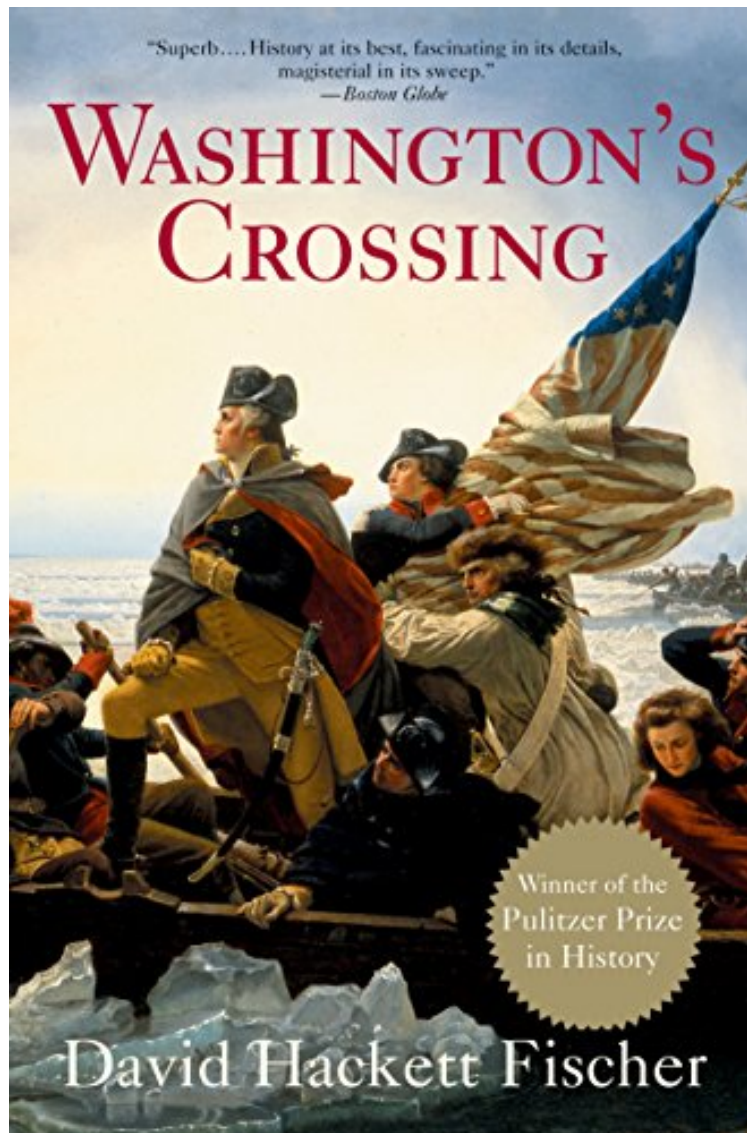


(Mobile book) Washington's Crossing (Pivotal Moments in American History)

Washington's Crossing (Pivotal Moments in American History)

Von David Hackett Fischer

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Von David Hackett Fischer : Washington's Crossing (Pivotal Moments in American History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Washington's Crossing (Pivotal Moments in American History):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Merry ChristmasVon Dr. Jens P. BeckerNein, die deutsche Garnison feierte nicht volltrunken Weihnachten als sie von Washingtons kleiner Armee berrascht wurden. Und der bergang ber den Delaware sah in der Wirklichkeit auch anders

aus als auf dem berühmten Bild von Emmanuel Leutze. Der Doyen der amerikanischen Historiker, David Hackett Fischer, hat sich die ersten Siege von Washingtons Armee bei Trenton und Princeton als Thema genommen. Nicht dass dies wirklich bedeutende Schlachten des Unabhängigkeitskrieges gewesen sind, Saratoga wäre das, vielleicht sogar das Gefecht von Cowpens. Aber sie sind, wie der Reihentitel sagt "Pivotal Moments in American History". Sie sind psychologisch von ungeheurer Bedeutung und geben der zusammengewürfelten Armee und ihrem Oberkommandierenden Selbstvertrauen. Fischer hat alle Figuren dieses Dramas aus den Archiven geholt (der 200-seitige Appendix macht diese Leistung deutlich), von General Howe bis zum kleinen hessischen Soldaten, und hat sie zum Leben erweckt. Nicht nur das Militär, auch die Zivilbevölkerung wird vor unseren Augen wieder lebendig. Es gelingt dem Autor, uns das Geschehen so plastisch zu vermitteln, dass wir als Leser das Gefühl bekommen, an der Jahreswende 1776 zu 1777 hier dabeigewesen zu sein. Aber so exzellent das Buch ist, es fehlt ihm das letzte Flair. Barbara Tuchmann schreibt in "The First Salute" aufregender (obgleich ihre Leistung als Historikerin da nicht so groß ist) und auch Christopher Hibbert ist spannender. Das liegt wahrscheinlich daran, dass Fischer kein Militärgeschichtler ist. In diesem Fall hätte es ihm nicht geschadet, wenn er etwas weniger in Archiven gewühlt hätte und etwas mehr vom englischen Meister der "military history", John Keegan, gelernt hätte. Und manchmal sind auch bedeutende Historiker betriebsblind. Wenn Fischer von einem Studenten namens Seume in hessischen Diensten berichtet, dann hat man nicht das Gefühl, dass er weiß, wer dieser J.G. Seume wirklich ist. Aber trotz dieser Mängel bleibt es ein 5 Sterne Buch. Und wenn der Leser vielleicht den ganzen wissenschaftlichen Apparat nicht lesen mag, die Teile über das Ereignis in der bildenden Kunst sollte er unbedingt lesen. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A masterpiece of writing Von Celtic1776 What an amazing piece of writing. This is an absolutely wonderful book. Mr. Hackett Fischer leaves out no details, in my opinion, when dealing with the campaign of late 1776 to January 1777. The facts are great and written in a style that makes them both informative and interesting. Maps and pictures abound and are to be found on the relative pages of the text. Never a person to read appendices this time I did, because I didn't want the book to end. I was well rewarded as the appendices gave more information regarding such subjects as strength estimates for all combatants, orders of battle, casualties and even weather conditions for December 1776 ! All in all this book is a stunning addition to any historical library.

Kurzbeschreibung Six months after the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution was all but lost. A powerful British force had routed the Americans at New York, occupied three colonies, and advanced within sight of Philadelphia. Yet, as David Hackett Fischer recounts in this riveting history, George Washington--and many other Americans--refused to let the Revolution die. On Christmas night, as a howling nor'easter struck the Delaware Valley, he led his men across the river and attacked the exhausted Hessian garrison at Trenton, killing or capturing nearly a thousand men. A second battle of Trenton followed within days. The Americans held off a counterattack by Lord Cornwallis's best troops, then were almost trapped by the British force. Under cover of night, Washington's men stole behind the enemy and struck them again, defeating a brigade at Princeton. The British were badly shaken. In twelve weeks of winter fighting, their army suffered severe damage, their hold on New Jersey was broken, and their strategy was ruined. Fischer's richly textured narrative reveals the crucial role of contingency in these events. We see how the campaign unfolded in a sequence of difficult choices by many actors, from generals to civilians, on both sides. While British and German forces remained rigid and hierarchical, Americans evolved an open and flexible system that was fundamental to their success. The startling success of Washington and his compatriots not only saved the faltering American Revolution, but helped to give it new meaning. From Publishers Weekly At the core of an impeccably researched, brilliantly executed military history is an analysis of George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River in December 1776 and the resulting destruction of the Hessian garrison of Trenton and defeat of a British brigade at Princeton. Fischer's perceptive discussion of the strategic, operational and tactical factors involved is by itself worth the book's purchase. He demonstrates Washington's insight into the revolution's desperate political circumstances, shows how that influenced the idea of a riposte against an enemy grown overconfident with success and presents Washington's skillful use of what his army could do well. Even more useful is Fischer's analysis of the internal dynamics of the combatants. He demonstrates mastery of the character of the American, British and Hessian armies, highlighting that British troops, too, fought for ideals, sacred to them, of loyalty and service. Above all, Brandeis historian Fischer (Albion's Seed) uses the Trenton campaign to reveal the existence, even in the revolution's early stage, of a distinctively American way of war, much of it based on a single fact: civil and military leaders were accountable to a citizenry through their representatives. From Washington down, Fischer shows, military leaders acknowledged civil supremacy and worked with civil officials. Washington used firepower and intelligence as force multipliers to speed the war for a practical people who wanted to win quickly in order to return to their ordinary lives. Tempo, initiative and speed marked the Trenton campaign from first to last. And Washington fought humanely, extending quarter in battle and insisting on decent treatment of prisoners. The crossing of the Delaware, Fischer teaches, should be seen as emblematic of more than a turning of the war's tide. 91 halftone, 15 maps. 3-city author

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* Victorious since landing at New York in the summer of 1776, the British, by winter, were succeeding in their strategy to squelch the American rebellion. Many sunshine patriots, including a signer of the Declaration of Independence, accepted amnesty, while the small American army, ravaged by defeats in New York and the retreat across New Jersey, huddled along the Pennsylvania bank of the Delaware River. From this nadir in the rebels' affairs, Fischer launches his subject--how the Americans reversed their fortunes in a short, sharp campaign that impressed military professionals at the time and since. An eminent, readable historian, Fischer (*Paul Revere's Ride*, 1994) here delivers an outstanding analytical narrative. He opens with commentary about Emmanuel Leutze's iconic painting, *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, whose unapologetic heroism induces mockery from deconstructing sophisticates. The painting captures much historical truth, counters Fischer, which he uncovers in functional yet transfixing prose. Fischer's exhaustive research, right down to the Americans' collection of supplies, captures the utter precariousness of the Americans' situation. A must-read for military-history fans, Fischer's work will also draw those who want to know more about the historical reality behind a celebrated image. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved