

Washingtons Crossing By David Hackett Fischer

Arthur S. Lefkowitz

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Washington's Crossing David Hackett Fischer,2004-02-12 Six months after the Declaration of Independence the American Revolution was all but lost A powerful British force had routed the Americans at New York occupied three colonies and advanced within sight of Philadelphia Yet as David Hackett Fischer recounts in this riveting history George Washington and many other Americans refused to let the Revolution die On Christmas night as a howling nor easter struck the Delaware Valley he led his men across the river and attacked the exhausted Hessian garrison at Trenton killing or capturing nearly a thousand men A second battle of Trenton followed within days The Americans held off a counterattack by Lord Cornwallis s best troops then were almost trapped by the British force Under cover of night Washington s men stole behind the enemy and struck them again defeating a brigade at Princeton The British were badly shaken In twelve weeks of winter fighting their army suffered severe damage their hold on New Jersey was broken and their strategy was ruined Fischer's richly textured narrative reveals the crucial role of contingency in these events We see how the campaign unfolded in a sequence of difficult choices by many actors from generals to civilians on both sides While British and German forces remained rigid and hierarchical Americans evolved an open and flexible system that was fundamental to their success The startling success of Washington and his compatriots not only saved the faltering American Revolution but helped to give it new meaning

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on the battlefield and the appalling physical hardships That these inexperienced warriors could take on and defeat the superpower of the day was one of the remarkable feats in world history The American Revolution and the Fate of the **World** Richard Bell, 2025-11-04 American history as if from a barstool not a lecture podium Giddy rollicking and bold Ilyon Woo Pulitzer Prize winning author of Master Slave Husband Wife Accessible and impassioned entry to anyone interested in understanding the nation's founding from a dazzling kaleidoscopic perspective Ned Blackhawk National Book Award winning author of The Rediscovery of America A prize winning historian's fascinating and unfamiliar recasting of America's war of independence as a transformative international event In this revelatory and enthralling book award winning historian Richard Bell reveals the full breadth and depth of America's founding event The American Revolution was not only the colonies triumphant liberation from the rule of an overbearing England it was also a cataclysm that pulled in participants from around the globe and threw the entire world order into chaos Repositioning the Revolution at the center of an international web Bell s narrative ranges as far afield as India Africa Central America and Australia As his lens widens the War of Independence manifests itself as a sprawling struggle that upended the lives of millions of people on every continent and fundamentally transformed the way the world works disrupting trade restructuring penal systems stirring famine and creating the first global refugee crisis Bell conveys the impact of these developments at home and abroad by grounding the narrative in the gripping stories of individuals including women minorities and other disenfranchised people The result is an unforgettable and unexpected work of American history that shifts everything we thought we knew about our creation story

George Washington Peter R. Henriques, 2025-09-23 A concise compelling biography of Washington and the forces that drove him What drove George Washington to become the preeminent man of his time and to secure a lasting reputation as one of history s great leaders In this concise and engaging profile Peter Henriques a renowned Washington expert recounts how Washington possessed a desperate desire to be seen admired honored and above all to be remembered Over the course of his life Washington deliberately and self consciously shaped his public image Even his decision dictated in his last will and testament to emancipate the men and women he had held in slavery during his lifetime related directly to his desire to be perceived as honorable after his death and to safeguard his posthumous reputation. The complicated and controversial question of Washington and slavery is examined in an afterword Written with a clarity that comes only from deep understanding this biography goes right to the heart of what made Washington live and succeed as the greatest of America's founding fathers. The Nation's Nature James D. Drake, 2011-08-05. In one of Common Sense's most ringing phrases. Thomas Paine declared it absurd for a continent to be perpetually governed by an island Such powerful words coupled with powerful ideas helped spur the United States to independence In The Nation's Nature James D. Drake examines how a relatively small number of inhabitants of the Americas huddled along North America's east coast came to mentally appropriate the entire continent and to think of their nation as America Drake demonstrates how British North American

colonists participation in scientific debates and imperial contests shaped their notions of global geography These ideas in turn solidified American nationalism spurred a revolution and shaped the ratification of the Constitution Winner of the Walker Cowen Memorial Prize for an outstanding work of scholarship in eighteenth century studies Revolution Conservation Fund (Arlington, Va.), 2014 The American Revolution A Historical Guidebook is both a guide to the most significant places of the Revolutionary War and a quide to the most authoritative books on the subject The book presents in chronological order nearly 150 of the most significant battles and historic sites and draws on essays from scholars in the field George Washington's Revenge Arthur S. Lefkowitz, 2022-11-15 In late August 1776 a badly defeated Continental Army retreated from Long Island to Manhattan By early November George Washington's inexperienced army withdrew further into New Jersey and by the end of the year into Pennsylvania During this dark night of the American Revolution the times that try men s souls Washington began developing the strategy that would win the war In this illuminating account Arthur Lefkowitz reveals how George Washington turned defeat into victory During his retreat across New Jersey Washington reconceived the war keep the army mobile target isolated detachments of the British Army rely on surprise and deception form partisan units and avoid large scale battles. This new strategy first bore fruit in the crossing of the Delaware on Christmas night 1776 and the attack on the British at Trenton and Princeton From there Washington took up winter quarters at Morristown New Jersey and moved into the mountains an ideal position from which to check British movements toward Philadelphia or north up the Hudson The British tried and failed several times to coax Washington into a decisive battle Stymied the British were forced to attack Philadelphia by sea and they would not be able to seize Philadelphia in time to support the British invasion of upstate New York which ended in defeat at Saratoga Lefkowitz relies on a lifetime of deep research on the Revolutionary War and close knowledge of New Jersey to tell this exciting important story whose impact rippled throughout the rest of the war Washington's Crossing David Hackett Fischer, Harmondsworth Professor of American History and Fellow David Hackett Fischer, 2006-02-01 Provides an account of a pivotal moment in American history the Christmas night crossing of the Delaware River to mount a sneak attack on British and Hessian troops at Trenton New Jersey

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