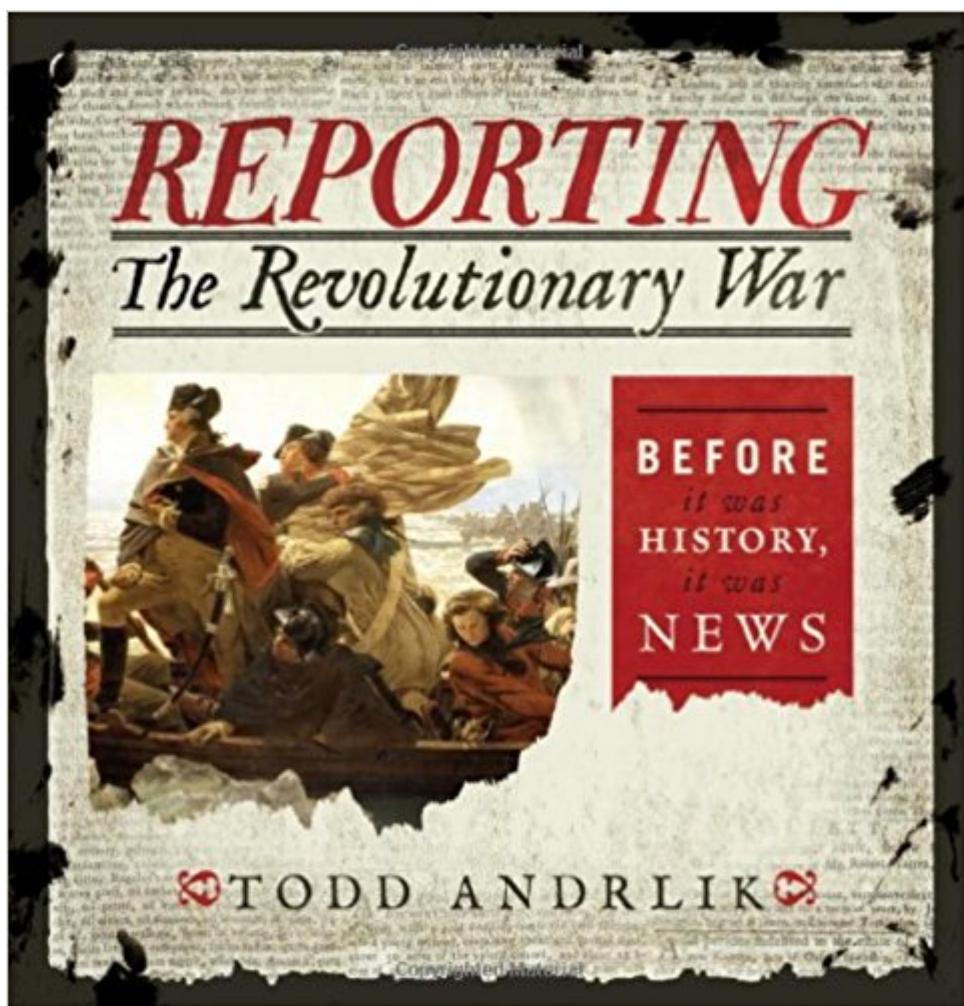


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# Reporting The Revolutionary War: Before It Was History, It Was News



## Synopsis

"This is 'you are there' history at its best...[Reporting the Revolutionary War] lets us see and feel how events unfolded for the people who lived them." •American History For the colonists of the new world, the years of the American Revolution were a time of upheaval and rebellion. History boils it down to a few key events and has embodied it with a handful of legendary personalities. But the reality of the time was that everyday people witnessed thousands of little moments blaze into an epic conflict-for more than twenty years. Now, for the first time, experience the sparks of revolution the way the colonists did •in their very own town newspapers and broadsheets. Reporting the Revolutionary War is a stunning collection of primary sources, sprinkled with modern analysis from 37 historians. Featuring Patriot and Loyalist eyewitness accounts from newspapers printed on both sides of the Atlantic, readers will experience the revolution as it happened with the same immediacy and uncertainty of the colonists. The American newspapers of the eighteenth century fanned the flames of rebellion, igniting the ideas of patriotism and liberty among average citizens who had never before been so strongly united. Within the papers, you'll also read the private correspondence and battlefield letters of the rebels and patriots who grabbed the attention of each and every colonist and pushed them to fight for freedom and change. From one of America's leading Revolutionary War newspaper archivists, Todd Andrlik, and guided by scores of historians and experts, Reporting the Revolutionary War brings you into the homes of Americans and lets you see through their eyes the tinderbox of war as it explodes. "The story of the battle for independence unlike any version that has been told." •Military Review

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are few ways for us to document life during the Revolutionary War. The era was before photography, and written primary sources often focus on battles far after the events occurred. This volume gives a snapshot view of the course of the war and of daily life in general. Andrlik, a noted newspaper archivist, shares an extensive collection of rare newspapers, from 1763 to 1783, as well as 60 essays contributed by Andrlik and 37 historians. An associated website, <http://beforehistory.com>, features a digital archive and educational material. History buffs and students will find much to enjoy in this attractive and informative book. Recommended for all collections. --Rebecca Vnuk

"distinctive volume on how the American Revolution was presented at the time...the format and presentation provide a useful supplement for those interested in the American Revolution in general or Revolutionary War newspapers in particular." - Library Journal "Reporting the Revolutionary War brings an unprecedented look at colonial newspapers detailing the biggest battles, milestones, and major events of the American Revolution. Written by colonists and revolutionaries themselves, these newspapers are a look back in time and tell the story of the battle for independence unlike any version that has been told." - Military Review "A coffee-table book with serious substance." - Boston 1775 "Thoughtful, engaging, well-organized and illustrated journey through our independence as reported through the news. It puts a fine point on the distribution of information and news placing newspapers at the top which is even more poignant in this day and age when the demise of physical newspapers appears imminent." - Helena Finnegan "An impressive cache of primary-source documents, normally the province of scholars, presented here in an entertaining, aesthetically pleasing fashion guaranteed to entice general readers." - Kirkus "Stunning in both its eye-opening content and its eye pleasing presentation. It has the appearance of a beautiful coffee table book with remarkable photos of some of the most historic front pages in United State's history." - Drew's Marketing Minute "This is 'you are there' history at its best: 70 essays by modern historians based on eyewitness accounts, battlefield letters and newspaper stories from 1763 to 1783. Cumulatively, the collection lets us see and feel how events unfolded for the people who lived them." - American History "Private correspondence and battlefield letters accompany newspaper clippings documenting America's fight for independence." - Los Angeles Times (holiday gift guide) "A unique coffee-table book that compiles reproductions of actual newspaper pages from the

era of the American War for Independence, with additional text to provide background and context."

- Armchair General Online "History buffs and students will find much to enjoy in this attractive and informative book. Recommended for all collections." - Booklist ""Newspaper archivist and historian Andrlik's book gives us original reports ... Read all about it the way Americans did when it happened." - New York Post" - New York Post "I've seen nothing like it and I've been studying the Revolution since 1955... You didn't have to hold rallies [during the Revolution], you were rallying them with this journalism." - Thomas Fleming, author of 20 nonfiction books, many on the American Revolution "Americans can now see a different side of the birth of our country, as it was reported in real-time by the journalists of the day... a fascinating account of Americans who witnessed the war unfold firsthand as it happened." - Soledad O'Brien, CNN Starting Point "The events of the Revolutionary War may seem like ye olde news to today's history students, but they were breaking news to people on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, and newspapers were the main source of information. Some historians theorize there would have been no American Revolution without the era's newspapers..."" - Associated Press "Stylish and intelligent collection... a fascinating display of the eyewitness accounts, battlefield correspondence, breaking news, editorial rallies to action and outright propaganda that helped to shape the young nation that would become the United States of America." - American Profile "Reporting the Revolutionary War is one seriously impressive package... a must-have for anyone researching the period of the American War for Independence."

- Armchair General Online

When I first heard about this book over the summer, I did a little research on what it was about. It didn't take long to realize that this is a brilliant idea for a Revolutionary War book. The concept of telling the story of the Revolution, which has been done many time, but now through the written words of "their" newspapers was an idea like no others. Yes, I have done research on the local Revolutionary War history that I am involved in and have come across a few interesting newspaper articles but this is way more than a few articles and a few stories, this is the history start to finish (taxes to Washington stepping down). With the help of experts with each part of the war explained and the visuals of the actual newspaper articles, the Revolutionary War history is told with great detail and it keeps your attention throughout. This is must have book for any novice, hobbyist, student, teacher, expert, historian, military enthuses, casual reader, etc. of history. Brian Mack *Reporting the Revolutionary War: Before It Was History, It Was News*

This book gets my highest possible recommendation! In *Reporting the Revolutionary War: Before It*

Was History, It Was News author Todd Andrlik, for the very first time, shares his extensive collection of American Revolution newspapers containing printed reports of major events and battles from 1763 through 1783. Over sixty essays from prominent historians contained in the book help us get a better understanding of these events and battles. These essays contain information I have not read in other books and I found them highly educational and very insightful. This book is a wonderful resource for teachers looking to integrate more primary source materials into their curriculum. Reading the newspapers contained in this book really put me back into the time period and enabled me to feel the very same emotions that the original readers must have felt. For me that was an extremely powerful experience. If you are an American Revolutionary War buff this book is a must-read!

As the future of books appears to be in jeopardy with the introduction of hand-held digital readers, this book is a great example why we still need physical books. The experience just wouldn't be the same in a digital format. After sitting with the book for a while this evening and reading various parts, I am looking forward to digging into it beginning to end. Not being overly familiar with this period of our history, this is going to be a very good learning experience and will be a nice book to read on those cold winter nights. If you like this book for its newspaper aspect, check out Sioux War Dispatches, also recently published. It tells the story of the Sioux War of 1876 (when Custer was killed) using the dispatches of newsmen who accompanied the troops, and is equally fascinating.

When we see today's headlines we glance through the stories and move on with our lives letting the information guide our choices and decisions. Often, we do not stop to think about these headlines until years later when we read about something that happened in our past and see a newspaper story we recall reading as a source. Before that event became history, it was news just like the subtitle to this book states. When we look back to the era of the American Revolution and War of American Independence we sometimes forget that the people of that time had newspapers available to them as well. Many of the events we read about in our history books were front page news for the people of that era. Todd Andrlik has done a wonderful job compiling a series of articles from historians and matching them to newspaper articles of the time. Andrlik's research into newspapers of the Revolutionary era has given him a great deal of insight as to the state of newspaper publishing of that period as well. The papers displayed in this book are pictures of the surviving originals and represent a small portion of the papers printed in that time. Andrlik's research has led him to build one of the largest private collections of newspaper from the era. He

also used papers from other collections to flesh out the main events of the entire period. He also includes a guide to newspapers of the period as well as one on how to read these documents. The language is archaic and the papers are not the same as what we see in modern papers. In many cases the news of the past was outright propaganda or full of incorrect information designed to mislead readers. In other cases the information is just wrong. Many papers used the same articles, reprinting them as they arrived in the post. An article printed in Boston could make its way along the coast and end up being reprinted months later in Charlestown, South Carolina. The article would be exactly the same in both places depending on typesetting errors which were common in all papers. While the papers alone are interesting reading, Andrlik also compiled essays from historians across the country to go with each article. This has resulted in a unique annotated collection of primary sources which make this book a great asset to students learning about the period. Readers can read what a historian has said about events like the Stamp Act and then read an article straight from a newspaper of the period and compare the two. This makes this book a great resource in explaining the value of primary sources to students which is happening in many courses at both high schools and colleges. This book is also full of visual references as well. Paintings from the period grace the pages. All in all this is an excellent reference book and makes a great addition to any layman's library on the period. For instructors looking to introduce their students to the study of the Revolution this book is very helpful. The period in question is one where far too much heritage is passed off as factual history. This demeans and lessens the actual acts of the men and women who lived in that period. Their stories are what historians seek to learn about in order to impart them to the people of the present. History is far more exciting than heritage any day.

Andrlik's book is full of history, not heritage which makes this even more of a wondrous book. Unlike many books of this type, it is full of history built from primary sources as evidenced by the extensive collection of newspapers within the pages. It is first rate book and worth reading.

Purchased as a Bday gift for my husband who is a Rev War Buff. He had already read "all" the books on the Rev War already - or so he thought. This is a large, thick, hard cover book beautifully printed on quality paper. He is really enjoying reading the war "as it happened" with a variety of news paper articles from back in the day. I would recommend and it was a great value.

For most Americans we only get small pieces of information concerning the American Revolution. it seems as time goes on the information becomes less and less. With Todd Andrlik's book Reporting The Revolutionary War, take a step back in time and read the actual words from those that lived it.

Andrlik's book takes us to those crucial moments in American history when the colonies became a nation. This is a work that should grace every home, every class room in America. This is a true treasure trove of information on events that carved the greatest nation on the face of the earth. You will be enthralled with the quality, and presentation of these priceless archives. Todd and his team have poured heart and soul into this work.

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