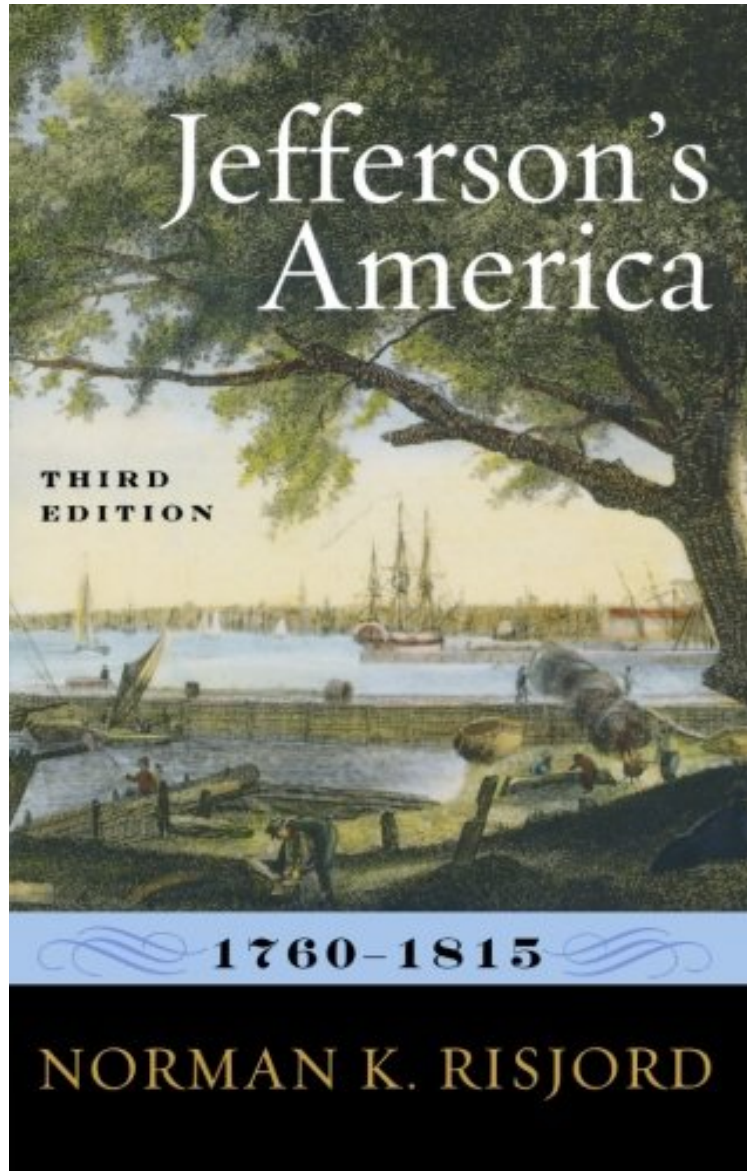


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readable overview of the American Revolution and the Founding. With Thomas Jefferson's life as something of a touchstone, Risjord guides readers through these pivotal years with a good narrative and some analysis. This is a basic introduction to the topic and would serve well as a textbook. Readers looking for more depth and with more knowledge on the topic would do better to look elsewhere. But, for a good introduction to some of the most important decades in American history, this book provides just that. Recommended. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent text for students of Revolutionary America. By Christopher.Taylor@dur.ac.uk This text provides an introductory insight into the life of an eighteenth century American. Risjord combines detailed comment with a listing of relevant sources. It is an excellent springboard for further study and has been of infinite use in my studies. It is well-structured, adopts an elementary tone and is easy to use. It is different from other texts in that it encompasses the revolutionary era, birth of the constitution and ascendancy of Jeffersonian Republicanism. Even for those not studying the era it is a good read.

A captivating and lucid narrative of America's revolutionary generation, *Jefferson's America* takes the reader from the earliest rumblings of colonial dissent, through the crises of revolution and nation-making, to the heroic drama of the War of 1812. Risjord deftly weaves together strands of biography and social history with military and political history to depict the rich fabric of the young republic. While most writers on this period conclude with the end of the Revolution, the ratification of the Constitution, or the election of Jefferson, Risjord contends that there is a fundamental continuity in the history of the Early Republic. The basic problems involved in creating a stable, representative government were not resolved until the "second war of independence," a symbolic end for the Revolutionary generation, which produced a sense of national unity and determined the viability of the new nation. Risjord incorporates new social and economic perspectives, and he deals suggestively with the struggle over "who shall rule at home." Yet he still presents the pivotal events of the War for Independence, the framing of the Constitution, the "Revolution of 1800," and the War of 1812 in an interesting and understandable way. This is no watered-down version of the national myth, but a subtle and well-told story. The third edition reflects new research on a number of topics; including the role of women in the resistance to British measures; the impact of the Revolution on blacks, both slave and free; and the lot of the common soldier during the same period.

Norman K. Risjord's *Jefferson's America* is a highly accessible account by a master practitioner. Conveying both the textures of everyday life as well as the drama of the political battles of the era, this superb volume will enlighten students and delight specialists. (Douglas R. Egerton, author of *Death or Liberty: African Americans and Revolutionary America*) About the Author Norman K. Risjord is professor emeritus of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was a prize-winning teacher for more than three decades. He is the author of thirteen books on American history, including a biography of Thomas Jefferson.