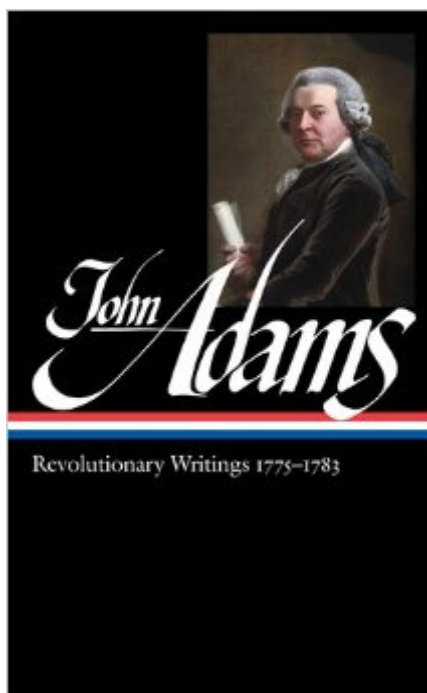


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John Adams: Revolutionary Writings 1775-1783 (Library Of America, No. 214)



Synopsis

This second of two volumes gathering the essential writings of one of the towering figures of the American Revolution traces John Adams's career from his leading role in the debate over independence (he was "our Colossus on the floor," remembered Thomas Jefferson), to his tireless efforts to establish the fledgling government of the United States and supply its army in the field, to his crucial diplomatic service in Europe, where he was hailed as "the George Washington of negotiation." It includes the highly influential pamphlet *Thoughts on Government* (1776); the "Report of a Constitution for Massachusetts," (1780) Adams's blueprint for what remains the world's oldest working political charter, and dozens of his characteristically frank and revealing personal letters, many to his "dearest friend" Abigail, extensive diary excerpts, and selected passages from his unfinished autobiography recalling his life during this period. A companion volume collects writing from 1755 to 1775.

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Customer Reviews

As part of its ongoing mission of presenting the best and most significant American writing, the Library of America has been publishing a series of volumes called "The American Founders Series" which portrays the birth of the nation through extensive historical sources. The American Founders Series concludes with two large volumes of the "Revolutionary Writings" of John Adams (1735 -- 1836). Adams served as the first Vice president and as the second President of the United States, but these two books of Adams' writings have an earlier focus. The first volume begins with Adams

as a young man in 1755. It covers his extensive activities as an American patriot in the years of controversy with Great Britain, concluding with Adams' service in the First Continental Congress in 1775. John Adams: Revolutionary Writings, 1755-1775 (Library of America, No. 213) The companion volume, which I am reviewing here, begins with Adams' service in 1775 in the Second Continental Congress. It concludes with the Treaty of Paris of September 3, 1783, which Adams signed on behalf of the United States. This Treaty established American independence. The two volumes of Adams' writings were prepared and edited by the learned and revered American historian Gordon Wood. Besides selecting the texts, Wood wrote a detailed chronology which is essential towards understanding the content of the volume together with explanatory notes. The book includes a variety of sources. It draws on Adams' letters to his contemporaries and, in particular, to his wife Abigail.

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