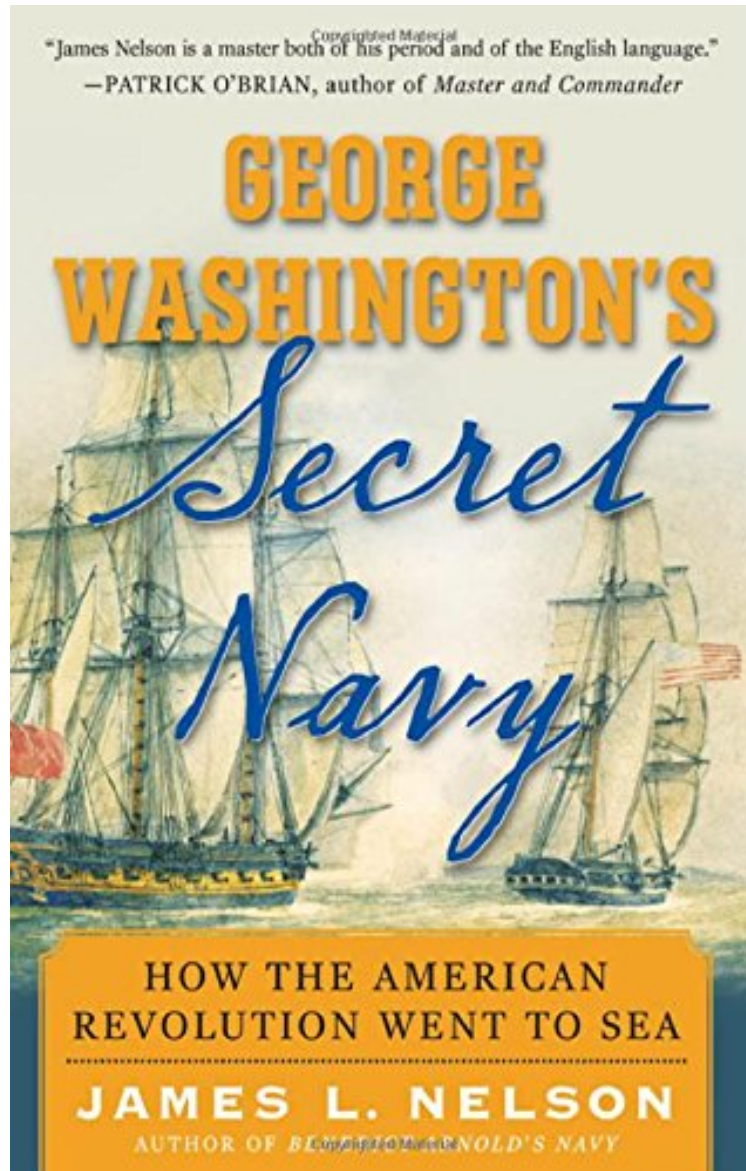


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George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea

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James L. Nelson : George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clearly written by one who knows his way around a shipBy IscollisonNelson's well-researched and clearly written popular history book is of great value in the on-going research for my own nautical historical fiction series, as well as enlightening and enjoyable reading. An important edition to my growing library of Colonial American literature.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Birth of the American NavyBy Grover SmithGeorge Washington credited as Father of this Country . This book shows that not Only was he the Father of the U.S.Army but of the U.S. Navy , just a couple of more reasons for that title. He saw a need then quickly saw the value of a Navel force as a way to strike at the enemy while his Army locked in a siege His navy could and did help raise morale of New England . It was a secret because he started equipping vessels of War without specific authority of Congress . By the time his cruisers were ready for sea Congress ordered him to acquire a couple for a mission His cutting of red tape often paid dividends for our freedom. It is amazing what motivated Americans can and did accomplish with little but a desire to be free of oppressive government .8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. "Secret" is the operative word...By Patrick L. CookIf you're a fan of the Revolutionary War, and/of George Washington, this book confirms so many things we've come to accept but from a very different angle. Correspondence is the chief medium of telling this story, flavored by all the non-standard spellings of with writers, but the great asset is Nelson's analysis which reads between the lines, points out the contradictions, and the motivations of the authors of the letters. Nelson supplies insights concerning weather conditions, knowledge of ships of the day, the tactical situation on land as well as off shore, to explain the course of events. The ingenuity of Washington in this endeavor is remarkable, the frustrations are palpable, and the limitations of the day are clearly expressed.One problem of this book is that it is not easy to organize in a chronological manner, with the actions of so many ships occurring at once. Nelson chooses to backtrack several times over the same months or days following a different line of action which is sometimes leads to frustration, but, I know of no other way to cover a story like this.

In 1775 General George Washington secretly armed a handful of small ships and sent them to sea against the world's mightiest navy. From the author of the critically acclaimed Benedict Arnold's Navy, here is the story of how America's first commander-in-chief--whose previous military experience had been entirely on land--nursed the fledgling American Revolution through a season of stalemate by sending troops to sea. Mining previously overlooked sources, James L. Nelson's swiftly moving narrative shows that George Washington deliberately withheld knowledge of his tiny navy from the Continental Congress for more than two critical months, and that he did so precisely because he knew Congress would not approve. Mr. Nelson has taken an episode that occupies no more than a few paragraphs in other histories of the Revolution and, with convincing research and vivid narrative style, turned it into an important, marvelously readable book."--Thomas Fleming, author of *The Perils of Peace: America's Struggle to Survive after Yorktown* "A gripping and fascinating book about the daring and heroic mariners who helped George Washington change the course of history and create a nation. Nelson wonderfully brings to life a largely forgotten but critically important piece of America's past."--Eric Jay Dolin, author of *Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America* "The political machinations are as exciting as the blood-stirring ship actions in this meticulously researched story of the shadowy beginnings of American might on the seas."--John Druett, author of *Island of the Lost: Shipwrecked at the Edge of the World*

From the Back Cover"James Nelson is not the first historian to reveal this little-known albeit incredibly important aspect of our Revolution, but no one has done it more thoroughly or with greater literary grace."--William M. Fowler, author of *Empires at War In July 1775*, in his first inspection of the American encampment on the outskirts of Boston, the Continental Army's newly arrived commander-in-chief noted its haphazard design and shabby construction--clearly the work of men unprepared to face the world's most powerful fighting force. George Washington had inherited not only an army of woefully untrained and ill-equipped soldiers, but a daunting military prospect as well. To the east he could see the enemy's heavily fortified positions on Bunker Hill and a formidable naval presence on the river beyond. British-occupied Boston was defended by impressive redoubts that would easily repel any American assault, and Boston Harbor bristled with the masts of merchant ships delivering food, clothing, arms, ammunition, and other necessities to the British. Washington knew that the king's troops had all the arms and gunpowder they could want, whereas his own army lacked enough powder for even one hour of major combat. The Americans were in danger of losing a war before it had truly begun. Despite his complete lack of naval experience, Washington recognized that harassing British merchant ships was his only means of carrying the fight to the enemy and sustaining an otherwise unsustainable stalemate. But he also knew that many in Congress still hoped for reconciliation with England, and in that climate Congressional approval for naval action was out of the question. So, without notifying Congress and with no real authority to do so, the general began arming small merchant schooners and sending them to sea to hunt down British transports in the Service of the ministerial Army. In *George Washington's Secret Navy*, award-winning author James L. Nelson tells the fascinating tale of how America's first commander-in-chief launched America's first navy. Nelson introduces us to another side of a general known for his unprecedented respect for civilian authority. Here we meet a man whose singular act of independence helped keep the Revolution alive in 1775. About the AuthorJames L.

Nelson is the author of *Benedict Arnolds Navy*, as well as several novels that take place during the age of the sailing navies. His first book of nonfiction was *Reign of Iron: The Story of the First Battling Ironclads*.