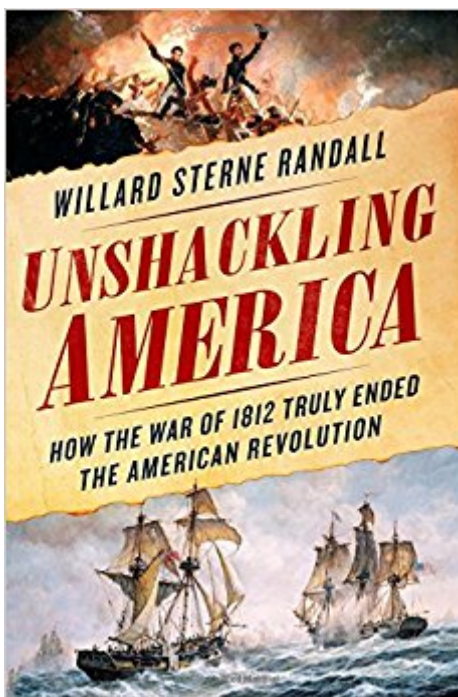


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Unshackling America: How The War Of 1812 Truly Ended The American Revolution



Synopsis

Unshackling America challenges the persistent fallacy that Americans fought two separate wars of independence. Willard Sterne Randall documents an unremitting fifty-year-long struggle for economic independence from Britain overlapping two armed conflicts linked by an unacknowledged global struggle. Throughout this perilous period, the struggle was all about free trade. Neither Jefferson nor any other Founding Father could divine that the Revolutionary Period of 1763 to 1783 had concluded only one part, the first phase of their ordeal. The Treaty of Paris of 1783 at the end of the Revolutionary War halted overt combat but had achieved only partial political autonomy from Britain. By not guaranteeing American economic independence and agency, Britain continued to deny American sovereignty. Randall details the fifty years and persistent attempts by the British to control American trade waters, but he also shows how, despite the outrageous restrictions, the United States asserted the doctrine of neutral rights and developed the world's second largest merchant fleet as it absorbed the French Caribbean trade. American ships carrying trade increased five-fold between 1790 and 1800, its tonnage nearly doubling again between 1800 and 1812, ultimately making the United States the world's largest independent maritime power.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[A] lush, readable account of the war in all its complexity. Admirers of Mr. Randall's biographies will not be disappointed with the intertwined tale the author weaves in Unshackling America: The events of the war unfold in an accessible, chronological narrative, peppered with lively

vignettes from the front lines of battle, the drawing rooms of Washington and Europe, and the everyday experiences of ordinary noncombatants." *—The Wall Street Journal*"A well-researched history that shows how the War of 1812 created America's final separation from England." *—Kirkus Reviews*"Randall brings to life the violent skirmishes that played out in the name of trade on sea, lake, and land." *—Publishers Weekly*"Randall is an engaging and adept storyteller" *—Library Journal*"Those who enjoy reading history will profit from this book." *—The Oklahoman*"*—*"a deeply researched, penetrating and exciting tale."*—Road to Hubbardton*"In *Unshackling America*, Willard Randall gives us an account of the early republic that finally makes sense of the "forgotten" War of 1812, even as it turns the conflict itself into an exciting drama. The big issues of that era--free trade, a refugee crisis, brutal party rivalries, and foreign meddling in American affairs--resonate with our own headlines. This is history as it should be written: illuminating insights grounded in gritty reality. An important book." *—Jack Kelly, author of Band of Giants and Heaven's Ditch*"After America's War of Independence ended in 1783, the British proved to be sore losers. For more than three decades, with impunity they violated American sovereignty on land and sea. Randall's *Unshackling America* makes a detailed, powerful, and convincing case that America did not achieve true independence during the war of 1775-1783, but only after a far longer war of fits and starts that did not end until Andrew Jackson's rout of the British at New Orleans in 1815." *—Richard Sylla, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Stern School, New York University* "In this fast paced, carefully researched and powerfully argued book, Willard Randall challenges the traditional notion that the War of 1812 was a second American Revolution. Instead, he lays out a convincing case that this war must be seen as the culmination of the American struggle for independence from Great Britain that began in 1776. A consummate stylist, Randall captures both the political tensions leading to the declaration of "Mr. Madison's War," and the drama of the military and naval battles that followed. This is an important book and one that both scholars and readers interested in our national past should read." *—Carol Berkin, Presidential Professor of History, Emerita, Baruch College & The Graduate Center, CUNY*

WILLARD STERNE RANDALL is a journalist and author of several biographies of Founding Fathers. He is a Distinguished Scholar in History and Professor at Champlain College. He lives in Burlington, Vermont with his wife, with whom he has co-authored multiple volumes of history.

As a student of history, and although I am only half way through the book, I love it, It is excellently

written and full of information that I was only superficially aware of.

I didn't know much about the War of 1812 before reading this. I found it captivating and well written, and thorough without being long-winded or self-indulgent. I would highly recommend this to any history buff!

Great read . Could not put it down. At least I got the truth why Washington did not run for a third term.

Tedious and overwritten. I wanted to read about the War of 1812, and instead found myself ploughing through the minutiae of trade relations between the Colonies and Great Britain going back to the mid 1700's. I lasted 50 pages and then gave up. BORING. No human interest. Just endless Parliamentary Acts and unnecessary details. The author needed to put a major "comb" through this story and cull out what was new and interesting.

Goes into detail I never knew about rev war and 1812... Bill

All's well

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