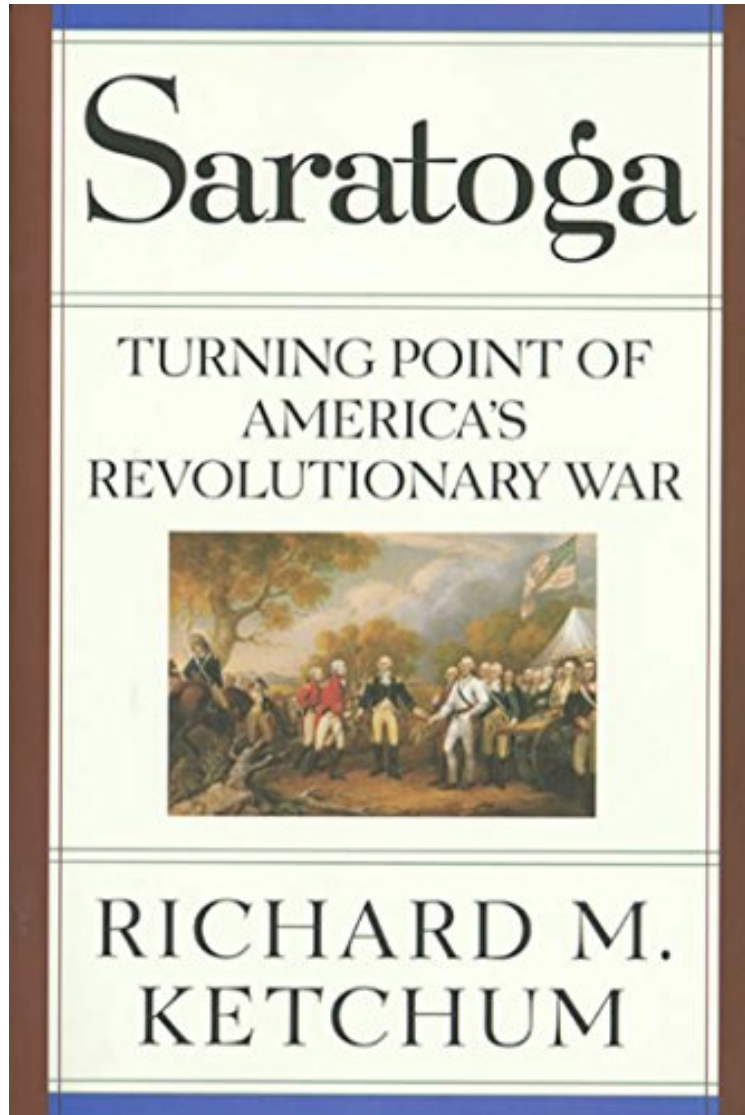


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## Saratoga: Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War

Von Richard M. Ketchum

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**Von Richard M. Ketchum : Saratoga: Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saratoga: Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent account of "the turning point of the Revolution." Von Mike Powers "Saratoga" is the third book written by historian Richard M. Ketchum on major battles of the American Revolution. Using letters and other first-hand accounts from both American and British sources, Ketchum skillfully, impartially, and with great detail narrates the

events which occurred in upstate New York during the spring, summer and autumn of 1777. These included the early British victories at Fort Ticonderoga and Hubbardton; the later American victories at Bennington and Freeman's Farm; and the surrender of all British forces by their commander, Lieutenant General John Burgoyne, at Saratoga, New York, on October 17, 1777. For me, this was a fairly well written account of the battle commonly described as "the turning point of the American Revolution." Ketchum's descriptions of the various personalities and battles are vivid and colorful, and almost transported me to the battlefield. However, "Saratoga" is not as good as his earlier works "Decisive Day" and "The Winter Soldiers." The pace of the narrative is slower, especially at the beginning. Here Ketchum seems to go into too much detail setting the stage for battles to come. (For instance, I kept wondering why so many pages were devoted to the author's description of the Franklin-Carroll mission to persuade Canada to join the rebellion.) "Saratoga" could also have benefited from more maps and illustrations of better quality. These are, however, relatively minor reservations about an overall excellent book, one which I heartily recommend to anyone seeking a greater understanding of one of the most important battles ever fought on North American soil.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great story told by the participants and a good writer. Von Wayne A. Smith Ketchum gives a full retrospective of the Saratoga campaign. The events that led to the campaign, the players, the unit actions, common soldiers reflections and effect of perhaps America's most important victory during the War for Independence are interestingly woven together in this well written narrative. I was not aware that such a vast array of personal diary material and letters were available from this period. Apparently many soldiers and low grade officers wrote about their experiences just as during the Civil War. One hopes this author and others will use this narrative approach to enliven other battles of the Revolution.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Why the Revolution succeeded; the soldier's view Von Ein Kunde Ketchum writes a detailed history of Saratoga and the events leading to the battle drawing largely from the correspondence of the soldiers who fought the battle. As such, "Saratoga" gives a detailed, participants' view of the battle. At this level, the work is enthralling, tense and a book which is difficult to put down. Shortcomings exist in several areas. First, the maps are weak. The text is detailed and makes reference to many points which are difficult or impossible to discern from the maps in the text. Moreover, given a battle so dependant on terrain, terrain is poorly illustrated on most of the maps. Second, Ketchum is weak on the summary of the battles and skirmishes. On the major actions the impacts are clear, yet on some of the minor actions, the results are less clear. Left unexplained is the success of the Indian groups fighting with the British. Indian actions against American troops seemed singularly successful. It is unexplained why the Indians were so successful as well as how the Americans countered. Finally, while it is clear that Burgoyne's failure at Saratoga may have insured the success of the Revolution, it is less than clear whether Burgoyne's success would have insured British success in holding the colonies. On finishing the book one is left with something of the feeling that comes at the end of Fitzgerald's "Fire in the Lake": Battles may be won by the British, but the war was lost at the start. In the end, Ketchum's greatest success lies in illustrating the commitment and fervor of the individual American to obtaining independence.

Kurzbeschreibung In the summer of 1777 (twelve months after the Declaration of Independence) the British launched an invasion from Canada under General John Burgoyne. It was the campaign that was supposed to end the rebellion, but it resulted in a series of battles that changed America's history and that of the world. Stirring narrative history, skillfully told through the perspective of those who fought in the campaign, Saratoga brings to life as never before the inspiring story of Americans who did their utmost in what seemed a lost cause, achieving what proved to be the crucial victory of the Revolution. A New York Times Notable Book, 1997 Winner of the Frances Tavenner Museum Award, 1997 Pressestimmen "This is superbly researched, full-scale narrative history at its best." (David McCullough) This is superbly researched, full-scale narrative history at its best. "David McCullough" More than a brilliant, gripping account of one of history's most important battles; it is a vivid, needed reminder of how hard-fought, gritty, sweat-soaked, god-awful, heroic, and all-important was the American War. Like Shelby Foote unfolding the drama of the Civil War, Richard M. Ketchum writes of the Revolution as if he had been there . . . No novelist could create characters more memorable than the protagonists on both the American and British sides . . . This is superbly researched, full-scale narrative history at its best. "David McCullough, author of John Adams" "This is superbly researched, full-scale narrative history at its best." --David McCullough "More than a brilliant, gripping account of one of history's most important battles; it is a vivid, needed reminder of how hard-fought, gritty, sweat-soaked, god-awful, heroic, and all-important was the American War. Like Shelby Foote unfolding the drama of the Civil War, Richard M. Ketchum writes of the Revolution as if he had been there . . . No novelist could create characters more memorable than the protagonists on both the American and British sides . . . This is superbly researched, full-scale narrative history at its best." --David McCullough, author of John Adams

Werbetext The fascinating story of the decisive battle of the American Revolution which secured independence from Britain and changed the history of the world.