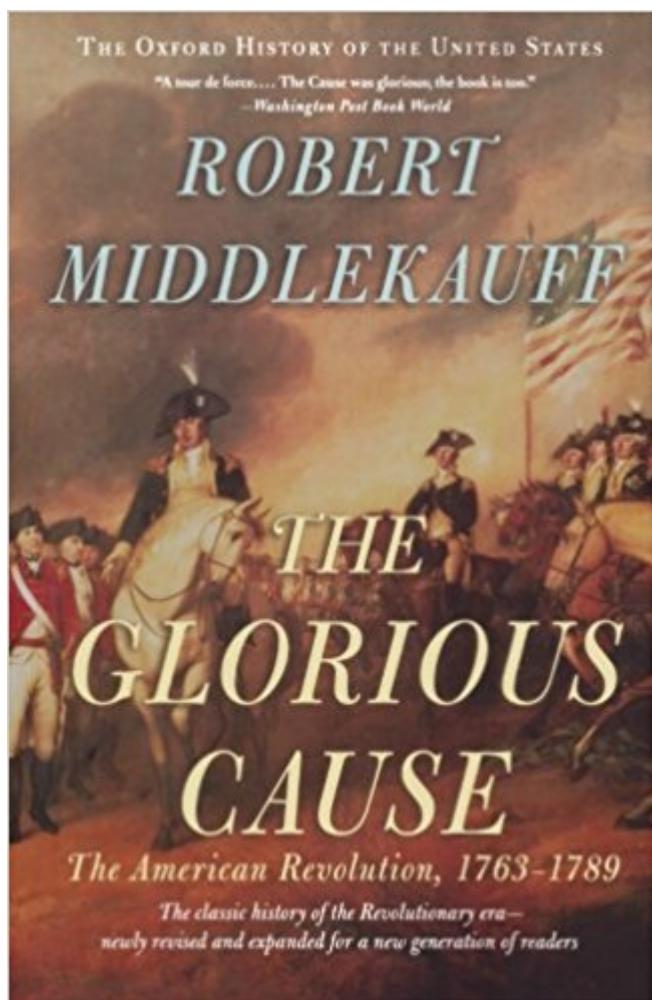


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The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution, 1763-1789 (Oxford History Of The United States)



Synopsis

The first book to appear in the illustrious Oxford History of the United States, this critically acclaimed volume--a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize--offers an unsurpassed history of the Revolutionary War and the birth of the American republic. Beginning with the French and Indian War and continuing to the election of George Washington as first president, Robert Middlekauff offers a panoramic history of the conflict between England and America, highlighting the drama and anguish of the colonial struggle for independence. Combining the political and the personal, he provides a compelling account of the key events that precipitated the war, from the Stamp Act to the Tea Act, tracing the gradual gathering of American resistance that culminated in the Boston Tea Party and "the shot heard 'round the world." The heart of the book features a vivid description of the eight-year-long war, with gripping accounts of battles and campaigns, ranging from Bunker Hill and Washington's crossing of the Delaware to the brilliant victory at Hannah's Cowpens and the final triumph at Yorktown, paying particular attention to what made men fight in these bloody encounters. The book concludes with an insightful look at the making of the Constitution in the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 and the struggle over ratification. Through it all, Middlekauff gives the reader a vivid sense of how the colonists saw these events and the importance they gave to them. Common soldiers and great generals, Sons of Liberty and African slaves, town committee-men and representatives in congress--all receive their due. And there are particularly insightful portraits of such figures as Sam and John Adams, James Otis, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and many others. This new edition has been revised and expanded, with fresh coverage of topics such as mob reactions to British measures before the War, military medicine, women's role in the Revolution, American Indians, the different kinds of war fought by the Americans and the British, and the ratification of the Constitution. The book also has a new epilogue and an updated bibliography. The cause for which the colonists fought, liberty and independence, was glorious indeed. Here is an equally glorious narrative of an event that changed the world, capturing the profound and passionate struggle to found a free nation.

The Oxford History of the United States is the most respected multi-volume history of our nation. The series includes three Pulitzer Prize winners, a *New York Times* bestseller, and winners of the Bancroft and Parkman Prizes. The *Atlantic Monthly* has praised it as "the most distinguished series in American historical scholarship," a series that "synthesizes a generation's worth of historical inquiry and knowledge into one literally state-of-the-art book." Conceived under the general editorship of C. Vann Woodward and Richard Hofstadter, and now under the editorship of David M. Kennedy, this renowned series blends social, political, economic, cultural, diplomatic, and military history into coherent and vividly written

narrative.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Finalist, Pulitzer Prize for History "This is narrative history at its best, written in a conversational and engaging style.... A major revision and expansion of a popular history of the American Revolutionary period."--Library Journal "A tour de force. Middlekauff has the admirable ability to capture historical truths in vivid images and memorable phrases.... Middlekauff's empathy enhances this massive book's cumulative power. The cause was glorious; the book is too."--Dennis Drabelle, Washington Post Book World "The reader in search of a wide-ranging overview of the Revolution would be better off turning to any number of earlier books (from Trevelyan's classic 'American Revolution' to more recent works like 'The Glorious Cause' by Robert Middlekauff)."--Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times, in a review of 1776 Acclaim for the First Edition: "One of the best one-volume accounts of the Revolutionary war."--The New York Times "A striking success. Middlekauff is both elegant and eloquent. Whether he is describing the making of British policy, or sketching the character of Washington or Pitt, or explaining why Daniel Morgan positioned the American troops at Hannah's Cowpens so retreat would be impossible, he does in a few paragraphs or pages what others might struggle through a chapter to get right."--The New Republic "A first-class narrative history. There is probably no history of the Revolution that better combines a full account of the military course of the war with consideration of all the other forces shaping the era." --The Philadelphia Inquirer "Middlekauff's energy and clarity often make us read as eagerly as if we did not know how this

struggle will come out."--The New Yorker "Writing with a grace and clarity that recall Samuel Eliot Morison, Middlekauff gives us classic entry into the critical period of American history." --The Los Angeles Times "His narrative account goes along at a fast pace. He moves with agility from profound political and philosophical disputes of the period to the scenes of battle and the problems of military strategy. A welcome addition to the history of the Revolution." --The Washington Post Book World "First-rate narrative history--one can hardly imagine a better one-volume introduction to the period. Graced with plentiful illustrations, gracefully written and long enough (at nearly 700 pages) to afford ample attention to detail, this book is highly recommended to the general reader." --Newsday "A tour de force. Middlekauff has the admirable ability to capture historical truths in vivid images and memorable phrases.... Middlekauff's empathy enhances this massive book's cumulative power. The cause was glorious; the book is too."--Dennis Drabelle, Washington Post Book World "This is narrative history at its best, written in a conversational and engaging style.... A major revision and expansion of a popular history of the American Revolutionary period."--Library Journal "The reader in search of a wide-ranging overview of the Revolution would be better off turning to any number of earlier books (from Trevelyan's classic 'American Revolution' to more recent works like 'The Glorious Cause' by Robert Middlekauff)." --Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times, in a review of 1776

Robert Middlekauff is Preston Hotchkis Professor of American History Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley. The winner of a Bancroft Prize for *The Mathers*, he was Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University and also served as Director of the Huntington Library, Art Gallery, and Botanical Gardens.

Fascinating detail that illuminates a transition from a collection of Colonies, never so much governed as exploited, to citizens in recognition of common ideals as well as needs. Robert Middlekauff may have occasionally lost the immediacy of the flow of battle descriptions, through a persistent examination of biographical detail of military commanders, and, at times, deep analysis of relationships, correspondence and interpersonal relationships as a means of explaining actions and strategies of commanders, in the midst of battle accounts, but the added detail was often helpful to a more complete understanding of the miraculous patriot victory. The very complete analysis of events, personalities and their roles, make this a very valuable key to understanding the foundations of American Ideology woven into a remarkable story in which Middlekauff delightfully illustrates the always tenuous miracle of the American Victory reminding us of the Glorious nature of the Cause

that brought our country to be.

This is a good overview of the American Revolution as well as what came before and after it. The book begins with a lengthy description and analysis of the forces that helped produce the Revolution, and ends with a description and analysis of the changes the War produced in the 13 former colonies of Great Britain. I have only one chapter left to read, and am already sad that I won't have the book to read in the near future. I just made a long-distance move from the East Coast to the Midwest. I began the book in Maine, read it during my 3-day trip from Maine to Ohio, and am finishing it in Ohio. It's been a difficult move for me, and somehow this book gave me some continuity during the process; it was something I could always turn to and know I'd have a few minutes of pure enjoyment at the end of each day I grappled with my difficult transition. The author's style of writing is clear, concise, evocative, never dry. He makes you feel like you're present at Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and Trenton. Every time I picked this book up I was eager to continue reading it. Before reading *The Glorious Cause* I'd read Fischer's *Paul Revere's Ride* and his *Washington's Crossing (of the Delaware)*, both of which delve deeply into two specific aspects of the Revolution, so I was ready for a good overview of the War. This book gave it to me.

This is a readable book about the begining of the United States. It covers the american revolution, the war of independence and the draft of the Constitution. It provides an informed account of the historical process, it's main figures and events. The difficulties faced by the americans and it's resilience toward the challenge of emancipation are well exposed. Little emphasis, though, are given to the formation of the Constitution and to the process of its ratification by the confederate states. This is the first volume of the *Oxford History of the United States*. Robert Middlekauff doesn't disappoint his readers. His prose is clear. His narrative enlightened.

A fairly lengthy book but is the gold standard of the early days to establish this nation. Detailed enough to be a college text but the writing is deft and never boring. You can never travel back in time but this is the next best way to experience what it was to resist the treachery of Parliament and George III to deprive Americans of their liberty and property. You will understand how the response to the Stamp Act and other coercive measures began in a respectful manner then grew more political ending in armed rebellion. Nothing is spared including the lack of support from Congress for the Continental Army, the mistakes by Washington coupled with the lack of initiative of Howe and Cornwallis led up to the successful Southern Campaign culminating in the victory at Yorktown.

Excellent book and well written overall. Gives comprehensive understanding of the geopolitical reasons that gave rise to the American Revolution, as well as great descriptions of the campaigns fought during the war. Provides deeper understanding of topics you may have learned in grade school. Great fun to read. If you are looking for a one volume, comprehensive study of the American Revolution, this is your book. Only criticism I have is that I wished the author provided a bit more clarity as to what the Stamp Tax actually taxed and why Benedict Arnold changed sides. But, this criticism is mere minutia when taking into consideration the sheer magnitude of this book.

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