

American Independence And The Men Of France And Spain Who Saved It

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The American Revolution is widely regarded as a pivotal moment in American history, marking the birth of a new nation built on the principles of liberty and independence. While the American colonists fought valiantly for their freedom, it is important to acknowledge the crucial role played by foreign allies, specifically the men of France and Spain, in achieving American independence. This article explores the significant contributions made by these European powers, highlighting their strategic support, military assistance, and diplomatic efforts that proved instrumental in shaping the destiny of the United States.

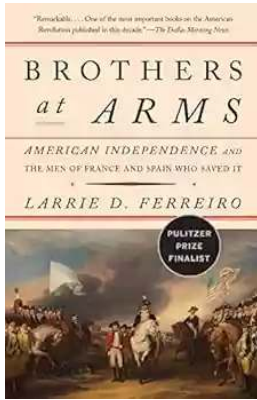
1. A Cry for Help

As the Revolutionary War unfolded, the American colonists faced numerous challenges. Outnumbered and lacking military experience, they were in desperate need of aid. All eyes turned to France and Spain, two powerful nations who had their own vested interests in supporting the American cause. The French monarchy and the Spanish empire, eager to weaken their common enemy, Great Britain, saw an opportunity to strike a blow against their rival through their support for the American revolutionaries.

Brothers at Arms: American Independence and the Men of France and Spain Who Saved It

by Larrie D. Ferreiro(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5



1.1 France Steps In

France's involvement in the American Revolution was pivotal. From providing financial support to military assistance, the French played a key role in tilting the balance of power in favor of the American colonists. In 1776, after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, American envoys including Benjamin Franklin, sought out French support. Franklin's diplomatic skills and persuasive abilities were instrumental in convincing the French court to back the American cause.

France's aid to the American Revolution escalated in 1778 when they formally signed the Treaty of Alliance, pledging military support against Great Britain. The French navy, under the command of Admiral de Grasse, played a critical role in the decisive American victory at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. This battle effectively ended the war and secured American independence.

1.2 The Spanish Connection

While the Spanish involvement in the American Revolution may not be widely known, its contribution was significant. Spain declared war on Great Britain in 1779, determined to reclaim territories lost during previous conflicts. Spanish recognition of American independence in 1779 dealt another blow to British

influence. Additionally, Spain's control of strategic ports and their ability to disrupt British supply lines in the Caribbean played a crucial role in weakening British forces.

2. Seal of Friendship: France and the United States

Following the American victory, France and the United States continued to strengthen their diplomatic ties. The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1783, formally recognized American independence and established favorable trade relations between the two nations. The French, impressed by the American struggle for liberty, saw in the United States the embodiment of democratic ideals and they sought to nurture this friendship in the years to come.

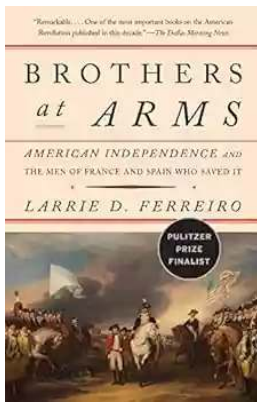
The deep-rooted appreciation for France's support during the American Revolution is embodied in the Statue of Liberty, a gift from France to the United States. The statue stands tall today in New York Harbor as a symbol of the enduring bond between the two countries and a testament to the victory achieved through collaboration and dedication.

3. Lessons from the Past

The alliance between the American colonists, France, and Spain during the American Revolution provides valuable lessons for modern-day diplomacy and international relations. It underscores the importance of humanitarian and shared values in fostering alliances, as well as the significance of strategic partnerships in achieving a common goal. The American Revolution showed that the pursuit of freedom and independence can unite nations, even those with divergent interests, for a greater cause.

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The American Revolution was no ordinary war for independence. It was a struggle that brought together nations from across the Atlantic, with the men of France and Spain playing a crucial role in securing American liberty. Their military assistance, financial support, and diplomatic efforts were integral in turning the tide in favor of the American colonists. This enduring bond between the United States, France, and Spain continues to shape the world we live in today. As we celebrate American Independence Day, let us not forget the men of France and Spain who, with their unwavering commitment, helped lay the foundation for a nation built on the principles of freedom and democracy.



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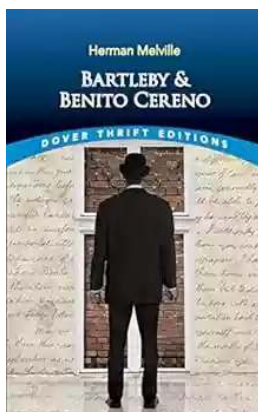
Pulitzer Prize Finalist in History

Winner of the Journal of the American Revolution 2016 Book of the Year Award

The remarkable untold story of how the American Revolution's success depended on substantial military assistance provided by France and Spain, and places the Revolution in the context of the global strategic interests of those nations in their fight against England.

In this groundbreaking, revisionist history, Larrie Ferreiro shows that at the time the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord the colonists had little chance, if any, of militarily defeating the British. The nascent American nation had no navy, little in the way of artillery, and a militia bereft even of gunpowder. In his detailed accounts Ferreiro shows that without the extensive military and financial support of the French and Spanish, the American cause would never have succeeded. France and Spain provided close to the equivalent of \$30 billion and 90 percent of all guns used by the Americans, and they sent soldiers and sailors by the thousands to fight and die alongside the Americans, as well as around the world.

Ferreiro adds to the historical records the names of French and Spanish diplomats, merchants, soldiers, and sailors whose contribution is at last given recognition. Instead of viewing the American Revolution in isolation, *Brothers at Arms* reveals the birth of the American nation as the centerpiece of an international coalition fighting against a common enemy.



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