



Reading more deeply

Easy

Chernow, R., *Washington: A Life*, New York, Penguin Press, 2010.

Ron Chernow's book is a 'one-volume, cradle-to-grave narrative' that attempts to provide a fresh portrait of Washington as 'real, credible, and charismatic in the same way he was perceived by his contemporaries'. Note that reading the preface or introduction of history books is a brief way to see the historian's point of view, as it is there that he or she often explains why the book was written, how it was written and its main conclusions.

Moderate

Pearsall, S., "Women in the American Revolutionary War", in Gray, E. & Kamensky, J. (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of the American Revolution*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2013, pp. 273–90.

Sarah M. S. Pearsall considers various ways that women affected the Revolutionary War, and the ways that the war affected them, too. She sketches a range of interesting topics, including; the ways that the Continental Army used stories about women's treatment by the British for propagandistic purposes in order to help recruitment; the role of women during the initial military occupation (1775-76); the role of women in anti-war politics in England (1778); First Nations women during the war (1779); and women's diverse roles during the war (1780-2).

Jennings, F., *The Creation of America: Through Revolution to Empire*, UK, Cambridge University Press, 2000. Ch. 31–9. pp. 207–69.

For a concise and accessibly written left-wing academic account of the Revolutionary War, read chapters 31 to 39 of Francis Jennings's text.

Challenging

Fischer, D.H., *Washington's Crossing, Pivotal Moments in American History*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2004.

Fischer provides a step-by-step account of Washington's campaign after crossing the Delaware in 1776. He attributes much of the Americans' success to their open and flexible system, which gave them an advantage over the rigid and hierarchical system maintained by the British and German forces. Fisher proposes that not only did the success of Washington and his peers save the faltering American Revolution, but it also gave it new purpose and significance.