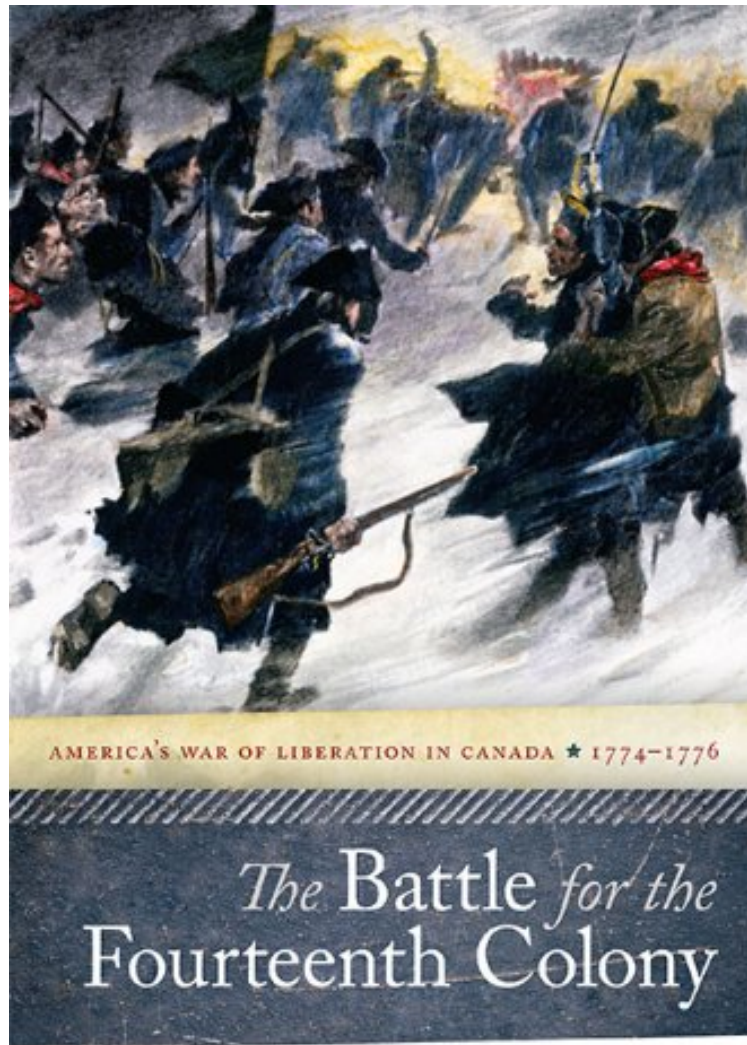


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Mark R. Anderson

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Winner of the American Revolution Round Table of Richmond Book Award (2014)In this dramatic retelling of one of history's great what-ifs, Mark R. Anderson examines the American colonies campaign to bring Quebec into the Continental confederation and free the Canadians from British tyranny. This significant reassessment of a little-studied campaign examines developments on both sides of the border that rapidly proceeded from peaceful diplomatic overtures to a sizable armed intervention. The military narrative encompasses Richard Montgomery's plodding initial operations, Canadian partisan cooperation with officers like Ethan Allen, and the harrowing experiences of Benedict Arnold's Kennebec expedition, as well as the sudden collapse of British defenses that secured the bulk of the province for the rebel cause. The book provides new insight into both Montgomery's tragic Quebec City defeat and a small but highly significant loyalist uprising in the rural northern parishes that was suppressed by Arnold and his Canadian patriot allies. Anderson closely examines the evolving relationships between occupiers and occupied, showing how rapidly changing circumstances variously fostered cooperation and encouraged resistance among different Canadian elements. The book homes in on the key political and military factors that ultimately doomed America's first foreign war of liberation and resulted in the Continental Army's decisive expulsion from Canada on the eve of the Declaration of Independence. The first full treatment of this fascinating chapter in Revolutionary War history in over a century, Anderson's account is especially revealing in its presentation of contentious British rule in Quebec, and of Continental beliefs that Canadians would greet the soldiers as liberators and allies in a common fight against the British yoke.This thoroughly researched and action-packed history will appeal to American and Canadian history buffs and military experts alike.

From Publishers WeeklyIndependent scholar Anderson makes a significant contribution to a neglected aspect of the American Revolution in this comprehensive, well-written monograph. He describes the Quebec Campaign of 1775/76 as the U.S.'s first war of liberation. The Canadians' correspondence with the Bostonians led to the United Colonies' decision to erect the glorious standard of American liberty in Canada. In the context of ongoing protests in Quebec against colonial policies, the movement needed only a few sparks... to ignite a rebellion. The ostensible liberators, including Benedict Arnold's small outfit, initially found the Quebecois ready to embrace the patriot cause. Montreal submitted quietly to the Americans, but they were unable to force or negotiate Quebec's surrender; the disastrous attack by the Americans on December 31, 1775, inspired resistance the Americans couldn't suppress or conciliate. Continental maladministration handicapped the emergence of effective civilian leadership, and Anderson's thorough description of the convoluted situation is a major strength of the book. While the main American force deteriorated in the face of Quebecois resistance, its Canadian supporters sought rural support, but their increasingly revolutionary approach generated progovernment insurrection instead. The arrival of a British relief force resulted in the subsequent

abandonment of an invasion that the Continental Congress was unprepared to control, adequately guide, or properly support. (Nov.) Anderson makes a significant contribution to a neglected aspect of the American Revolution in this comprehensive, well-written monograph. . . . Andersons thorough description [of the December 31, 1775 attack] is a major strength of the book. Publishers Weekly