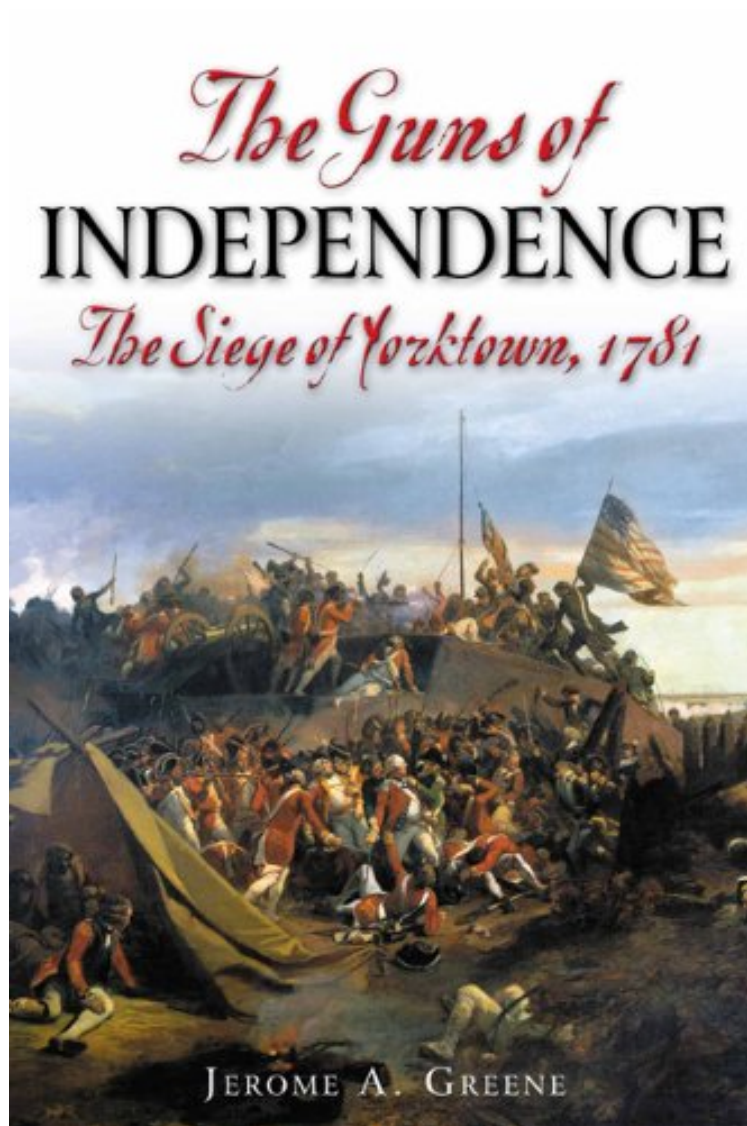


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The Guns of Independence: The Siege of Yorktown, 1781

Jerome A. Greene

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Jerome A. Greene : The Guns of Independence: The Siege of Yorktown, 1781 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Guns of Independence: The Siege of Yorktown, 1781:

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Independence at my local library. I was so impressed with it I bought myself one off . I have read a little bit of it so far and really enjoy it. This is the best book on Yorktown out there, and if you only read one book about the battle than won American independence, make it The Guns of Independence.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I would also recommend this book for anyone interested in learning about 18th ...By Brian MurrayThis book is essential for anyone desiring to truly understand how we won our independence at Yorktown. You may know what we did at Yorktown, with this book you will learn how we did it. I would also recommend this book for anyone interested in learning about 18th century artillery as well. While reading the book I thought about the other Yorktown battle to follow less than 100 years later, and the siege of Vicksburg as well.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Good Presentation of the Yorktown BattleBy P. R. SmithAlthough this book has some parts that contain fatiguing detail that is best if glossed over, I found it to be very informative. I had little knowledge of the Yorktown Battle prior to reading Guns of Independence. After completing this book I have a much better understanding of the physical layout of the battlefield, the sequence of events and the personalities involved. I plan to visit the battlefield this coming October and will benefit greatly from what I have learned from having read this. My appreciation of the contribution made by the French to the final victory at Yorktown is forever changed. We could never have prevailed without the contribution made by their naval and land forces. The superior equipped and trained French artillery was critical to the successful outcome. I recommend searching the internet for printable maps of the battlfield, one of which I found on the National Park Service Yorktown website. The maps in the book are helpful but if you are reading it on Kindle the print will be very small. Having a map is critical to understanding content of the book.

The siege of Yorktown in the fall of 1781 was the most decisive engagement of the American Revolution. The campaign has all the drama any historian or student could want: the wars top generals and admirals pitted against one another; decisive naval engagements; cavalry fighting; siege warfare; night bayonet attacks; and more. Until now, however, no modern scholarly treatment of the campaign has ever been produced.By the summer of 1781, America had been at war with England for six years. No one believed in 1775 that the colonists would put up such a long and credible struggle. France sided with the colonies in 1778, but it was the dispatch of 5,500 infantry under Rochambeau in the summer of 1780 that shifted the tide of war against the British.In early 1781, after his victories in the Southern Colonies, Lord Cornwallis marched his army north into Virginia. He believed the Americans could be decisively defeated in Virginia and the war brought to an end. George Washington believed Cornwalliss move was a strategic blunder, and he moved vigorously to exploit it. Feinting against General Clinton and the British stronghold of New York, Washington marched his army quickly south. With the assistance of Rochambeaus infantry and a key French naval victory at the Battle of the Capes in September, Washington trapped Cornwallis on the tip of a narrow Virginia peninsula at a place called Yorktown. And so it began.Operating on the belief that Clinton would arrive with reinforcements, Cornwallis confidently remained within Yorktowns inadequate defenses. Determined that nothing short of outright surrender would suffice, his opponent labored day and night to achieve that end. Washingtons brilliance was on display as he skillfully constricted Cornwalliss position by digging entrenchments, erecting redoubts and artillery batteries, and launching well-timed attacks to capture key enemy positions. The nearly flawless Allied campaign sealed Cornwalliss fate. Trapped inside crumbling defenses, he surrendered on October 19, 1781, effectively ending the war in North America.Penned by historian Jerome A. Greene, The Guns of Independence: The Siege of Yorktown, 1781, now available in paperback, offers a complete and balanced examination of the siege and the participants involved. Greenes study is based upon extensive archival research and firsthand archaeological investigation of the battlefield. This fresh and invigorating study will satisfy everyone interested in American Revolutionary history, artillery, siege tactics, and brilliant leadership.About the Author: Jerome A. Greene is a retired historian with the National Park Service. He is the author or editor of many books, including Morning Star Dawn: The Powder River Expedition and the Northern Cheyenne, 1876, Washita: The U.S. Army and the Southern Cheyennes, 1867-1869, and Indian War Veterans. Mr. Greene resides in Colorado.

About the AuthorJerome A. Greene is a retired historian with the National Park Service. He is the author or editor of many books, including Lakota and Cheyenne: Indian Views of the Great Sioux War, 1876-1877, Morning Star Dawn: The Powder River Expedition and the Northern Cheyennes, 1876, and his most recent effort, Washita: The U.S. Army and the Southern Cheyennes, 1867-1869.