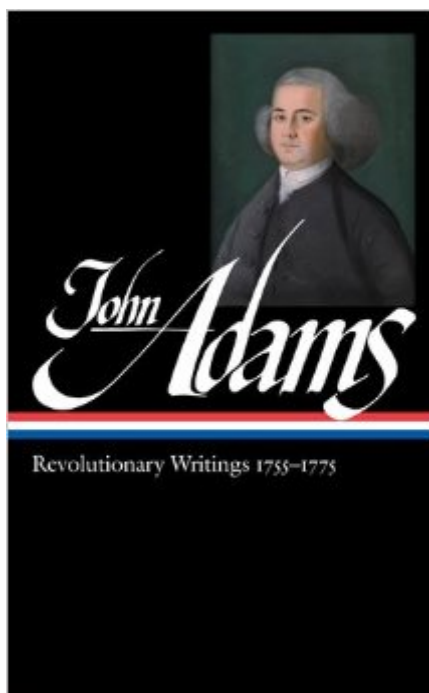


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John Adams: Revolutionary Writings, 1755-1775 (Library Of America, No. 213)



Synopsis

Propelled by the power of his pen and the clarity of his judgment, an ambitious young provincial lawyer named John Adams became a major figure in the American Revolution. This first of two volumes gathering his essential writings to 1783 includes the complete newspaper exchange between "Novanglus" (Adams) and "Massachusettensis" (Loyalist Daniel Leonard), as well as extensive diary excerpts and characteristically frank personal letters-many to his "dearest friend" Abigail-that convey the excitement and danger of the mounting crisis with Britain, from the Stamp Act riots of 1765, to the Boston Massacre and Tea Party, to the First Continental Congress, where Adams became a leader of the patriot cause. A companion volume carries the story forward to the Peace Treaty of 1783.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David McCollough's best-selling biography made John Adams (1735 -- 1826) a revered figure to many Americans. With the Library of America's publication of two volumes of Adams' "Revolutionary Writings", readers will have the opportunity to get to know Adams through his own words and thought. Gordon Wood, the distinguished Pulitzer-Prize winning historian of early America and Professor Emeritus at Brown University has prepared and selected the texts, provided a detailed chronology of Adams' life, and added brief explanatory notes to the selections. The first volume in the set, which I will discuss in this review, covers the years 1755, when Adams was a student at the age of 20, through 1775, while Adams was serving in the Continental Congress. The second

volume John Adams: Revolutionary Writings 1775-1783 (Library of America, No. 214) continues with Adams' service in the Continental Congress and concludes in 1783 with the negotiation of the treaty of peace with Great Britain and the winning of American independence. There is a great deal to be digested in these volumes, but there is much more to learn about Adams that is outside their scope. The volumes do not cover the Constitutional period, Adams' vice-presidency and presidency, his long, productive period of retirement, and many of his lengthy later works of political philosophy. For all the virtues of this collection, much of Adams remains to be discovered. The letters Adams exchanged late in life with Thomas Jefferson, for example, are ripe with wisdom and are important in understanding early America and the long, eventful relationship between these two Founders.

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