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wood scrutinizes the less typically american traits possessed by franklin such as his longtime loyalty to the crown and why he still became one of the revolution s necessary men

winner of the george washington prize winner of the barbara and david zalaznick book prize in american history winner of the excellence in american

history book award winner of the fraunces tavern museum book award from the bestselling author of the liberation trilogy comes the extraordinary first volume of his new trilogy about the american revolution rick atkinson author of the pulitzer prize winning an army at dawn and two other superb books about world war ii has long been admired for his deeply researched stunningly vivid narrative histories now he turns his attention to a new war and in the initial volume of the revolution trilogy he recounts the first twenty one months of america s violent war for independence from the battles at lexington and concord in spring 1775 to those at trenton and princeton in winter 1777 american militiamen and then the ragged continental army take on the world s most formidable fighting force it is a gripping saga alive with astonishing characters henry knox the former bookseller with an uncanny understanding of artillery nathanael greene the blue eyed bumpkin who becomes a brilliant battle captain benjamin franklin the self made man who proves to be the wiliest of diplomats george washington the commander in chief who learns the difficult art of leadership when the war seems all but lost the story is also told from the british perspective making the mortal conflict between the redcoats and the rebels all the more compelling full of riveting details and untold stories the british are coming is a tale of heroes and knaves of sacrifice and blunder of redemption and profound suffering rick atkinson has given stirring new life to the first act of our country s creation drama

his formal schooling abruptly cut off at age eleven george washington saw his boyhood dream of joining the british army evaporate and recognized that even his aspiration to rise in colonial virginian agricultural society would be difficult throughout his life he faced challenges for which he lacked the academic foundations shared by his more highly educated contemporaries yet washington s legacy is clearly not one of failure breaking new ground in washington scholarship and american revolutionary history adrienne m harrison investigates the first president s dedicated process of self directed learning through reading a facet of his character and leadership long neglected by historians and biographers in a powerful mind harrison shows that washington rose to meet these trials through a committed campaign of highly focused reading educating himself on exactly what he needed to do and how best to do it in contrast to other famous figures of the revolution thomas jefferson john adams benjamin franklin washington did not relish learning for its own sake viewing self education instead as a tool for shaping himself into the person he wanted to be his two highest profile and highest risk endeavors commander in chief of the continental army and president of the fledgling united states are a testament to the success of his strategy

details the continental congress s transformation from diplomatic assembly to revolutionary leadership overcoming crises to unite a fledgling nation beginning as a convention of delegates groping for an honorable way to mend ties with great britain the continental congress developed into an assembly saddled with the task of ushering in a new nation while managing a war this book examines the crises that bombarded congress over those eventful years and explains

how this collection of mostly well off men with much to lose came to lead a rebellion wasting hours days weeks in debates that went nowhere delegates squabbled complained compromised acted courageously one day foolishly the next the account follows congress as delegates fled philadelphia in the face of a british threat to set up shop in baltimore and later york pennsylvania documents and letter enable the reader to eavesdrop on the thoughts of delegates as they raged at the british moaned about their colleagues cheered morsels of happy news and sent off pleas for someone anyone to come take their place for many serving in congress meant mostly drudgery frustration and anxiety all while far from home yet this feeble government succeeded without a constitution it kept the fragile union together without taxing authority it financed the war and maintained an army in the field its diplomatic team despite treachery and ineptitude engineered a critical alliance in 1778 as congress returned to philadelphia from york the war was far from over indeed it was not even half over but the path to an honorable peace was in view congress for all its many flaws astonished the world by bringing forth a new republic and setting it on course for a promising destiny

without the support of american women victory in the revolutionary war would not have been possible they followed the continental army handling a range of jobs that were usually performed by men on the orders of general washington some were hired as nurses for 2 per month and one full ration per day disease was rampant and nurse mortality was high a few served with artillery units or masqueraded as men to fight in the ranks the author focuses on the many key roles women filled in the struggle for independence from farming to making saltpeter to spying

american literature abounds with orphans who experience adoption or placements that resemble adoption these stories do more than recount adventures of children living away from home they tell an american story of family and national identity in narratives from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century adoption functions as narrative event and trope that describes the american migratory experience the impact of calvinist faith and the growth of democratic individualism the roots of literary adoption appear in the discourse of puritan settlers who ambivalently took leave of their birth parent country and portrayed themselves as abandoned children believing they were chosen children of god they also prayed for spiritual adoption and emulated god s grace by extending adoption to others nineteenth century adoption literature develops from this notion of adoption as salvation and from simultaneous attachments to the old world and the new in domestic fiction of the mid nineteenth century adoption also reflects a focus on nurture in childrearing increased mobility in the nation and middle class concerns over immigration and urbanization assuaged when the orphan finds a proper loving home adoption signals fresh starts and the opportunity for success without genealogical constraints especially for white males but inflected by gender and racial biases it often entails dependency for girls and children of color a complex signifier of difference adoption gives voice to sometimes contradictory calls to origins and fresh

beginning to feelings of worthiness and unworthiness in writings from cotton mather to edith wharton it both replicates and offers an alternative to the genealogical norm evoking ambivalence as it shapes national mythologies

wood scrutinizes the less typically american traits possessed by franklin such as his longtime loyalty to the crown and why he still became one of the revolution s necessary men

in 10 essays from previously published articles the author presents miniature portraits of george washington john adams thomas jefferson james madison thomas paine and others known as the founding fathers

this volume provides an original perspective on diplomacy and diplomatic practice between the congress of vienna and the outbreak of the first world war by focusing on cultural dimensions the diplomats world aims to give a broader picture of diplomacy than usual while most modern works on foreign affairs concentrate on the functional role of diplomacy and marginalize the nature of diplomatic services this volume links form and content presenting diplomacy as both a real world experience and a structural element in international relations drawing on the diplomats many and varied encounters between their own individual and professional circles and the wider world it discusses diplomatic history as part of the cultural history of politics among the topics covered are the operating norms of the diplomatic establishment the influence of the public sphere on the conduct of diplomacy and the role of etiquette and protocol in diplomatic encounters book jacket

with this guide major help for term papers relating to colonial american history has arrived in a volume sure to enrich and stimulate students in challenging and enjoyable ways chock full of stimulating and creative term paper suggestions and vetted research resources focusing on the colonial era this volume is indispensable for students librarians and instructors students from high school age to undergraduate will use it to get a jumpstart on assignments in colonial american history with the hundreds of term paper suggestions and research information offered here in an easy to use format users can quickly choose from the 100 important events ranging from the first attempt at colonization at the lost colony of roanoke virginia in 1585 to the ratification of the constitution in 1791 with this book the research experience is transformed and elevated term paper resource guide to colonial american historyis a superb source to motivate and educate students who have a wide range of interests and talents coverage includes key wars and conflicts establishment of colonies and colleges legislation and treaties religious events exploration publications and more

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presents a three volume encyclopedia of the history of the new american nation and contains over six hundred alphabetically arranged articles covering major events and issues from 1754 to 1829

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