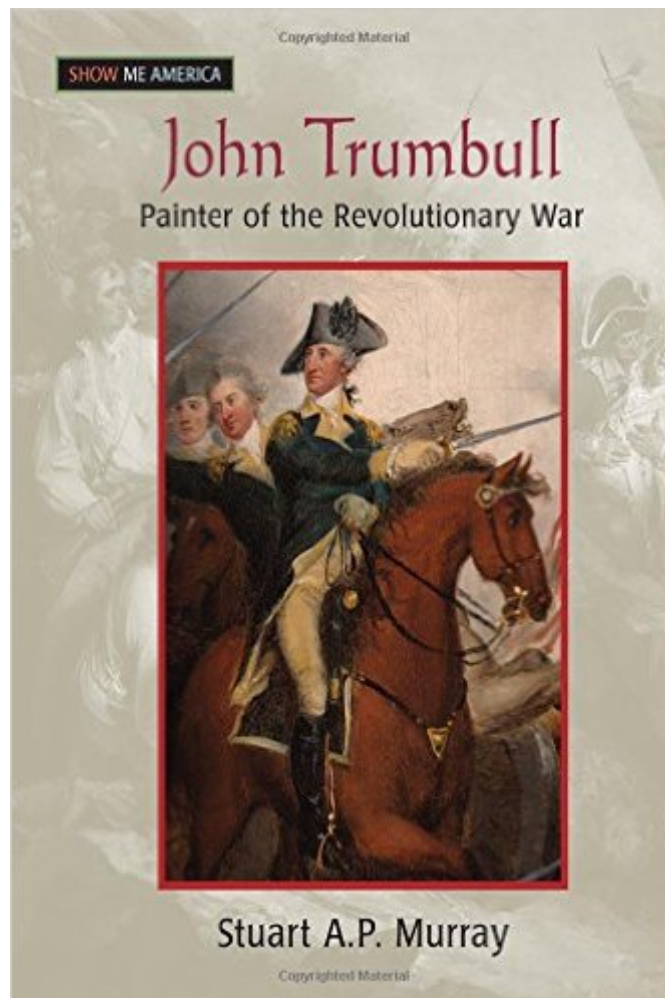




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John Trumbull: Painter Of The Revolutionary War (Show Me America)



Synopsis

John Trumbull's sweeping historical paintings of battle scenes of the American Revolution hang in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., for all to see. This patriot-artist painted lifelike portraits of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, and he traveled around the country to capture realistic likenesses of the other Founding Fathers who drafted the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Pore over the landmark work left by this brilliant artist and become acquainted with a man who, despite great adversity, was determined to portray in lush detail the first stirrings of the nation that would become America. The inscription on John Trumbull's memorial fittingly reads: "To his country he gave his sword and pencil."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stuart A. P. Murray has been an author and editor for almost thirty years, specializing in American history. He is the author of thirty-four books, including the award-winning *America's Song: The Story of Yankee Doodle*, and books on the American Revolution, the Civil War and the Vietnam War. He lives in Petersburg, NY.

The quality of the painting reproductions is better than the text. The book has the advantage of being short and sweet, so if you want just want to know the basic details, this will do. I had not known he was a colonel in the revolutionary forces, at the age of 20, or that he resigned in a year

and a half in a fit of pique over matters of seniority. He went to France in 1780 and then to Britain, to study art, and was jailed for rebellion, essentially. This could be a dramatic story but isn't much explained. Plainly he had talent, and plainly had some money. The man did know Washington, witnessed some of the French Revolution (another story that could be developed but wasn't). He painted the four big works that went to the Capitol building: the Declaration of Independence, Burgoyne surrendering at Saratoga, Cornwallis surrendering at Yorktown and Washington resigning. These works are huge, 12 x 18 feet, and Congress paid him \$32,000 in 1817-1824, a quite high sum in current dollars. They have become iconic works, but I doubt that they are often looked at carefully--they will strike the current viewer as stilted and perhaps a little Romantic, although technically they are history paintings and perhaps are better considered neo-classical.

\$45 for a Kindle download???? NO way. Absolutely absurd.

Excellent book, would recommend.

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