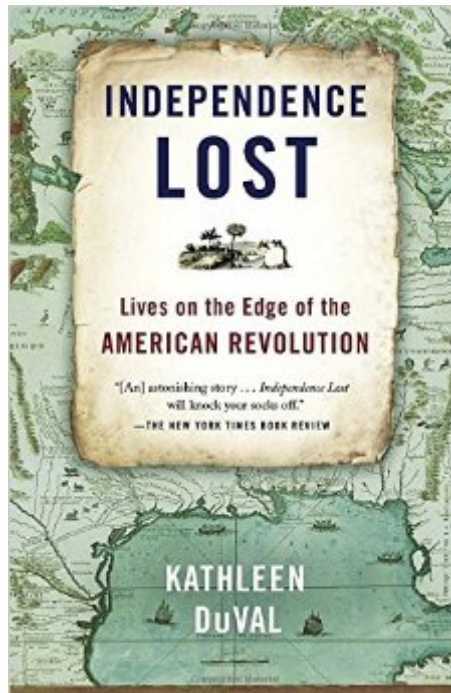


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Independence Lost: Lives On The Edge Of The American Revolution



Synopsis

A rising-star historian offers a significant new global perspective on the Revolutionary War with the story of the conflict as seen through the eyes of the outsiders of colonial society. Winner of the Journal of the American Revolution Book of the Year Award, Winner of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Jersey History Prize, and Finalist for the George Washington Book Prize. Over the last decade, award-winning historian Kathleen DuVal has revitalized the study of early America's marginalized voices. Now, in *Independence Lost*, she recounts an untold story as rich and significant as that of the Founding Fathers: the history of the Revolutionary Era as experienced by slaves, American Indians, women, and British loyalists living on Florida's Gulf Coast. While citizens of the thirteen rebelling colonies came to blows with the British Empire over tariffs and parliamentary representation, the situation on the rest of the continent was even more fraught. In the Gulf of Mexico, Spanish forces clashed with Britain's strained army to carve up the Gulf Coast, as both sides competed for allegiances with the powerful Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Creek nations who inhabited the region. Meanwhile, African American slaves had little control over their own lives, but some individuals found opportunities to expand their freedoms during the war. *Independence Lost* reveals that individual motives counted as much as the ideals of liberty and freedom the Founders espoused: Independence had a personal as well as national meaning, and the choices made by people living outside the colonies were of critical importance to the war's outcome. DuVal introduces us to the Mobile slave Petit Jean, who organized militias to fight the British at sea; the Chickasaw diplomat Payamataha, who worked to keep his people out of war; New Orleans merchant Oliver Pollock and his wife, Margaret O'Brien Pollock, who risked their own wealth to organize funds and garner Spanish support for the American Revolution; the half-Scottish-Creek leader Alexander McGillivray, who fought to protect indigenous interests from European imperial encroachment; the Cajun refugee Amand Broussard, who spent a lifetime in conflict with the British; and Scottish loyalists James and Isabella Bruce, whose work on behalf of the British Empire placed them in grave danger. Their lives illuminate the fateful events that took place along the Gulf of Mexico and, in the process, changed the history of North America itself. Adding new depth and moral complexity, Kathleen DuVal reinvigorates the story of the American Revolution. *Independence Lost* is a bold work that fully establishes the reputation of a historian who is already regarded as one of her generation's best.

Praise for *Independence Lost* [An] astonishing story . . . *Independence Lost* will knock your socks off. To read [this book] is to see that the task of recovering the entire American Revolution has barely begun. —The New York Times Book Review

A richly documented and compelling account. —The Wall Street Journal

â œA remarkable, necessaryâ ”and entirely newâ ”book about the American Revolution.â •â ”The Daily Beast Â â œA completely new take on the American Revolution, rife with pathos, double-dealing, and intrigue.â •â ”Elizabeth A. Fenn, Pulitzer Prizeâ “winning author of Encounters at the Heart of the WorldFrom the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yes, I loved this book, just as much as I loved Anne Hyde's Empires, Nations, and Families: A History of the North American West, 1800â “1860. As a history major in college, long ago, I was given the task of trying to unravel Frederick Jackson Turner's study, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" in which he argued that the American frontier shaped American democracy and important aspects of the "American character", such as self-reliance and rugged individualism. I didn't believe that at the time, having been heavily influenced by Charles Beard's, An Economic Interpretation of the US Constitution and various New Left revisionists, such as William Appleman Williams, Gabriel Kolko, and James Weinstein and others who were emphasizing the role of corporate capitalism in shaping American life and politics. But how could I reconcile the two? I couldn't do it. Now, along comes Anne Hyde (Empires, Nations, and Families: A History of the North American West, 1800â “1860) and Kathleen Duval and they have found the solution to my dilemma. A country-full of restless people for whom anything was possible, but nothing certain, the world De Tocqueville characterized so well, did exist on the frontier in the shape of various entrepreneurs who attempted, as Duval and Hyde see it, to build trading empires in difficult cultural, social and political circumstances. But the entrepreneurs they describe did not do this acting as "atoms of self-interest",

but rather by developing social and kinship networks with Native Americans, their tribes and empires and Spanish colonists and their empires that helped to adapt their economic endeavors to difficult circumstances.

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