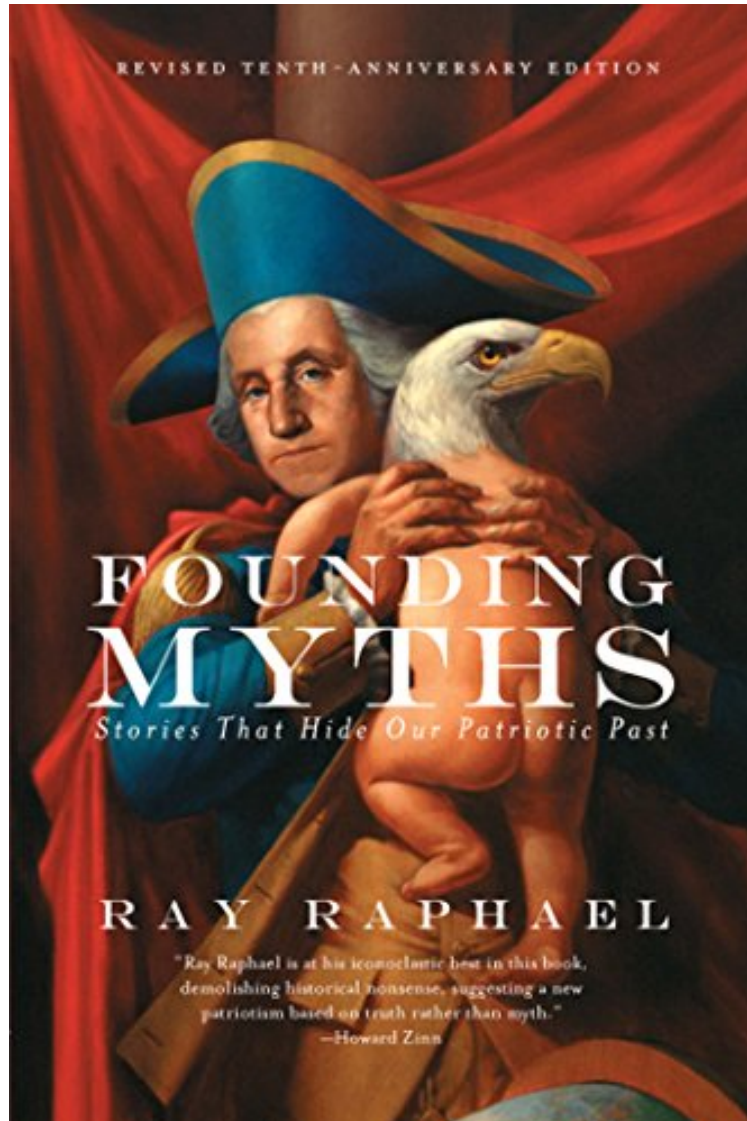


(Free download) Founding Myths: Stories That Hide Our Patriotic Past

## Founding Myths: Stories That Hide Our Patriotic Past

*Ray Raphael*

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#773846 in Books 2014-07-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x 1.20 x 5.70l, 1.05 #File Name: 159558949X432 pages | File size: 73.Mb

**Ray Raphael : Founding Myths: Stories That Hide Our Patriotic Past** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Founding Myths: Stories That Hide Our Patriotic Past:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. DisappointingBy CHMthe author seemed to be rambling on and often repeatedly addressed the same information. Actually reminded me of a high school paper where the student author needs to meet a page count so just throws in long sentences and fluff to get there.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Truly understand the path to US independenceBy M. OttenCompares 1st person accounts from the Revolutionary period to how our national mythos developed long after the war for independence was over.

One finds that a lot of what we take for fact regarding US revolutionary heroes is really really manufactured to make the founding of our nation a better "story." Unfortunately, that "better story" loses much of the complexity and majesty of our nation's path to independence. This work will deepen anyone's understanding of what really led to independence.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. EducationalBy MommymemVery education, but dry and long winded sometimes. I learned a lot but often felt as if I were reading a text book. It felt like some points were hammered in too many times. It felt like I learned the point and wanted to move on to a new one but the "lesson" wasn't over. I gave higher stars than the review sounds like because I think the educational value outweighs the book shortcomings.

First published ten years ago, award-winning historian Ray Raphael's *Founding Myths* has since established itself as a landmark of historical myth-busting. With Raphael's trademark wit and flair, *Founding Myths* exposed the errors and inventions in America's most cherished tales, from Paul Revere's famous ride to Patrick Henry's Liberty or Death speech. For the thousands who have been captivated by Raphael's eye-opening accounts, history has never been the same. In this revised tenth-anniversary edition, Raphael revisits the original myths and further explores their evolution over time, uncovering new stories and peeling back new layers of misinformation. This new edition also examines the highly politicized debates over America's past, as well as how our approach to history in school reinforces rather than corrects historical mistakes. A book that explores the truth behind the stories of the making of our nation (National Public Radio), this revised edition of *Founding Myths* will be a welcome resource for anyone seeking to separate historical fact from fiction.

From Publishers WeeklyPatrick Henry never said, "Give me liberty or give me death!" In fact, no record exists of what he said in his powerful call to arms of March 23, 1775. And Molly Pitcher never took her husband's place at a cannon after he fell at the Battle of Monmouth. Historian Raphael dissects these and 11 other myths of the American Revolution to uncover the truth of these famous events and the significance of their conversion into myth. These tales, argues Raphael, represent 19th-century ideals of "romantic individualism" more than the communitarian ideals of the revolutionary era. Raphael (*A People's History of the American Revolution*) continues in his populist vein by arguing that these myths, rather than encouraging patriotism and heroism, actually "take away our power," leaving us "in awe of superhuman stars" like Washington or Jefferson and "discouraging ordinary citizens from acting on their own behalf." This is arguable, but advocates of history as seen from below will find the author's point of view appealing. And all students of American history will find Raphael's correction of the historical record instructive and enjoyable. Illus. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library JournalAdult/High School - If a high school history teacher were to ask his class when the Declaration of Independence was signed, he undoubtedly would hear a chorus call out, "July 4, 1776." But what percentage of students, or teachers for that matter, would know that as of August 1, only John Hancock had actually signed the document? And how many would know that at least 14 men who were not even in Philadelphia on July 4 are recorded in the Congressional Journal as signing it on that well-remembered date? But sign it they did, and what does it matter what the actual date was? Raphael thoroughly delineates the creation of the fictive July 4 signing, including intentional lies and omissions in the "official" Congressional Journal. The chief impetus behind this doctoring of history was simply to have a neat, unmistakable date for national celebration. The author goes on to expose numerous myths before, during, and after the Revolution revolving around Paul Revere's ride, Valley Forge, Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, the Battle of Yorktown, and several others. In each case, Raphael outlines the myth, reveals what really happened, and, most importantly, argues why we must move past historical nonsense so that a truer, more democratic national record can emerge. Academic historians have long known these truths. Raphael deserves praise for his efforts to have that knowledge trickle down to the rest of us. Toward that end, he offers a "Note to Teachers," including a Web site with grade-appropriate lesson plans. - Robert Saunderson, Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From BooklistOne would have thought that such notions as the singularity of Paul Revere's ride, the reality of cannon-manning Molly Pitcher, and the claim that the Revolutionary War started at Lexington and Concord and ended at Yorktown were long gone from the classroom, but not so, says Raphael. Most American history texts today repeat or don't debunk those falsehoods. Nor do they question Samuel Adams' radical firebrand image (he was really very cautious) and the authenticity of Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech (concocted by a biographer long after Henry opted for the latter). The problem with letting the lies and half-truths stand, Raphael says, is that they effectually blot out the real grassroots, democratic character of a movement that, after all, culminated in a nation that prides itself on democracy. While addressing teachers, in particular, Raphael relays so much forgotten or never-known history and argues so well why it, not the legends, should be remembered that virtually any American will profit from reading this lively, intelligent book. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved