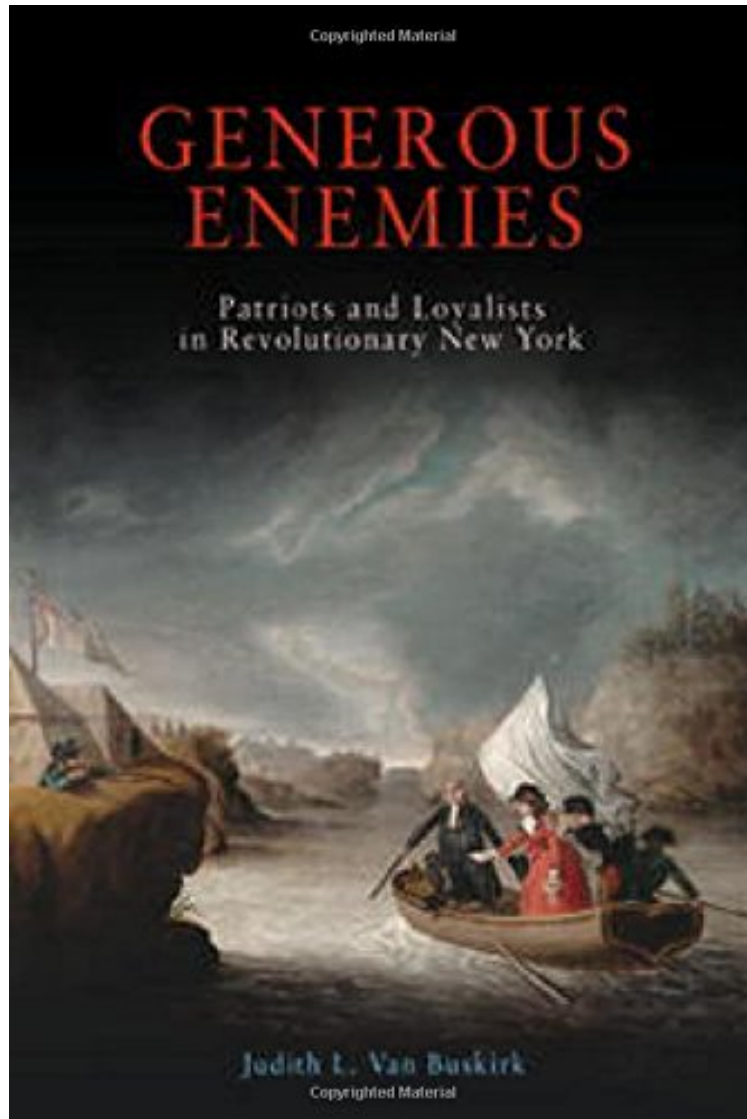


(Free) Generous Enemies: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New York (Early American Studies)

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Judith L. Van Buskirk

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Judith L. Van Buskirk : Generous Enemies: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New York (Early American Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Generous Enemies: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New York (Early American Studies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well documented, but rather slow reading. Inclusion of ...By user Well documented, but rather slow reading. Inclusion of almost every example available to illustrate a tread or

pattern is thorough research but it gets repetitious after the third or fourth example. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Generous Enemies a good read By HappyGrumpy This book provides an interesting angle on the interactions between patriots, loyalists, and those "riding the fence." I recommend this book. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A different, fascinating perspective on the American Revolutionary War By E. Jaksetic This is a very interesting study of the family, personal, social, and business relationships of Patriots and Loyalists during the American Revolutionary War. Focusing mostly on New York City (and the neighboring areas), the author discusses the dilemmas, complications, and often difficult choices that many people faced during the course of the American Revolutionary War. Some of the subjects covered in the book include: the problems facing families with divided political loyalties; the challenges of living in New York City under British military occupation; the surprising nature of travel and communications across enemy lines into and out of New York City; how social class and social status affected the treatment of American and British prisoners of war; the effect of war on businessmen and their customers; how the American Revolutionary War affected slaves and former slaves; and the shifting fortunes of the Loyalists. Professor Van Buskirk's book is both very informative and very readable. This is a history book that a non-historian can enjoy, and a student of history can find useful. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the American Revolutionary War.

In July 1776, the final group of more than 130 ships of the Royal Navy sailed into the waters surrounding New York City, marking the start of seven years of British occupation that spanned the American Revolution. What military and political leaders characterized as an impenetrable "Fortress Britannia" a bastion of solid opposition to the American cause was actually very different. As Judith L. Van Buskirk reveals, the military standoff produced civilian communities that were forced to operate in close, sustained proximity, each testing the limits of political and military authority. Conflicting loyalties blurred relationships between the two sides: John Jay, a delegate to the Continental Congresses, had a brother whose political loyalties leaned toward the Crown, while one of the daughters of Continental Army general William Alexander lived in occupied New York City with her husband, a prominent Loyalist. Indeed, the texture of everyday life during the Revolution was much more complex than historians have recognized. *Generous Enemies* challenges many long-held assumptions about wartime experience during the American Revolution by demonstrating that communities conventionally depicted as hostile opponents were, in fact, in frequent contact. Living in two clearly delineated zones of military occupation the British occupying the islands of New York Bay and the Americans in the surrounding countryside the people of the New York City region often reached across military lines to help friends and family members, pay social calls, conduct business, or pursue a better life. Examining the movement of Loyalist and rebel families, British and American soldiers, free blacks, slaves, and businessmen, Van Buskirk shows how personal concerns often triumphed over political ideology. Making use of family letters, diaries, memoirs, soldier pensions, Loyalist claims, committee and church records, and newspapers, this compelling social history tells the story of the American Revolution with a richness of human detail.

"Well-written and engaging." *Choice* "A nicely written and well argued volume. . . . The book sheds light on how the ordinary as well as the extraordinary citizen dealt with the chaos and disruption brought by warfare, a lesson that concerns us to the present day." *American Historical* "An engrossing account of wartime New York." *William and Mary Quarterly* "In this wonderfully well-written book, Van Buskirk unearths a wealth of archival material to construct a compelling social history of a city at war. But instead of finding tales of bloodshed and betrayal, she finds that family bonds trumped partisan causes, personal concerns triumphed over political ideology, and commercial interests overrode military strategy. The lines between contending forces were porous, and the texture of everyday life in the city was much more complicated, she writes, than historians, and the public alike, have admitted." *Journal of American Studies* About the Author Judith L. Van Buskirk teaches history at the State University of New York, Cortland.