

Chapter 1 : David McCullough: Books | eBay

David McCullough has twice received the Pulitzer Prize, for Truman and John Adams, and twice received the National Book Award, for The Path Between the Seas and Mornings on Horseback. His other acclaimed books include The Johnstown Flood, The Great Bridge, Brave Companions, , The Greater Journey, and The Wright Brothers.

He published his first book, *The Johnstown Flood*, in 1954, to great success. Since then, McCullough has written dozens of acclaimed history books, including *Truman and John Adams*, both of which won the Pulitzer Prize, and *Historical Context of The primary historical event of is, of course, the Revolutionary War*. Following the French and Indian War, which lasted from 1754 to 1764, the British Empire began to tighten controls over its American colonies, instituting heavy taxes most infamously the Stamp Act of 1765. The British crown also increased its military presence in America, often forcing American families to provide food and lodging for British soldiers in their own homes, and at their own expense. By the late 1770s, there was broad support among Americans for an expulsion of British troops from America and a return to what had been the status quo prior to the French and Indian War. By the 1770s, this movement had erupted into a full-on war of rebellion. In 1776, the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, officially announcing their intentions to secede from the British Empire. The Revolutionary War ended with an American victory in 1781, due in large part to financial and military aid from France. In *John Adams*, McCullough writes about the Revolutionary War from the perspective of the idealists and politicians who organized it, whereas *1776* is more focused on the soldiers and generals who fought in battle. In these books, Fast writes about many different facets of the Revolutionary War that McCullough addresses in *Key Facts about Full Title: America and Britain at War When Written: May 24, Genre: Nonfiction, American history Climax: The Battles of Trenton and Princeton, Antagonist: Third person omniscient Extra Credit for Awards galore. David McCullough is the winner of some of the most prestigious awards you can win as a writer: The voice of God. In addition to his talents as a writer, David McCullough is a highly sought-after narrator of films and documentaries. Cite This Page Arn, Jackson. Retrieved November 8,*

Chapter 2 : Analysis - calendrierdelascience.com

David McCullough has twice received the Pulitzer Prize, for Truman and John Adams, and twice received the National Book Award, for The Path Between the Seas and Mornings on Horseback; His other widely praised books are , Brave Companions, The Great Bridge, and The Johnstown Flood.

A number of factors have been blamed for the decline of American schools, but one of the biggest culprits in my opinion is the overemphasis on standardized testing, especially as codified by the dreadful No Child Left Behind Act. Both students and teachers have complained that high schools place so much emphasis on memorizing facts for the annual tests that it leaves little room for critical thinking, or interesting stories of history and literature, or anything else that makes learning fun and inspiring. An English professor was making a point about how people today rely so much on their smartphones and the Internet that no one bothers to remember anything anymore because they assume they can just Google it. The professor pointed out that this lack of internal knowledge can hinder understanding and complex thinking. As an example he asked his students when America was founded. There were about 30 students in the class, and none of them knew. The professor said, "Seriously? OK, boys and girls, America was founded on July 4, , when the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress. I wanted to read for several reasons. Second, it has been almost 20 years since I was in an American history class, and I wanted to revisit the details of how my country was founded. The book focuses on battles with the British between and It opens with a quote from a letter written by General George Washington in January Few people know the predicament we are in. Few of the "rebels" had military experience. Weapons and gun powder were in short supply. Plus, the Brits controlled the sea. But for a few lucky turns of fate, the British might have won the war. McCullough concluded the book with this summation: McCullough weaves a pleasant narrative and makes long-ago events seem very real. I liked his inclusion of quotes from letters, and the details of each military strategy, including how the weather was that day. And his description of Washington made me want to read a good biography about him. I listened to this on audio CD, and McCullough is an excellent narrator. I highly recommend it to fans of history. Hooray for lifelong learning!

Chapter 3 : Chapter 2: Rabble in Arms Summary & Analysis from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

(released in the United Kingdom as America and Britain At War) is a book written by David McCullough, first published by Simon & Schuster on May 24, The work is considered a companion piece to McCullough's earlier biography of John Adams, and focuses on the events surrounding the start of the American Revolution.

Although he is a Quaker, and inexperienced with fighting, he is clever and hardworking. Like many important Americans in the Revolutionary War, Greene is very young. The chapter immediately establishes the crisis of resources in the American military. In contrast to the British military, the American army is poor and desperately in need of supplies. Nevertheless, it has attracted plenty of ambitious, intelligent young men, such as Nathanael Greene. Active Themes Greene grew up in Rhode Island. On his own, he read the works of the English political philosopher John Locke. In , Greene began running a foundry in the nearby village, and he married his wife, Katherine Littlefield, in In his free time, he studied military strategy, and took part in organizing the local militia. By , he had been placed in charge of the entire Rhode Island regiment, and left for Boston to help with the war effort. Greene is representative of the American ethos of hard work, meritocracy, and personal ambition. Notice, also, that Greene is an admirer of John Locke, the English philosopher whose theories were an important inspiration for Thomas Jefferson and the other Founding Fathers. Active Themes Greene knows that the American troops are untrained. Yet the American troops outnumber the British troops two to one. Even though the American army is disorganized, Americans officers have good reason to be optimistic for the war with Britain, since they have more men on their side for the time being. George Washington has spent little time in Massachusetts, but he knows the British are planning another attack. He also knows that the American army needs more gunpowder. George Washington faces many challenges in the coming months. This passage establishes a pattern for the rest of the book: Within his first month of command, George Washington realizes that he needs to introduce more discipline. Soldiers are whipped for laziness. They spend their days digging trenches and piling up mounds of earth to defend against the impending British attack. Some soldiers are only teenagers, others are drifters without any profession. John Greenwood is a sixteen-year-old soldier. He grew up in Boston, where he learned how to play the fife a small flute â€”a skill that allows him to stay with the army for free, earning eight dollars a month to play for the soldiers. Active Themes A sizeable portion of the American army is black. Washington orders all troops to build defenses against the British. The British use their greater supply of gunpowder to bombard the Americans. Furthermore, both sides of the Revolutionary War are having problems allocating enough resources to keep soldiers well-armed and -fed. Their morale is low, and they continue to behave lazily. Washington, a Virginian, is personally biased against soldiers from New England, but he recognizes how dire the situation is and knows that he, and the army in general, needs to put aside regional differences. Notice, also, that the American army is divided along regional lines, so that even Washington himself is biased against soldiers from certain colonies. There, he speaks with his officers and corresponds with the other colonies. He also takes meetings with visiting politicians and dignitaries, hoping to curry favor and win additional funds for his army. Washington is widely regarded as a charismatic leader, as evidenced by the remarks of his secretary and close friend, Joseph Reed. Active Themes George Washington was born in Virginia in , the great-grandson of John Washington, an English emigrant, and the son of Augustine Washington, a tobacco planter who died when Washington was a boy. After a series of fights with the French, he won a reputation as a talented, resourceful commander. Washington was born into a wealthy family; indeed, he was one of the wealthiest people in America at the time. However, he was also a hard worker and an ambitious commander who distinguished himself in battle. Washington fought in the French and Indian War, a decade-long conflict in which Americans living in the British colonies fought against French forces trying to seize British lands in North America. He married Martha Dandridge Custis, and thereafter lived like an English aristocrat. He loved art and music, and arranged for plays to be performed on his property. He was one of the richest men in America, though not the richest, as he was sometimes said to be. Like most English lords of the era, he enjoyed hunting, and perfected his riding skills while hunting foxes. He was rumored to be very strong. Active

Themes Related Quotes with Explanations Washington was a charismatic leader, but he also knew his limitations. Yet when he appeared before the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, he was able to convince his peers that he was the ideal candidate to command the army. He also wants to strike the British in Boston. Active Themes The next morning, George Washington meets with his head generals, including General Charles Lee, who fought alongside Washington in the backwoods. Washington argues that the Americans should attack Boston by water. However, he pens a long letter to his friend John Hancock, requesting that the Continental Congress send him more money. At the end of September, it does. Washington continues to balance his two roles: Without funds, Washington has no way of paying his men, and therefore has no way of waging war with the British. They saw the British as invaders, challenging their liberty and autonomy. With the exception of Greene, few American soldiers feel a strong desire to break away from British rule altogetherâ€”contrary to what George III claimed in October Benjamin Church, head surgeon for the American army, is a British spy. Throughout the Revolutionary War, both sides wage espionage campaigns against their opponents. For instance, Washington is now known to have had many powerful informants in the British army. Active Themes On October 18, delegates from the Continental Congress, including Benjamin Franklin, confer with Washington and decide not to approve an attack on British troops in Boston, since this would risk the destruction of Boston itself. A week later, British forces attack and burn the city of Falmouth. Washington receives another blow when his secretary, Joseph Reed, announces that he needs to leave Washington and tend to his family. The Continental Congress still sees itself as fighting to restore the status quo in Americaâ€”which means protecting American cities and American propertyâ€”rather than fighting for independence at any cost. Washington finds it difficult to get over his bias against New Englandersâ€”every day, they disrespect his authority in some way. However, he begins working closely with two talented New Englanders: Nathanael Greene and Henry Knox, a colonel from Boston who is well-versed in military tactics. Washington begins to get over his bias against people from certain American colonies when he gets to know Greene and Knox. In the fall, Knox suggests that the American forces try to recover the British cannons in Fort Ticonderoga. American forces had captured Fort Ticonderoga from the British earlier in the year, but the British cannons in the fort are still there. Washington sends Knox on a mission to claim the cannons. In contrast to the rigid, methodical organization of the British military, the American military as run by George Washington encourages its commanders to pursue risky, flexible ventures, such as the recovery of the cannons. Washington realizes that his men need to conserve their gunpowder. Snow falls in November, suggesting that the winter will be long and miserable. Scurvy and smallpox are rampant in the camp, and many American soldiers desert their stations. These people are sick and starving, and Washington orders for them to be cared for even though he recognizes that the British are trying to spread disease to his troops. Active Themes As the year comes to an end, many American soldiers have the opportunity to leave the army. Washington, knowing that many will choose to leave rather than reenlist, sends a letter asking the Continental Congress to give him more money to pay the men to stay. The situation is dire: Then, unexpectedly, Washington gets good news. An American privateer has captured a British vessel stocked with guns, cannons, and mortars. The prospect of recovering the Ticonderoga cannons provides another boost to morale, since it means the Americans can finally match the British technologically. Active Themes Related Quotes with Explanations In the weeks leading up to reenlistment, Washington and his generals try to incentivize his troops to reenlist, but they continue to show little motivation. In December, the Continental Congress changes its mind and gives the go-ahead for Washington to attack British troops in Boston, even if it means destroying the city itself. The Continental Congress is clearly becoming more desperate, as suggested by its sudden reversal regarding the destruction of Boston. The Congress knows it needs a quick, decisive victory against the British forces, no matter the costs. Active Themes On December 24, a snowstorm blows through Massachusetts, causing some soldiers to freeze to death. On the final day of the year, soldiers leave by the thousands rather than reenlist. He displays a new flag to honor the army, with thirteen red and white stripes. The soldiers who choose to stay in the army are motivated by a mixture of idealism and practicality. They may also respect Washington and believe in the American political cause. The new flag symbolizes the growing cultural unity of the American military, and of the Revolutionary cause in general. Retrieved November 8,

Extremely well researched, and written only as David McCullough can, was a tremendously meticulous insight into both sides of the American Revolution. The stories intertwining and collaborating facts were very informative.

I try to write a book so that if they could read it, they would say, yes, he got it. The book is titled simply It begins with the siege of Boston, an American triumph; continues through the struggles for New York in which the British forces prevailed; and ends with the American resurgence in the wintry frays at Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey. McCullough chose to focus on "because that was the low point of our fortunes, not just in the war, but, I think one can say, in the whole history of the country. The prospects of there even being a United States of America were never more bleak. Also, it was the year of the Declaration of Independence. When I was writing the John Adams biography and trying to understand everything that was going on in Philadelphia that summer of , I realized, perhaps more than I had before, that all they were doing there was theoretical and that the Declaration itself would have been nothing but words on paper had it not been for the people out fighting the war. Everything depended on them. Moreover, the king was a man of considerable taste and talent. Equally diligent in researching American particulars, McCullough says he followed the path of the rebel army from Boston all the way south. And always always there are certain things that are different from what I thought. For example, Fort Washington, which is a big part of the story. You understand why [the Americans] thought it was impregnable. I thought, My god! If I had a fort up here, I would know damn well it could hold out. Nobody could come up those cliffs. Of course, they did. And so they deserted by the thousands or, when their enlistment was up, they went home by the thousands. They were really against it and willing to fight against it. We can identify with that. Those are real people. And the other thing people think is that the loss of life was relatively small. Well, by 20th-century terms, of course, it was very small. But in proportion to the size of population at the time, it was enormous. If we lost a comparable number of Americans in a war today as we lost in the Revolution, we would lose about three million people. At the moment, he has no other books in the works. Edward Morris is a writer in Nashville.

Chapter 5 : Observer review: by David McCullough | Books | The Guardian

David McCullough His other acclaimed books include The Johnstown Flood, The Great Bridge, Brave Companions, , The Greater Journey, and The Wright Brothers. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

They very nearly did. This book is the story of how close George Washington, as commander of the American army, came to defeat in the terrible year of which also saw the Declaration of Independence. At the end of that year, he assumed that the British, who had chased him all the way from New York, were about to cross the Delaware river and capture Philadelphia, capital of the revolution. But Washington was wrong, as he frequently was about military things. When Washington wrote those words, he did not know that General Howe, the British commander, had already decided that it was getting too cold to carry on fighting. The war season was over. He would go back to New York and mop up Philadelphia and the Yankee army the following spring. Howe had thrown away victory before. But his failure to take Philadelphia when he could was worse. They were anything but decisive in military terms. The war dragged on until the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781. But after Trenton, the American public realised that they could win and must win. The corner had been turned. A British reader has to know a bit of history before starting this book. McCullough is not trying to tell the story of the American Revolution or even of the whole War of Independence. The battle of Bunker Hill is over when the book begins, with the British locked up in Boston by a cheerful, disorderly little army with almost no gunpowder. The Americans, showing true inventive genius, went miles to the abandoned Fort Ticonderoga, extracted its enormous guns and towed them back over snowy hills and frozen lakes. When they opened fire from the heights, Howe at once conceded checkmate and abandoned Boston. An enormous British force of warships and troop transports assembled offshore meant that Washington had no long-term hope of defending Manhattan. He hesitated and made bad mistakes. In their only stroke of first-class generalship, the British landed on Long Island and pulverised his army. From there, Washington and his dwindling, exhausted army retreated southwards to Newark and then across the Delaware. Congress had already fled from Philadelphia to Lancaster and then to York. Washington thought the army game was up; it would have to be guerrilla warfare in the Alleghenies. But then Howe stopped and blew a whistle for half-time. This is a well written, conventional war history, illustrated with quotations from the letters and diaries of men and some women on both sides. But narrowing the subject to one year has drawbacks as well as advantages. The plus is that McCullough is offering one more irresistible narrative of a fabled Long March, from hope through despair to hope again, which is the tale of Xenophon and many others. The minus is the lack of political background, which is perfunctory. What were their own dreams for America and what happened to them in the end? So Washington was a slave-owner and a friend of liberty? Plenty has been written about that elsewhere, but at least a sample should have entered this book. McCullough inserts profiles of his leading actors. Some work better than others. George Washington, a man of marble famously hard to penetrate, remains opaque. But why and how? What McCullough does show is that Washington had the incredibly rare gift of learning from the criticism of subordinates. After Long Island, he discovered that some of his commanders thought he was hopelessly indecisive. He considered this, apparently agreed, and simply made himself more decisive. None is more appealing than the fat young Boston bookseller, Henry Knox, an Ulster Scot with a booming voice who already weighed nearly 18 stone at the age of 35. Only in a revolution, and especially a can-do American revolution, could this Billy Bunter turn into a wonderful general who began by thinking up and carrying through the mad feat of towing the guns from Ticonderoga and ended up as one of the victors at Yorktown. But Knox gives the answer. America was already independent. What mattered was that Americans should realise it. The British could be dealt with, if not now, then later. Even if they still won battles, they were becoming history.

Chapter 6 : (book) - Wikipedia

» ç by David McCullough "Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth." This quote in a letter to James Madison, from George Washington, on March 2nd, , explains that once the push for liberty comes through and change is made, it is like the snowball effect.

Chapter 7 : Book Review: • by David McCullough | calendrierdelascience.com

Written as a companion work to his celebrated biography of John Adams, David McCullough's is another landmark in the literature of American history.

Chapter 8 : by David McCullough - Interview | BookPage | BookPage

David McCullough's book covers just that, the most important year of the revolutionary war. Even though the war does not officially end until the Treaty of Paris is signed in , the reader follows Washington and his men through losses and miserable retreats, as well as his big successes against Cornwallis and Rall.

Chapter 9 : (Unabridged) by David McCullough on iTunes

By David McCullough. Illustrated. pp. Simon & Schuster. \$ THIS is a sly book, beginning with its title, "" It's a story of war, not words -- the great declaration in Philadelphia.