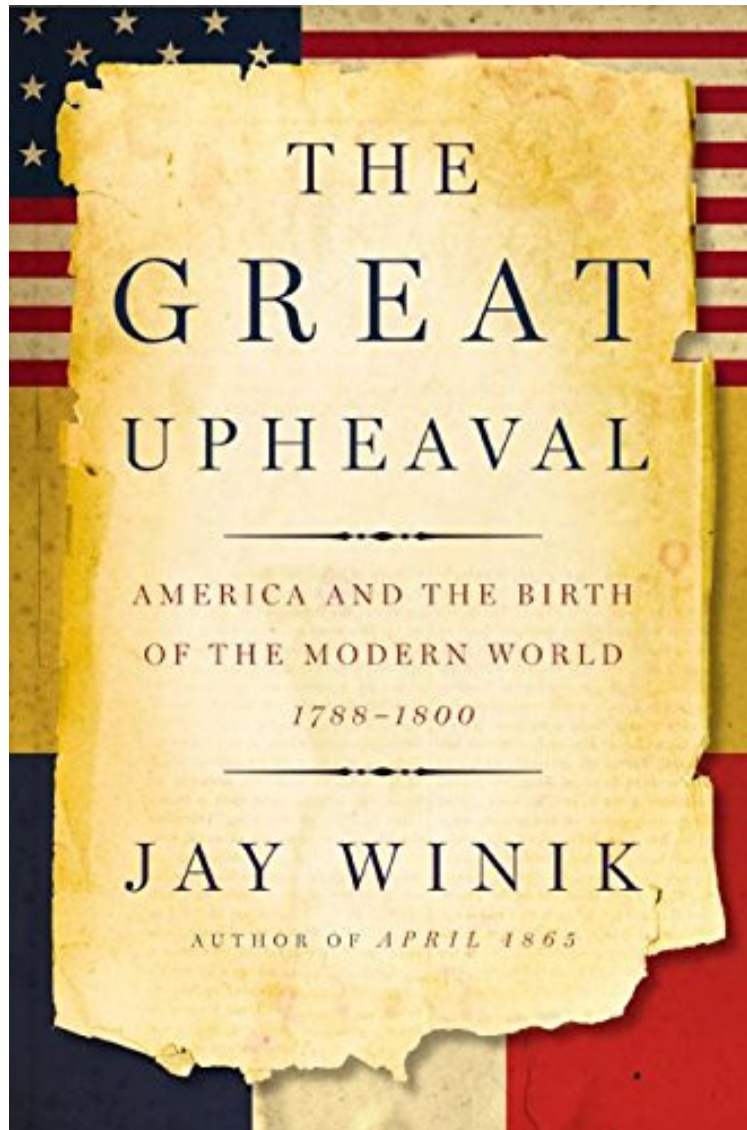


[Download] The Great Upheaval: America and the Birth of the Modern World, 1788-1800

The Great Upheaval: America and the Birth of the Modern World, 1788-1800

Jay Winik

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Jay Winik : The Great Upheaval: America and the Birth of the Modern World, 1788-1800 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Upheaval: America and the Birth of the Modern World, 1788-1800:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Audacity, Action, and Tragedy on a Global Scale By Terry Tucker The Book reads very well. It is very readable history. The author paints a compelling story of how the events,

ideas, and actors in England, France, Prussia, Russia and the United States were far more interconnected than most give credit for. What is probably the most compelling aspect is the fact that, although it would take a couple of decades for the ideas, players and events to foment, they all come together in the span of a decade and would give rise to the first Industrial Era and the Modern World. It is easy to focus on the singularity of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison and many others, but when juxtaposed against the geopolitics of the time, they truly were a "galaxy of humankind's greatest thinkers and doers...the most idealistic generation ever witnessed." Despite the vast physical distances and seeming slowness in communication, America and the world at large were not virtually independent of each other. The one drawback I would give this book is that the author spent a little more time in background information in some areas, specifically, for me, Turkey and the issue of slavery. Yes, background and level setting are necessary, however I felt that the author diverged too greatly a few times before returning to the crux of the story.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Important Reading By Cycling Writer Americans (myself included) are generally so ignorant of history, virtually any effort to remedy that deficiency could be called "important reading." This book, however, deserves more acclaim than that. It presents, and argues convincingly for, a thesis i.e., that representative democracy established itself against all odds during this period, 1788-1800, and the world is the beneficiary of America's experiment. The book does this by contrasting events in France and Russia during the same period. Well worth your time, and well written to the extent it reads more like a novel than a dry dates-and-facts historical tome. The book's one weakness is an editorial one, not likely to be noticed by many readers, but regrettable just the same: the author is fond of using single-sentence paragraphs (or even broken phrases; incomplete sentences) to emphasize conclusions, as if they were retrospective headings or subheads in the manuscript. I longed for better editing as I read the book, but this shortcoming in no way diminishes the book's value. It is important reading, and very readable. Buy and enjoy.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. popular history at it's best By Jonathan Noted popular historian Jay Winik has written a very enjoyable history of a very interesting and tumultuous period of American and World history. As previous reviewers Joseph Ellis and Gordon Wood have said in their reviews of this book, Winik's talent is that of a story teller and he does indeed tell a fascinating story here. While Winik's style is sometimes littered with the melodramatic contrivances that I would expect from Time magazine, he is never distracted from the sheer excitement and monumental importance of these events.

It is an era that redefined history. As the 1790s began, a fragile America teetered on the brink of oblivion, Russia towered as a vast imperial power, and France plunged into revolution. But in contrast to the way conventional histories tell it, none of these remarkable events occurred in isolation. Now, for the first time, in *The Great Upheaval*, acclaimed historian Jay Winik masterfully illuminates how their fates combined in one extraordinary moment to change the course of civilization. In this sweeping, magisterial drama, Winik brings his vast, meticulous research and narrative genius to the cold, dark battlefields and deadly clashes of ideologies that defined this age. Here is a savage world war, the toppling of a great dynasty, and an America struggling to survive at home and abroad. Here, too, is the first modern holy war between Islam and a resurgent Christian empire. And here is the richest cast of characters to walk upon the world stage: Washington and Jefferson, Louis XVI and Robespierre, Catherine the Great, Adams, Napoleon, and Selim III. With powerful echoes for understanding the international chaos that confronts the globe today, we see them all fighting desperately for the ideals they believed in, whether man-made democracy or divinely inspired autocracy, whether republicanism or Allah's law. Exquisitely written and utterly compelling, *The Great Upheaval* vividly depicts an arc of revolutionary fervor stretching from Philadelphia and Paris to St. Petersburg and Cairo with fateful results. A landmark in historical literature, Winik's gripping, epic portrait of this tumultuous decade will forever transform the way we see America's beginnings and our world.

.com Fresh and brilliant, this is the book that completely redefines the founding era. As the 1790s began, America was struggling to survive at home and abroad, and the world was gripped by an arc of revolutionary fervor stretching from Philadelphia and Paris to St. Petersburg and Cairo--with fatal results. While a fragile United States teetered on the brink of oblivion, Russia towered as a vast imperial power, the Islamic peoples were gearing for war, and France plunged into monumental revolution. In *The Great Upheaval*, acclaimed historian Jay Winik masterfully illuminates how their fates combined in one extraordinary moment to change the course of civilization and bequeath us the nation--indeed, the world--we've inherited. Below we see a brief taste of the incredible events and people who shaped this most memorable of decades. A Timeline of *The Great Upheaval* 1787 George Washington and the founders gather in Philadelphia to create the Constitution. Meanwhile, Russia's Empress Catherine the Great prepares her bloody assault on the Islamic Ottoman Empire, thus unleashing the first modern holy war between Islam and Christianity. 1789 When the Bastille falls, it is a sound heard around the world: George Washington is sent the key to the fortress, while upon the hearing the news, Russians dance in the streets. King Louis XVI asks, "Is this a revolt?" and is told, "No sire, it's a revolution." 1791-92 Having helped midwife the American rebels to independence, an outraged Catherine seeks to stamp out the French Revolutionary menace. Undaunted, a radicalized France soon declares, "war on the castles, peace on the cottages," triggering a savage world war that lasts 21 years and costs millions of lives. President George

Washington 1793 George Washington receives Revolutionary France's new envoy, Citizen Genet, who audaciously seeks to foment insurrection at America's borders, pitting American against American. An ocean away, the French king, who had been America's staunchest ally, is beheaded. 1794 The Whiskey Rebellion begins, threatening civil war in America. To Washington's chagrin, as the Terror heats up in France, the Whiskey Rebels in Pennsylvania carry mock guillotines, shoot up likenesses of George Washington, and threaten to march on Philadelphia. Washington frantically assembles a force larger than used at Yorktown. The execution of King Louis XVI 1795 Catherine's armies carve up the ancient kingdom of Poland, where the rebellion was led by a hero of the American revolution, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, sending a dire signal to the infant American Republic about the perils of military weakness. 1797-98 As Napoleon's armies ominously devour Europe "leaf by leaf," president John Adams fears the young republic will be invaded next. With war fever gripping the country, the administration harshly represses civil liberties. 1800 In the most contested election in U.S. history, military forces are mobilized and the nation again hangs on the precipice of civil war. But unlike in France and Russia, America manages an unprecedented first--a peaceful transfer of power between antagonists, making Thomas Jefferson America's third president. Empress Catherine the Great From Publishers Weekly Starred . The years 1788 to 1800 must be numbered among the most tumultuous in history, as bestselling author Winik (April 1865) magnificently demonstrates in this aptly titled book. The nascent United States, tormented by three rebellions of its own, tottered as France descended into bloody terror and imperial Russia fought the Ottomans. Republicanism, liberalism, democracy, nationalism, as well as authoritarianism: all these potent ideologies, whose effects remain with us, sprouted from this fertile soil. The emphasis on Russian and French affairs marks Winik as being in the forefront of a growing campaign to globalize America's national history: to view the larger age and frame the story as one continuous, interlocking narrative rather than to focus myopically on events in the United States. The world then was far more interconnected than we realize, Winik writes. [G]reat nations and leaders were acutely conscious of one another. In this version, Washington, Jefferson and Adams no longer receive exclusive star billing, but instead share the stage with such greats as the Empress Catherine, the doomed Louis XVI, Robespierre, Napoleon and Kosciuszko. If there is a criticism to be made of this approach, it is that Winik has greatly underplayed the importance of Britain in the struggle for global mastery and the quest for international order. Buttressed by impeccable research, vividly narrated and deftly organized, this is popular history of the highest order and is sure to create a stir in the fall market. 16 pages of bw photos, 3 maps. (Sept. 11) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The great strengths of Winik's massive examination of this tumultuous period is his demonstration of how events in the U.S. and Europe were part of a process of cross-fertilization. The title dates are not arbitrary. In 1788, the U.S. began its operation under a new constitution; in 1800, after years of partisan divisions and social conflict, the Americans peacefully accepted the transfer of power from the Federalists to Jefferson's Democratic-Republicans. Between those years, the U.S. and Europe experienced turmoil, revolution, and wars that shaped the world for the next two centuries. American commitment to republican ideals influenced French revolutionaries; they, under the threat of foreign intervention, instituted a repressive regime that would presage twentieth-century totalitarianism. In Russia, the "enlightened" Catherine the Great was shocked by the violence in France and turned from liberalization to a strengthened autocracy. Her desire for expansion led to the destruction of the Polish state and war with the Muslim Turks, both of which had immense consequences in the twentieth century. An outstandingly wide-ranging account of this vital era in world history. Freeman, Jay