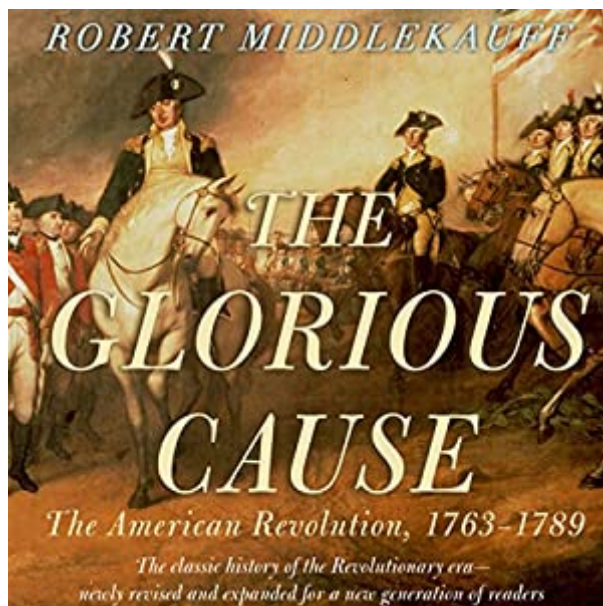


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# The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution: 1763-1789



## Synopsis

The first book to appear in the illustrious Oxford History of the United States, this critically-acclaimed volume - a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize - offers an unsurpassed history of the Revolutionary War and the birth of the American republic. This panoramic view of the conflict between England and America combines the political and the personal, giving the listener a vivid sense of how the colonists perceived the events of their struggle for independence, from the French and Indian War to "the shot heard round the world", and the importance the colonists assigned to them. Praised as "state of the art" and "the most distinguished series in American historical scholarship", the four new volumes of the Oxford History of the United States - including *The Glorious Cause* - are narrated with engagingly casual warmth by Robert Fass, who previously read an earlier volume in the series, *Empire of Liberty*, by Gordon S. Wood. Please note: The individual volumes of the series have not been published in historical order. *The Glorious Cause* is number III in *The Oxford History of the United States*.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 27 hours

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: January 3, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B004HYCKBM

Best Sellers Rank: #48 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Colonial Period #98 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Revolution & Founding #136 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Military

## Customer Reviews

Fascinating detail that illuminates a transition from a collection of Colonies, never so much governed as exploited, to citizens in recognition of common ideals as well as needs. Robert Middlekauff may have occasionally lost the immediacy of the flow of battle descriptions, through a persistent examination of biographical detail of military commanders, and, at times, deep analysis of relationships, correspondence and interpersonal relationships as a means of explaining actions and

strategies of commanders, in the midst of battle accounts, but the added detail was often helpful to a more complete understanding of the miraculous patriot victory. The very complete analysis of events, personalities and their roles, make this a very valuable key to understanding the foundations of American Ideology woven into a remarkable story in which Middlekauff delightfully illustrates the always tenuous miracle of the American Victory reminding us of the Glorious nature of the Cause that brought our country to be.

This is a good overview of the American Revolution as well as what came before and after it. The book begins with a lengthy description and analysis of the forces that helped produce the Revolution, and ends with a description and analysis of the changes the War produced in the 13 former colonies of Great Britain. I have only one chapter left to read, and am already sad that I won't have the book to read in the near future. I just made a long-distance move from the East Coast to the Midwest. I began the book in Maine, read it during my 3-day trip from Maine to Ohio, and am finishing it in Ohio. It's been a difficult move for me, and somehow this book gave me some continuity during the process; it was something I could always turn to and know I'd have a few minutes of pure enjoyment at the end of each day I grappled with my difficult transition. The author's style of writing is clear, concise, evocative, never dry. He makes you feel like you're present at Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and Trenton. Every time I picked this book up I was eager to continue reading it. Before reading *The Glorious Cause* I'd read Fischer's *Paul Revere's Ride* and his *Washington's Crossing* (of the Delaware), both of which delve deeply into two specific aspects of the Revolution, so I was ready for a good overview of the War. This book gave it to me.

This is a readable book about the beginning of the United States. It covers the American revolution, the war of independence and the draft of the Constitution. It provides an informed account of the historical process, its main figures and events. The difficulties faced by the Americans and its resilience toward the challenge of emancipation are well exposed. Little emphasis, though, are given to the formation of the Constitution and to the process of its ratification by the confederate states. This is the first volume of the *Oxford History of the United States*. Robert Middlekauff doesn't disappoint his readers. His prose is clear. His narrative enlightened.

A fairly lengthy book but is the gold standard of the early days to establish this nation. Detailed enough to be a college text but the writing is deft and never boring. You can never travel back in time but this is the next best way to experience what it was to resist the treachery of Parliament and

George III to deprive Americans of their liberty and property. You will understand how the response to the Stamp Act and other coercive measures began in a respectful manner then grew more political ending in armed rebellion. Nothing is spared including the lack of support from Congress for the Continental Army, the mistakes by Washington coupled with the lack of initiative of Howe and Cornwallis led up to the successful Southern Campaign culminating in the victory at Yorktown.

Excellent book and well written overall. Gives comprehensive understanding of the geopolitical reasons that gave rise to the American Revolution, as well as great descriptions of the campaigns fought during the war. Provides deeper understanding of topics you may have learned in grade school. Great fun to read. If you are looking for a one volume, comprehensive study of the American Revolution, this is your book. Only criticism I have is that I wished the author provided a bit more clarity as to what the Stamp Tax actually taxed and why Benedict Arnold changed sides. But, this criticism is mere minutia when taking into consideration the sheer magnitude of this book.

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