



The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution, Barnet Schecter, Penguin Group USA, 2003, 0142003336, 9780142003336, 464 pages. The Battle for New York tells the story of how the city became the pivot on which the American Revolution turned: from the political and religious struggles of the 1760s and early '70s that made the city a hotbed of political action to the campaign of 1776 that turned today's five boroughs and Westchester County into a series of battlefields to the seven years of British occupation and martial law. The struggle for control of New York was by far the largest military venture of the Revolutionary War, involving almost every significant participant on both sides from General William Howe to Nathan Hale, Benedict Arnold to George Washington. Barnet Schecter brilliantly links eighteenth-century events with the city's modern landscape, illuminating the forgotten battlefield that remains in our midst..

New York's forts in the Revolution , Robert B. Roberts, 1980, , 521 pages. .

The American Revolution: New York as a case study , Larry R. Gerlach, 1972, History, 188 pages. .

A peculiar service , Corey Ford, 1965, History, 358 pages. .

My American Revolution , Robert Sullivan, Sep 4, 2012, History, 272 pages. A fringe history of the American Revolution in the Middle Colonies--New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania--details the author's one-man effort to re-enact the colonial army's ....

New York in the American Revolution , Wilbur Cortez Abbott, 1975, History, 302 pages. A picturesque account of New York in the time of the Revolutionary War. An excellent work for collectors in Americana & American History..

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Best Little Stories from the American Revolution More Than 100 True Stories, C. Brian Kelly, Oct 1, 2011, History, 432 pages. Prize-winning journalist C. Brian Kelly has collected the most riveting letters, diaries, and autobiographies from the people who lived during the Revolutionary War, weaving in ....

The Southern Strategy Britain's Conquest Of South Carolina And Georgia, 1775-1780, David K. Wilson, 2005, History, 341 pages. "David K. Wilson closely examines battles and skirmishes in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia to construct a comprehensive military history of the American Revolution ....

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History, 233 pages. Much of the Revolutionary War took was fought along the Hudson River-which for five years was successfully blockaded by American forces by means of a massive chain across the ....

Revolutionary War, Battle of Brooklyn Battle of Long Island, Sam W. Galowitz, Dec 31, 2007, , 204 pages. Revolutionary War Battle of Brooklyn (Battle of Long Island) is the story of the battle fought in 1776 on what is now the Borough of Brooklyn in the city of New York, also ....

The story of the Continental army, 1775-1783 , Lynn Montross, 1967, History, 519 pages. .

An Army at Dawn The War in North Africa, 1942-1943, Volume One of the Liberation Trilogy, Rick Atkinson, May 15, 2007, History, 768 pages. The liberation of Europe and the destruction of the Third Reich is a story of miscalculation and incomparable courage, of calamity and enduring triumph. In this first volume of ....

The Maryland 400 in the Battle of Long Island, 1776 , Linda Davis Reno, Jan 1, 2008, History, 200 pages. This work chronicles the story of 400 young men who willingly and knowingly sacrificed themselves to save the Continental Army at the Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776 ....

Coney Island Lost and Found, Charles Denson, 2002, History, 294 pages. Denson gives us an insider's look at one of New York's best-known neighborhoods, weaving together memories of his childhood adventures with colorful stories of the area's past ....

New York City's buried past a guide to excavated New York City's Revolutionary War artifacts, 1776-1783, Robert Apuzzo, Jan 1, 1992, History, 163 pages. Robert Apuzzo's "NEW YORK CITY'S BURIED PAST" is the first book of its kind to be published in more than 70 years that deals expressly with artifacts salvaged from specific ....

The encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: a political ..., Volume 5 a political, social, and military history, Gregory Fremont-Barnes, Richard Alan Ryerson, James R. Arnold, Roberta Wiener, Sep 28, 2006, History, 1777 pages. .

On 15 September, 1776, the British army under General William Howe invaded Manhattan Island, with the largest expeditionary force in their history. George Washington's Continental Army, still in disarray after the disastrous Battle of Brooklyn some two weeks earlier, retreated north to Harlem Heights, leaving New York in British hands. Control of the city was Howe's primary objective. Located at the mouth of the strategically vital Hudson river, it had become the centrepiece of England's strategy for putting down the American rebellion. However, as Barnet Schecter reveals in this narrative, far from furnishing a key to the colonies, New York proved to be the fatal chalice that poisoned the British war effort. "The Battle for New York" tells the story of how the city became the pivot on which the American Revolution turned - from the political and religious struggles of the 1760s and early 1770s that polarised its citizens and increasingly made New York a hotbed of radical thought and action; to the campaign of 1776 that turned New York into a series of battlefields; to the seven years of British occupation, during which time Washington and Congress were as determined to regain the city as the British were to hold it. The extraordinary campaign in the autumn of 1776, which forms the heart of the book, was by far the largest military venture of the Revolutionary War; it involved almost every significant participant in the war on both sides; and there can be little doubt that during it the fate of America hung in the balance. Moreover, the outcome had a direct impact on the major turning points of the rest of the war.

Schecter here presents in sometimes overwhelming detail the story of New York from the beginning of the American Revolution in the spring of 1775 to the city's evacuation by the British late in 1783. The military operations of 1776 are the central focus, as the British occupied the city in order to advance up the Hudson River and unite with another force coming down from Canada. British Gen. William Howe landed troops on Long Island and routed the colonial army on August 27. In despair but persevering, Gen. George Washington listened to subordinates and managed to evacuate his

troops from Long Island that night, even as the British navy awaited nearby. And Washington kept running, evacuating New York City in mid-September (with some minor fighting at Harlem Heights, Throg's Neck and White Plains) and withdrawing into New Jersey after losing more than 2,600 captured at Fort Mifflin. The British navy held New York City under martial law for the rest of the war, forced to maintain its presence there after the army moved to the South. Schechter details the lives of area loyalists, more than 29,000 of whom went to Canada after the war. Although many readers will find some of the abundant operational material hard going, Schechter's research is impeccable, and his battlefield tour of today's New York brings immediacy to the story. 8 maps and 65 illus. not seen by PW.

When we think of America and the Civil War, we usually think of the blue and the gray. But as historian Ketchum (*The Winter Soldiers*) points out in his newest book, America's first Civil War occurred nearly a century earlier. Ketchum uses New York City as the backdrop to describe the events that ultimately led to war, beginning with British Prime Minister Walpole's policy of "salutary neglect" (i.e., the Colonies were best served by avoiding war, encouraging trade, and keeping taxes low) to George III's efforts to tax the Colonies to pay war debts and his rejection of a final peace proposal in 1775. Ketchum uses two prominent New York families, the DeLanceys and the Livingstons, one with loyalist tendencies and the other patriotic, to illustrate the complex issues that not only divided the country but split families and set neighbor against neighbor. Ketchum's narrative style and frequent use of firsthand accounts makes for easy reading and brings the participants to life. What results is a good companion to Schechter's *The Battle for New York*, since Schechter essentially picks up where Ketchum leaves off, on the eve of war, and describes the struggles of the British to hold on to New York City. Ketchum's book also includes an appendix of the principal characters. Recommended for medium to large public libraries. (Index not seen.) Schechter, a professional writer and historian, makes the case for New York City's being the strategic axis around which the Revolutionary War revolved. Schechter shows again and again how Great Britain's desire to hold New York City cost it the war effort, beginning with Gen. William Howe's slow invasion, in which he missed several opportunities to trap Washington in favor of securing the city, and ending with Gen. Henry Clinton's failure to reinforce Cornwallis because of his apprehensions about a possible attack on the city. The easy narrative style is enhanced by numerous quotes, allowing the actual players to tell their part of the story. This book is of special interest to those who live in and around New York, as it includes details about the fortifications of the two armies complete with references to current locations in the city and a walking tour. Well researched and written, this book is recommended for libraries in the New York area and those with comprehensive American Revolution collections.

Despite the title, this book provides a good general history of the American Revolution but, from a military standpoint, starting with the Battle of Brooklyn in 1776 rather than with Lexington and Concord in 1775. Anyone who has read extensively concerning the battles will not really find anything new about Saratoga, Trenton, Princeton, Guilford Courthouse, Yorktown, etc. However, for the general reader, the book does provide good summaries of many battles and may whet your appetite to read books that are more specific....such as the volumes written by Richard Ketchum on Saratoga, and Trenton/Princeton. For the person who has already read quite a bit about the Revolutionary War, what makes this book worthwhile is Mr. Schechter's focus in the first half of the book on the battles in and near New York City, and in the second half of the book his arguments, generally convincing, that New York City was always important to the strategy of both sides. Even though the British occupied New York City, they were always worried about the rebels launching a counterattack, especially once the French allied themselves with the Americans. As British resources were limited, and as tremendous distances were involved, this nagging concern with New York City prevented the British from concentrating their forces sufficiently to be able to deliver a knockout blow. Mr. Schechter has some interesting things to say about the Battles of Brooklyn, Harlem Heights, etc. While not downplaying the strategic errors made by the rebel forces, the author is persuasive when he makes his point that these battles were not quite as one-sided as they have been portrayed in the past. Although it is true that the British took many more prisoners than the Americans did, the dead and wounded on the British side were usually greater...Read more &rsquo;

When one thinks of the Revolutionary Era in America, one might tend to think of Concord and Lexington, Boston, Monmouth, Philadelphia, Valley Forge, or a dozen other places before ever giving Manhattan a thought. This, as Barnet Schecter's brilliant history, "The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution", is an undeserved slight to New York. As his perfect subtitle states, New York City was the pivotal center--the "heart"--of the Revolution.

Too much had happened in New York to dismiss its role immediately before, during, and after the war. One example: the Battle of Golden Hill (at the present John Street) in which British troops attacked American patriots occurred more than a month before the Boston Massacre, which has been long regarded as the first skirmish between colonists and the Crown. Mr. Schecter appropriately emphasizes the Battle of Brooklyn (or the Battle of Long Island) and how Washington's strategic (and lucky) evacuation across the East River and through Manhattan turned the tide of the war: the war could've been over then and there had Washington's army been captured. There are more stories, there is more evidence of the critical role New York played during the nascent years of the United States, and, Mr. Schecter has wonderfully captured this undeniable fact.

For a complete understanding of New York's role in this conflict, I recommend reading: "Divided Loyalties" by Richard Ketchum, which presents the political and social tensions of the city in the years before the Revolution; "The Battle of Brooklyn" by John Gallagher for a detailed examination of the weeks before, during and after this first large-scale confrontation between the British and Americans; and then Schecter's book--IN THAT ORDER. Read more &rsquo;

As a born and bred New Yorker I was fascinated to read about the close to home battles fought in the early days of the Revolution. Those concrete NYC masses were once bucolic fields and small hamlets. Battles were fought where we now have massive bridges and urban sprawl. Schecter tells the story with an engaging style of a novel. He does not overwhelm us with tactics or military details. He tells a more personal account of the men and women who fought in this battle. What is also interesting is how the loyalties were clearly split among New Yorkers. This was not a revolution of unanimity. The British Loyalists felt that their attachments to the crown were as patriotic as the cause of the revolutionaries. Well done Mr. Schecter.

The author has done considerable research and filled his book with names that are distant memories of elementary school history (even for New Yorkers). Unfortunately, he misses an A because he fails to link the significance of the events and conflicts that he cites in his book to the Articles of our Constitution that specifically prohibit them. For example: The author's first chapter addresses the seeds of discontent and discusses the friction between the Anglican church and all others. He points out how all ranking members of the royal colonial government were members of the Anglican church but doesn't mention that England required all of its peerage to be members of the Church of England. This is the origin of the "separation of church and state" issue that still bedevils American lawmakers and justices alike. In stipulating the separation of church and state, our founding fathers were simply reacting to this English practice and asserting that there would be no "official" religion of the fledgling United States to which all members must belong. Similarly, the author discusses the unrest created by quartering troops among the populous. Hence, it's prohibition. The book is a great read for those wishing to know about the power brokers in NYC leading up to, during, and following the Revolution; but the author could have better linked the events 225 years ago to the Constitution that guides our American experience today.

On September 15, 1776, the British army under General William Howe invaded Manhattan Island, landing at an open field on the banks of the East River, roughly where the United Nations sits today. George Washington's Continental Army, still in disarray after its miraculous escape following the disastrous Battle of Brooklyn some two weeks earlier, retreated north to Harlem Heights, leaving New York in British hands. Control of the city was Howe's primary objective; located at the mouth of the strategically vital Hudson River, it had become the centerpiece of England's strategy for putting down the American rebellion. However, as Barnet Schecter reveals in his stirring narrative, far from furnishing a key to the colonies, New York proved to be the fatal albatross that strangled the British war effort.

Schechter delights in linking eighteenth-century events with the city's modern landscape, illuminating the forgotten battlefield that remains in our midst. He skillfully weaves into his narrative the memorable and passionate voices of those who were there—American private Joseph Martin, British second-in-command Henry Clinton, patriot-turned-Tory William Smith, minister Ewald Shewkirk, Nathan Hale, Benedict Arnold, and many others—thereby tracing the impact and meaning of the revolution in personal terms and giving his story a powerful human dimension. A profound and memorable saga in its own right, *The Battle for New York* offers valuable new insight into the American Revolution.

Barnet Schechter is a Manhattan-based writer. His interest in architecture, urban planning and in New York City evolved from his first career, as a sculptor. He holds a B.A. in History, magna cum laude, from Yale University, where he also took courses in the art school. He then moved to New York City to study sculpture full-time at the NY Studio School in Greenwich Village. He holds an M.F.A. in Sculpture from Queens College, CUNY and his work, including large outdoor commissions in bronze and concrete, is represented in numerous private collections in the United States, and has been exhibited in galleries and other venues in New York City.

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Book Description: Walker & Company, New York, USA, 2002. Hard Cover. Book Condition: As New. Dust Jacket Condition: As New. First. 9 1/2" x 6 1/2". 454 pages. Dark blue board covers with gilt type on spine. Decorative end papers. Text block is clean and unmarked throughout. Dust Jacket is not price clipped. Binding is tight. Bookseller Inventory # HB1301-00720

Independent historian Schechter's debut describes New York's crucial role in the Revolutionary War. The Founding Fathers agreed that New York was the pivot on which the Revolution turned. They were therefore disheartened when General William Howe routed George Washington's forces on Long Island, landed his army on Manhattan (where the United Nations now stands), and occupied the city in a matter of days. Schechter's straightforward military history isn't exactly a page-turner, but it makes an important addition to bookshelves filled with treatises on Lexington and Concord, Jefferson and Franklin, and other more famous battles and personalities of the war. Perhaps most enlightening is his depiction of how New York's geography posed problems for both its defenders and attackers. The city's harbor was ideal for trade but terrible from a strategic perspective. The many overlooks and coves provided staging areas from which cannons might bombard enemy ships, but the sheer size of the coastline to be defended presented problems for all but the most well-provisioned armies. At the outset of the Revolutionary War, the colonists did not possess such an army. The British did, and they held the city from the moment they landed until two years after Yorktown. Schechter retells with panache such well-known incidents from

New York's revolutionary war as the execution of Nathan Hale and the first combat use of a submarine (a tiny vessel nicknamed "the Turtle"). He also gives deserved attention to obscure figures like Charles Lee, a former British officer always accompanied by a train of dogs who fought for the American cause until he was captured, whereupon he offered suggestions on how the redcoats might defeat Washington in a matter of months. An excellent summary of New York's role in the inception of the US: Boston and Philadelphia, eat your hearts out.

The night of Friday November 1, 1765 was moonless and still. At the southern tip of Manhattan, two restless mobs surged through the dark streets of New York, lighting their way with lanterns, torches and the glow of five hundred candles. During the day the hated Stamp Act had taken effect, and New York City shut down. Residents deserted the streets and closed up their shops, while in the tense quiet the equally detested Lieutenant Governor Cadwallader Colden prepared for the outbreak of violence that promised to accompany his enforcement of the new tax.

In his forty-four years as a royal official in New York, Colden had antagonized the colonists at almost every turn while failing to win more than tepid approval from his superiors in London. For the previous two years, residents had anxiously awaited a successor to the last royal governor, Robert Monckton, while Colden filled the vacancy. In this latest crisis, the stubborn 77 year-old lieutenant governor asked that marines from the British war ships in the harbor take up positions inside Fort George at the foot of Broadway.

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