



GENERAL OVERVIEW

General Reading List

Organized alphabetically by book title

Carefully curated by PBS Books, the filmmakers and partner organizations, this booklist is designed to complement **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** and to spark meaningful exploration of the series, the historical events surrounding the founding of the United States, and the enduring ideas of liberty, freedom, democracy, and independence.

Themes include union, empire, civic conflict, possibility, and more—providing multiple entry points for discussion, research, and engagement. Whether you are planning a library event, book discussion, or classroom activity, these books can help guide thoughtful conversations and highlight diverse perspectives.

For additional resources on these topics and more, visit **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION Engagement Resource Center** at pbs.org/americanrevolution/resources. To explore the series itself, a film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schimdt, visit PBS.org/americanrevolution.

Adult & General Audience

- *The American Revolution: An Intimate History* by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns
- *1774: The Long Year of Revolution* by Mary Beth Norton
- *American Colonies* by Alan Taylor
- *American Revolutions* by Alan Taylor
- *The American Revolution in Indian Country* by Colin G. Calloway
- *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* by Pauline Maier
- *An Infinity of Nations: How the Native New World Shaped Early North America* by Michael Witgen
- *The Battle for New York* by Barnet Schecter
- *Belonging to the Army* by Holly A. Mayer
- *The Boston Massacre: A Family History* by Serena Zabin
- *The British Are Coming* by Rick Atkinson
- *British Soldiers, American War* by Don N. Hagist
- *Bunker Hill* by Nathaniel Philbrick
- *The Cause* by Joseph J. Ellis
- *Creation and Confederation: The Living History of the Iroquois* by Darren Bonaparte
- *The Fate of the Day* by Rick Atkinson
- *Founding Brothers* by Joe Ellis



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- *Founding Faith: Providence, Politics, and the Birth of Religious Freedom in America* by Steven Waldman
- *General George Washington: A Military Life* by Edward G. Lengel
- *The Glorious Cause* by Robert Middlekauff
- *God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution* by Thomas S. Kidd
- *A Great Improvisation* by Stacy Schiff
- *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* by Annette Gordon-Reed
- *Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War* by Friederike Baer
- *Hero of Two Worlds: The Marquis de Lafayette in the Age of Revolution* by Mike Duncan
- *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* by Bernard Bailyn
- *Independence Lost* by Kathleen DuVal
- *The Indian World of George Washington* by Colin G. Calloway
- *In the Hurricane's Eye* by Nathaniel Philbrick
- *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States* by Sarah Vowell
- *Liberty's Daughters* by Mary Beth Norton
- *Liberty's Exiles* by Maya Jasanoff
- *The Men Who Lost America* by Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy
- *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism* by Christopher L. Brown
- *Native Nations* by Kathleen DuVal
- *Never Caught* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar
- *Our Declaration* by Danielle Allen
- *Playing Indian* by Philip Deloria
- *The Pursuit of Happiness: How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America* by Jeffrey Rosen
- *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* by Gordon S. Wood
- *A Revolution in Color: The World of John Singleton Copley* by Jane Kamensky
- *A Short History of the American Revolutionary War* by Stephen Conway
- *Spain and the Independence of the United States: An Intrinsic Gift* by Thomas E. Chavez
- *Tacky's Revolt* by Vincent Brown
- *Valiant Ambition* by Nathaniel Philbrick
- *Voyagers to the West* by Bernard Bailyn
- *Washington: A Life* by Ron Chernow
- *West of the Revolution: An Uncommon History of 1776* by Claudio Saunt
- *The Whiskey Rebellion* by William Hogeland

Elementary School

- *The 4th of July Story* by Alice Dalgliesh
- *American Girls Collection: Felicity (6-book series)* by Valerie Tripp
- *Cloaked in Courage: Uncovering Deborah Sampson, Patriot Soldier* by Beth Anderson
- *D Is for Democracy: A Citizen's Alphabet* by Elissa Grodin



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- *The Declaration of Independence* by Sally Senzell Isaacs
- *Everyone Counts: A Citizens' Number Book* by Elissa D. Grodin
- *Forgotten Founders* by Mifflin Lowe
- *George Washington and the General's Dog* by Frank Murphy
- *How the U.S. Government Works* by Syl Sobel
- *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution* by Jean Fritz
- *The Voice of the People: American Democracy in Action* by Betsy Maestro
- *The World Turned Upside Down* by Tim Grove
- *We the People: The Constitution of the United States* by Peter Spier

Middle School

- *Answering the Cry for Freedom: Stories of African Americans and the American Revolution* by Gretchen Woelfle
- *Chains* (Seeds of America trilogy) by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *The Fighting Ground* by Avi
- *Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies* by Cokie Roberts (adapted by Natalie Pope Boyce)
- *Give Me Liberty* by L. M. Elliott
- *Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette* by Selene Castrovilla
- *For Which We Stand: How Our Government Works and Why It Matters* by Jeff Foster
- *Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge: George and Martha Washington's Courageous Slave Who Dared to Run Away* (Young Readers Edition) by Erica Armstrong Dunbar and Kathleen Van Cleve
- *We the People: The United States Constitution Explored and Explained* by Aura Lewis & Evan Sargent
- *Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen

High School

- *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* (Vol. I & II) by M. T. Anderson
- *Become America: Civic Sermons on Love, Responsibility, and Democracy* by Eric Liu
- *Black Heroes of the American Revolution* by Burke Davis
- *Forge* (Seeds of America trilogy, Book 2) by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Hamilton and Peggy!: A Revolutionary Friendship* by L. M. Elliott
- *Sophia's War* by Avi
- *The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation* by Jonathan Hennessey, art by Aaron McConnell
- *Votes of Confidence: A Young Person's Guide to American Elections* by Jeff Fleischer

Special Topics & Graphic Novels

- *George vs. George: The American Revolution As Seen from Both Sides* by Rosalyn Schanzer
- *History Smashers: The American Revolution* by Kate Messner
- *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: One Dead Spy* by Nathan Hale
- *Native American Heroes* by Lise Erdrich, various