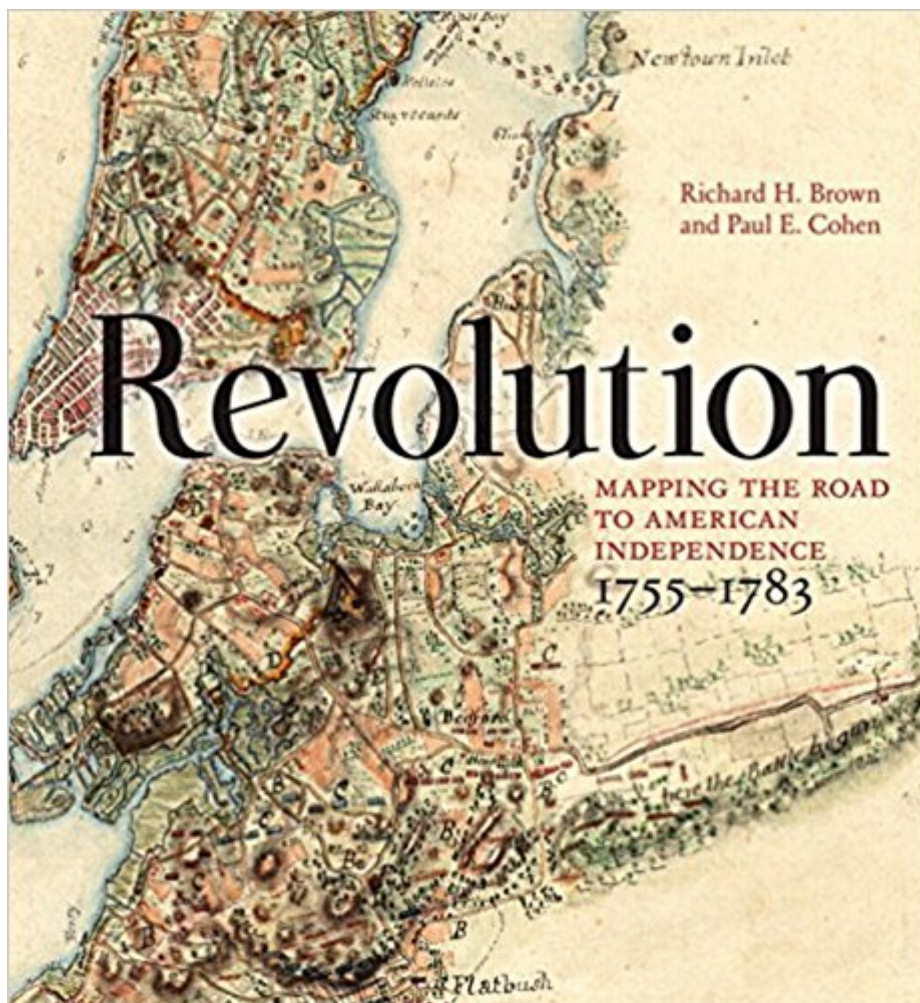


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Revolution: Mapping The Road To American Independence, 1755-1783



Synopsis

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

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Since I can’t imagine the library of a map aficionado, historian, armchair warrior or institution functioning without Revolution, I’d say this is THE book on Revolutionary War era maps. Period.” - Erik Golstein, *The Portolan Journal*

“For both casual readers and experienced researchers, *Revolution: Mapping the Road to American Independence* is as fine a compilation of cartographic material as any available today.” - Don N. Hagist, *Journal of the American Revolution*

“Oversized, ideal for the coffee table and a curious mind, this glorious book has immense appeal.” - Douglas Lord, *Library Journal*

“The excellent supporting artwork and Brown and Cohen’s elegant text help place these works in perspective in terms of both the development of the war from Fort Duquesne to Yorktown and the rise of modern mapmaking through the persons of unwitting heroes like Col. John Montresor, the most able British soldier who served during the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.” - Essential for students of the Revolutionary era and a pleasure for cartography buffs.

- Kirkus Reviews

“Revolution is a dazzling achievement that casts new light on the imperial wars of the late eighteenth century. These maps – many of them rare manuscripts, reproduced here for the first time – remind us that the battle for (and against) American independence unfolded in space as well as in time. Here the long road to revolution becomes visible as a hard-fought contest over territory as well as clash of ideals. A feast for the eye, *Revolution* also invites fresh thinking about the founding of the United States and Britain’s American War.” - Jane Kamensky, Professor of History, Harvard University, and Carly and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library for the History of Women in America

“This glorious collection – ravishingly beautiful, exquisitely curated, brilliantly annotated – is one of the most graphic and illuminating treatments of the American Revolution ever brought to press. Here is the road to revolution and the war itself, from the opening of the French and Indian War in 1755 to the surrender at Yorktown in 1781 and the Treaty of Paris two years later. Combining the virtues of an historical atlas, a luscious exhibition, and a detailed but concise history of the wars, it is a GPS to the American Revolution.” - Ric Burns, documentary filmmaker, Steeplechase Films

“This beautiful book, with its superbly reproduced images, brings to life the decades leading to the birth of the U.S.A. The authors have given a highly skilled analysis of the background, contents and significance of the images. The readable style and brilliant use of little-known cartographical works

has created a book that anyone with an interest in the interplay between maps and history should buy and read. - Peter Barber, head of Map Collections, the British Library

Richard H. Brown is a collector of maps and views of the French and Indian War and American Revolution. He is vice chairman of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library and serves as a councilor of the American Antiquarian Society. He is also a member of the Madison Council of the Library of Congress and the Library Committee of the New-York Historical Society. Paul E. Cohen is the coauthor of *Manhattan in Maps* (New York: Rizzoli, 1997; Mineola, NY: Dover, 2014), which received the New York City Book Award in 1997. He is also the author of *Mapping the West* (New York: Rizzoli, 2002), and the co-editor of *American Cities* (New York: Assouline, 2005). He is a partner in Cohen & Taliaferro LLC, New York City, dealers in rare books and antique maps.

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.

I bought this book for my husband, who avidly reads books about American history. He really likes Revolution because it provides the visuals, maps and pictures, for the texts he is reading. It serves as a companion reader for all the historical biographies in his collection.

The text and map illustrations that are included are excellent. The authors focus far too little attention on the Southern colonies where the battle for independence was finally won. Indeed, one of the most critically important battles of the entire war was at Guilford Court House in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. That battle is not mentioned; in fact, Guilford is not even in the index. Without the manuscript and/or printed maps of that battle (which are readily accessible in the Library of Congress), the authors seem to have gotten lost on their "road to American independence."

very good old map reproductions

Glorious. Excellent condition.

Richard H. Brown has done a marvelous presentation through maps, displaying the intricacies of the American Revolution. It is a beautiful display book as well.

Maps are not great, and have no references from the texts. Difficult to follow.

I'm a sucker for maps and history so this combo was right up my alley - I was not dissapointed

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