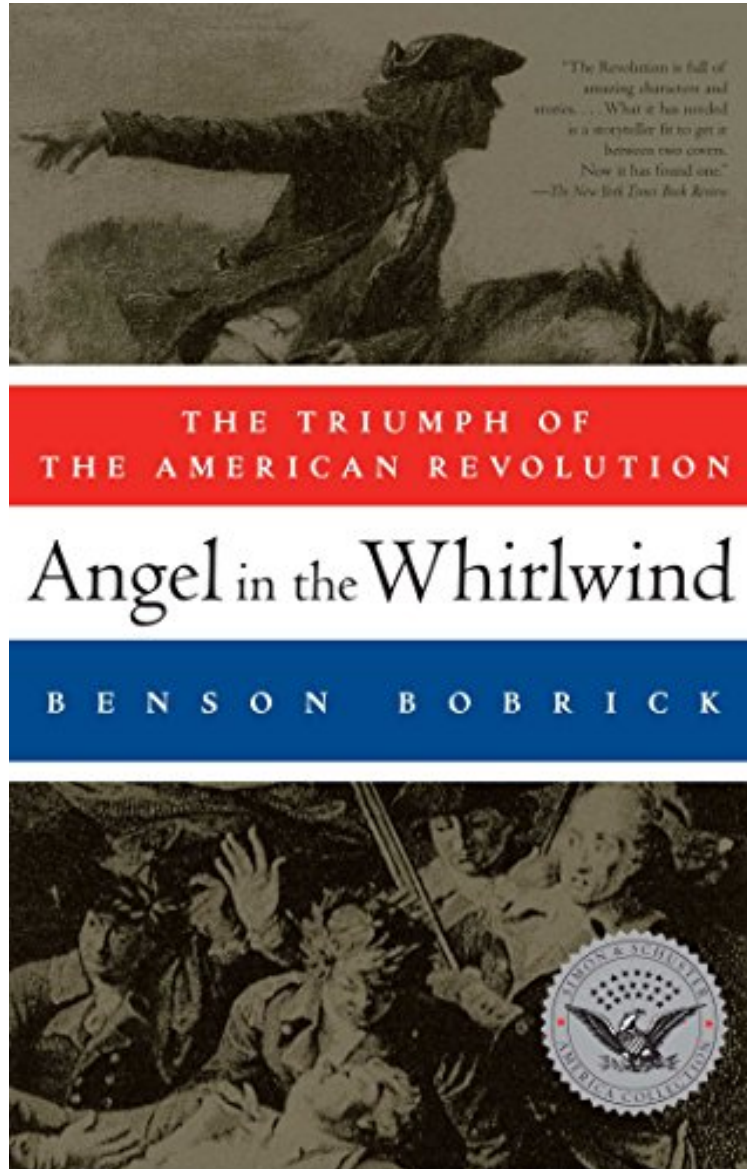


[Ebook free] Angel in the Whirlwind (Simon Schuster America Collection) (English Edition)

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Von Benson Bobrick

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Von Benson Bobrick : Angel in the Whirlwind (Simon Schuster America Collection) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Angel in the Whirlwind (Simon Schuster America Collection) (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Lackluster and superficialVon Ein KundeFirst, let me say that I am not a military historian, nor have read many books on the subject. But, after reading *The Civil War: A Narrative*, by Shelby Foote, I became more interested in American History, and thus went looking for a book about the Revolutionary War. After reading the good things said about *Angel in the Whirlwind*, I decided that this was just the thing I needed. What I got was a book that was long on anecdote and short on any real analysis. The characterizations of the main players (Washington, Franklin, Lafayette, etc.) were shallow and one dimensional. Tactics and battles are rarely discussed with any depth and wartime politics is hardly touched. Other than that the King's name was George, we learn nothing about him or the genesis of the policies that formented the revolution. Perhaps the worst detail is the near-complete lack of maps (I live four miles from Valley Forge, and still had trouble following the action).This book will at least give you a good idea of a timeline for the Revolutionary War, and you will likely learn a few things about the people involved that you didn't before, but you won't understand the conflict any better. In short, *Angel in the Whirlwind* lacks everything that made *The Civil War* such a triumph.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Substantial but not perfectVon Ein KundeBobrick has written a clear, engaging one-volume history of the American Revolution. That's quite an achievement in itself, considering how the usual tellings of American origins have bored countless schoolchildren into hating history. I would heartily recommend "*Angel in the Whirlwind*" as a textbook for any age, and especially schoolchildren. We all can benefit from a true story well told. That said, I did expect more from it. Slavery, the worm at the very heart of the apple, was only lightly touched on. The colonists themselves were still largely a mystery; we learn what they liked to drink in the pubs, but where they got the history-shattering gumption to rebel ... well, where did they? It seems off-hand when it was certainly anything but. And once the war is launched, the book becomes little more than a war story -- general this, battle that, all good primer information but certainly not the whole story. And there were red herrings -- British atrocities were laid out, but did the Americans also commit equal atrocities? In the balance of history, were both sides equally guilty of savagery or can we safely, perhaps smugly, continue assuming the Founding Fathers were good guys all around? And last ... the book's lack of maps is unforgiveable and unexplainable. It needed paintings, too. Still, speaking for myself, if launched a whole series of American Revolutionary books on my personal reading program, and it was indeed a fine place to start.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. From the Arrogance of Britannia was Born a Great NationVon Ein KundeIt is difficult to appreciate, from our contemporary perspective, the severity of the hardships and the challenge that the Founding Fathers (and more importantly, the patriot citizens) faced in 1775. To motivate a dispersed, diverse, uncooperative (at times) colonial population which was coming into prosperity after facing the horrors of frontier life and the French and Indian war, to risk all - life, liberty, property - in pursuit of freedom. Our grade school teaching glosses over the names and places but leaves no impression of how close a thing our American Revolution really was. If we were fortunate, we had a more scholarly, detailed treatment sometime before we matriculated from college - in most cases, not even then. Bobrick, in his '*Angel...*' makes a noble attempt to treat the subject with the depth and passion that it deserves. Written along the lines of Foote's '*Civil War Narrative*', while falling short of the mark of that great literary epic, Bobrick still earns high marks for his own narrative style and historical technique. The true test is the depth of the characters, are they real people or just block stereotypes or the myths that have persisted over time? In Bobrick's case, they are all real, poignantly so. Washington the great leader, but also the shy, declining personality. Jefferson the great author behind the Declaration of Independence, but also in many ways a sideline player compared to his later adversary John Adams. Benedict Arnold, traitor in the end, but an effective patriot warrior in the beginning. Cornwallis, Howe, Burgoyne and Clinton, arrogance and ego, brought to defeat by not just Washington but also Greene, Morgan and that 'boy', Lafayette. Bobrick's work is not a military history per se - the battles (Bennington, Trenton, Long Island, King's Mountain, Cowpens, etc. leading to Yorktown) are adequately described only in the context of the overall narrative - but given the limits of what can be told within a single volume, Bobrick did very well. And this rebellion was a very close thing - the persistent loyalist sentiment, the inability to clothe, feed and pay the Continental Army, the unstable nature of the French alliance, the refusal of the various colonies to work in a united fashion - all worked against the successful rebellion. Yet the Angel was there, the hand of Providence. Also there were the seeds of the nation's future: westward expansion, terrible Civil War, imperial strength as the arsenal of democracy. Do yourself a favor and redress your ignorance over your country's birth - pick up Bobrick's '*Angel*' and appreciate your ancestors' brave story of honor, sacrifice and commitment to freedom for future generations to come.

Kurzbeschreibung*Angel in the Whirlwind* is the epic tale of the American Revolution, from its roots among tax-weary colonists to the triumphant Declaration of Independence and eventual victory and liberty, recounted by Benson Bobrick, lauded by *The New York Times* as perhaps the most interesting historian writing in America today. Overwhelmed with debt following its victory in the French and Indian Wars, England began imposing harsh new tariffs and taxes on its colonists in the 1760s. Rebellion against these measures soon erupted into war. Bobrick

thrillingly describes all the major battles, from Lexington and Concord to the dramatic siege of Yorktown, when the British flag was finally lowered before patriot guns. At the same time he weaves together social and political history along with the military history, bringing to life not only the charismatic leaders of the independence movement, but also their lesser-known compatriots, both patriot and loyalist, English and American, whose voices vividly convey the urgency of war. Illuminated by fresh insight, *Angel in the Whirlwind* is a dramatic narrative of our nation's birth, in all its passion and glory. . . . George Washington at Valley Forge, Benedict Arnold's treason at West Point, Cornwallis's defeat at Yorktown--these are the characters and events most Americans remember from their high-school history lessons about the Revolutionary War. Yet the war itself is so removed from us in time, its villains and heroes so remote, that it fails to grasp the place in popular imagination occupied by the Civil War, the two World Wars, or even Vietnam. Benson Bobrick's fresh account of the Revolutionary War, *Angel in the Whirlwind*, might just change all that. The secret to Bobrick's success lies in his entertaining, lively prose, and--more importantly--in his choice of focus: this account of the American Revolution weaves the fortunes of two of its more fascinating participants, George Washington and Benedict Arnold, into its larger story. Washington's fascination is rooted in his military genius and talent for leadership, Arnold's in his flawed character. At once a fearless soldier and a greedy opportunist, Arnold's perfidy makes an interesting counterpoint to Washington's heroism. Bobrick does a fine job of covering the ins and outs of this extraordinary war, giving readers enough background to understand the complexities of the issues that led to the Declaration of Independence by taking them through the war years leading to Washington's inauguration. Better yet, he creates a sense of the times in which these stirring events occurred, limning the details of the common people's lives and attitudes to add a sense of immediacy. *Angel in the Whirlwind* is popular history at its best; George Washington would be proud. *Pressestimmen* "The Revolution is full of amazing characters and stories. . . . What it has needed is a storyteller fit to get it between two covers. Now it has found one." *The New York Times Book A* splendid retelling of a remarkable story. *The Atlantic Monthly*