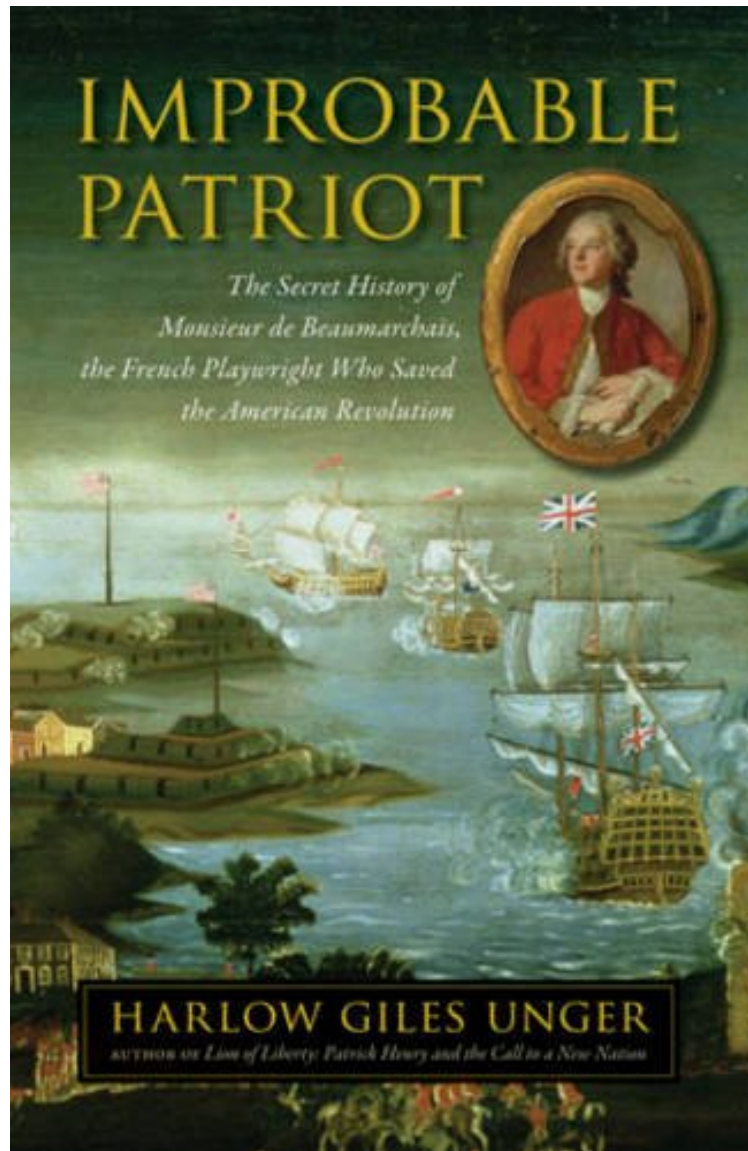


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Improbable Patriot: The Secret History of Monsieur de Beaumarchais, the French Playwright Who Saved the American Revolution

Harlow Giles Unger

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Harlow Giles Unger : Improbable Patriot: The Secret History of Monsieur de Beaumarchais, the French Playwright Who Saved the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be

worth my time, and all praised *Improbable Patriot: The Secret History of Monsieur de Beaumarchais, the French Playwright Who Saved the American Revolution*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beaumarchais, the author of *Le Barbier de Seville*, spent his own fortune to support our War of Independence by procuring weapons. By Gisella Patharkar I have been an instructor of French language and literature but never knew about the amazing life of Beaumarchais, author of *Le Barbier de Seville*, led. And I never knew that thanks to his truly very great efforts to ship war supplies to aid Washington in his fight for independence he was able to beat the British. Beaumarchais had to create a company and arrange things in such a way so as not to arouse suspicion by the British. General Washington's army was on its last legs, with no more weapons to speak of. Beaumarchais never got refunded for the expenses he incurred and to this date there are no streets, nor statues in the U.S. to acknowledge his efforts thanks to which the U.S. gained its independence from Britain. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a remarkable life! By Emily C. This historical figure that I had never known about played a tremendously key part of the success of the American revolution. He was an honorable genius. He lived in Paris during the French Revolution and saw firsthand the insanity of the mob.. What a fascinating true story! 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A part of American history you never knew but should. By markl_me A very readable and enjoyable biography of a man most Americans do not know, but should. A true Renaissance Man, Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais was a skilled watchmaker, a playwright, a composer, a merchant, a diplomat, a spy, a philanthropist and more. But most importantly to Americans, he played a crucial role in influencing the outcome of the American War of Independence. This book is highly recommended to anyone with a modicum of interest in American or French history, and it makes me eager to read other works by Harlow Unger.

Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais was an eighteenth-century French inventor, famed playwright, and upstart near-aristocrat in the court of King Louis XVI. In 1776, he conceived an audacious plan to send aid to the American rebels. What's more, he convinced the king to bankroll the project, and singlehandedly carried it out. By war's end, he had supplied Washington's army with most of its weapons and powder, though he was never paid or acknowledged by the United States. To some, he was a dashing hero, a towering intellect who saved the American Revolution. To others, he was pure rogue, a double-dealing adventurer who stopped at nothing to advance his fame and fortune. In fact, he was both, and more: an advisor to kings, an arms dealer, and author of some of the most enduring works of the stage, including *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Barber of Seville*.

This delightful rogue of many talents set up a company to front for the French and Spanish regimes secretly supplying weapons, munitions, clothing and food to the struggling rebels. American History