle This collection of antique maps and concise commentary is visually stunning and beautifully written. At a time when many readers require reasons to purchase a book in hardcover rather than in digital form, this volume offers many. First of all, it is a very elegant work. Laura Lindgren, the jacket designer, uses an 18th C. full-color military map of New York City for the cover, the spaces for modern text provided by an artful fading of the map. The names of the authors are in the upper right, and the title is boldly printed across the center. The dust jacket is heavy polished paper. A ribbon of map (this time of the Fort George Area) tops the back cover above three reviews on burgundy background. One of these endorsements is by Ric Burns, the documentarian. The book is oversize in format, 12X13 inches, but is slender at 150 pages, more than enough space to cover thirty years of revolutionary history starting with the French and Indian War. The maps included have been rarely or never published before. Unlike many recent historical atlases, the focus in this volume is always on the maps. While the authors include many illustrations, they are always closely related to the

maps. For example, the Anti-Gallican Map of North America (1755), published by a British anti-French club, is accompanied by an illustration of the badge of the President of the organization. It is a gorgeous rococo jewel which depicts St. George impaling the French flag with his spear. The map and badge clearly illustrate the British hostility to the French just before the onset of war. One of the reviewers on the cover, Jane Kamensky, notes that "the battle for (and against) American independence unfolded in space as well as in time." This idea provides the key rationale for presenting history in the context of contemporary maps. For example, the section on Braddock's March notes that General Braddock planned to sail up the Potomac, and then travel from Fort Cumberland (Modern Cumberland, MD) to Fort Duquesne (modern Pittsburgh). Maps indicated that the Potomac voyage would be 15 miles and the trip by land would be 30 miles. The Potomac is not navigable above the Great Falls just above the present site of Washington, D.C. The distance to Cumberland by land is about 140 miles with another 100 miles over mountainous terrain to get to Fort Duquesne. Braddock was soon complaining about the unexpected distance and harsh landscape. This cartographic distortion of space had significant effect on the course of history, and contributed to the British defeat, the death of General Braddock, and the near death of George Washington. The authors, Richard Brown and Paul Cohen are collectors and dealers in antique maps and are not historians. However, the text is correct, and the maps they've found and published here are expertly chosen to illustrate the history. While there are many who could effectively condense the history of Revolutionary America, the authors used their expertise to scour disparate archives and collections, and to winnow down their choices to the maps that perfectly illustrate the key historical events covered in this volume. This book will go on my coffee table, not only because it is beautiful but also because I am certain I will want to frequently revisit these maps. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent condition. By Dan Church Glorious. Excellent condition. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must-have for map afficianados By Linda Foreman What a great book. Bought it for my daughter who is a mapmaker.

The spectacular legacy and importance of early American cartographers. Historians of the Revolutionary War in America have been fortunate in their resources: few wars in history have such a rich literary and cartographic heritage. The high skills of the surveyors, artists, and engravers who delineated the topography and fields of battle allow us to observe the unfolding of events that ultimately defined the United States. When warfare erupted between Britain and her colonists in 1775, maps provided graphic news about military matters. A number of the best examples are reproduced here, including some from the personal collections of King George III, the Duke of Northumberland, and the Marquis de Lafayette. Other maps from institutional and private collections are being published for the first time. In all, sixty significant and beautiful cartographic works from 1755 to 1783 illustrate this intriguing era. Most books about the Revolution begin with Lexington and Concord and progress to the British surrender at Yorktown, but in this rich collection the authors lay the groundwork for the war by also taking into account key events of the antecedent conflict. The seeds of revolution were planted during the French and Indian War (1755-1763), and it was then that a good number of the participants, both British and rebel, cut their teeth. George Washington took his first command during this war, alongside the future British commanding General Thomas Gage. At the Treaty of Paris, the French and Indian War ended, and King George III gained clear title to more territory than had ever been exchanged in any other war before or since. The British military employed its best-trained artists and engineers to map the richest prize in its Empire. They would need those maps for the fratricidal war that would begin twelve years later. Their maps and many others make up the contents of this fascinating and beautiful book. 60 maps