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The Men Who Lost America

Growing up overseas in Great Britain, Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy was always interested in learning more about the American Revolution.

"There was not much talk about America, especially the American Revolution, in British schools, and I was always very aware of that. I think it is often especially exciting when you discover things for yourself; they've not been part of your formal education," said O'Shaughnessy, Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello.

O'Shaughnessy's new book *The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire* details how the loss of America was a stunning and unexpected defeat for the powerful British Empire.

O'Shaughnessy's thesis breaks the mold of the traditional idea that the British lost because of incompetent military commanders and political leaders. Instead, he argues that the real reasons the rebellious colonials won in a surprising victory was due to the political turmoil in Britain and the fervency of the fighting Americans.

"I've always thought it curious to present these people as aristocratic buffoons because it diminishes the achievements of George Washington and Nathanael Greene. After you've

read this book, you will appreciate that the American achievement was even greater in winning this war," he said.

"Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy has written a remarkable book about an important but curiously underappreciated subject: the British side of the American Revolution. With meticulous scholarship and an eloquent writing style, O'Shaughnessy gives us a fresh and compelling view of a critical aspect of the struggle that changed the world," Jon Meacham, author of the recent novel *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, wrote in a review of *Men Who Lost America*. "This is a great book."

Pauline Maier, author of *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788*, wrote, "Beautifully written and deeply researched, *The Men Who Lost America* is a great achievement. It will provide any interested reader with a delightfully user-friendly way of understanding how and why the British lost the Revolutionary War."

"I wrote *The Men Who Lost America*



partly as a result of friendships made when I was an undergraduate with two of the direct descendents of the 10 leading decision makers in the British war for America. Each chapter explores an individual in the key moments in which he was involved in the Revolution," said O'Shaughnessy.

Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy is

the Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, as well as a professor of history at the University of Virginia. He is the author of *An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean* (2000) as well as his new work *The Men Who Lost America*. He has lectured widely to both scholarly and general audiences. Among his achievements, he is an editor of the Jeffersonian American Series of the University of Virginia Press, a member of the advisory board of the Founding Fathers' Libraries Project, a member of the advisory board of the Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.