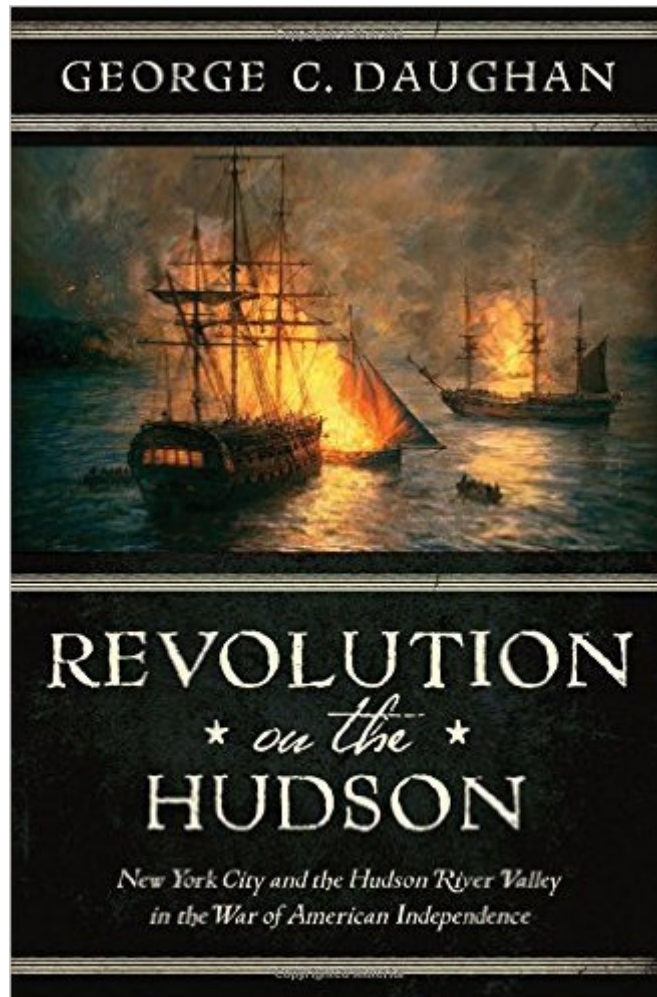


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Revolution On The Hudson: New York City And The Hudson River Valley In The American War Of Independence



Synopsis

The untold story of the fight for the Hudson River Valley, control of which, both the Americans and the British firmly believed, would determine the outcome of the Revolutionary War. No part of the country was more contested during the American Revolution than New York City, the Hudson River, and the surrounding counties. Political and military leaders on both sides viewed the Hudson River Valley as the American jugular, which, if cut, would quickly bleed the rebellion to death. So in 1776, King George III sent the largest amphibious force ever assembled to seize Manhattan and use it as a base from which to push up the Hudson River Valley for a grand rendezvous at Albany with an impressive army driving down from Canada. George Washington and every other patriot leader shared the king's fixation with the Hudson. Generations of American and British historians have held the same view. In fact, one of the few things that scholars have agreed upon is that the British strategy, though disastrously executed, should have been swift and effective. Until now, no one has argued that this plan of action was lunacy from the beginning. *Revolution on the Hudson* makes the bold new argument that Britain's attempt to cut off New England never would have worked, and that doggedly pursuing dominance of the Hudson ultimately cost the crown her colonies. It unpacks intricate military maneuvers on land and sea, introduces the personalities presiding over each side's strategy, and reinterprets the vagaries of colonial politics to offer a thrilling response to one of our most vexing historical questions: How could a fledgling nation have defeated the most powerful war machine of the era? George C. Daughan, a winner of the prestigious Samuel Eliot Morrison Award for Naval Literature, integrates the war's naval elements with its political, military, economic, and social dimensions to create a major new study of the American Revolution. *Revolution on the Hudson* offers a much clearer understanding of our founding conflict, and how it transformed a rebellion that Britain should have crushed into a war they could never win. 8 pages of illustrations, 5 maps

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Customer Reviews

I have become a big fan of the books by George Daughan. Years ago, I had stumbled upon "If by Sea" and could not get over how well Mr. Daughan brought the story of early naval history to life. In "1812" he completed this history and for the first time, I felt that I understood how the United States and Great Britain, after years of fighting, came to a point of mutual respect. Revolution on the Hudson is in my opinion even more interesting. Mr. Daughan illuminates the motivations of some of the key players in the revolutionary war, the battle plans pursued by both sides of this engagement, and some of the finest moments and conversely some of the most witless decisions made on the waterways of the Hudson, the harbors, and the Atlantic trade routes surrounding the original American Colonies. This is a hard book to put down, I have been spending my evenings reading Revolution on the Hudson into the wee hours of the morning, I have been a little bleary eyed at work this week. (I might have to burn a vacation day) Best part though, it came out before Father's day, because I am definitely buying a second copy for my dad.

I loved this book because it gave me a much deeper insight into the impact of the battles and strategies that took place in an area where I had not realized had such significant importance of the impact of what took place there..Mr Daughan once again kept me spellbound with his descriptions of characters and events that most of us never realized.I am always impressed with research and detail that goes into his books.Enjoy this wonderful adventure.J Couture

I decided to write a quick review of this book and was surprised to see a one star review when I thought it was so good. Had to shake my head when I saw that the one star review was written by someone who had not read the book but only looked in the index...The book itself successfully straddles that fine line of providing all the historical detail you could want while still telling a story that keeps your adrenaline pumping. Daughan brings the Revolution alive and I doubt there will be any Revolution buff who fails to have an "I never knew that!" moment. Definitely worth your while whether your interest in the Revolution is casual or complex.

I regret to say I was quite disappointed by this book. I am doing research on the Revolution in New York and really looked forward to a detailed account of the campaigns around the Hudson. Unfortunately, despite the title, this is more of a grand strategic view of the Revolutionary War. We learn little of the political climate in New York before the Revolution, or the characters in the Loyalist and Patriot camps. Events like the burning of Kingston and Clermont are barely mentioned, the Battle of Stony Point dispatched in two pages. Daughn paints in broad brush strokes rather than fine detail. There is some tantalizing discussion of how well Connecticut Governor Trumbull rallied the resources of his state in contrast to that of New York, but we never really see inside the government of the State of New York, nor get an in depth examination of the Loyalist support. The focus remains squarely on Washington, his British opponents and the movements of their armies and navies. All of which could have been redeemed by fresh research or insights, but the book provides little of both. The book is a very competent history of the material it does cover and doubtless considerable effort went into the work, but the volume is neither a full narrative of the Revolutionary War nor an incisive examination of the struggle in New York itself. As a result, it satisfies neither need.

If you are looking for an overview of the Revolution, this book may be too detailed for you. I've read many books on the Revolution, but this book makes me feel I've never read anything at all. The author writes a great deal from the British perspective which other books seldom address opening up new understanding about the course of that war. It has given me greater insight on the Revolution.

This is a general recounting of the war -- it does not focus on New York City or fighting in the Hudson Valley, there are many general histories of the war and this adds little if anything to our knowledge of what really happened, in New York or elsewhere.

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