

The Dangerous Falsehoods of the "1619 Project"

The riots and destruction of statues and memorials to Revolutionary War heroes across the country, like the destruction of a statue of George Washington in Portland, Oregon (at right), are fueled by the pernicious falsehoods about the American Revolution published in the New York Times's "1619 Project." The lead author, Nikole Hannah-Jones, says she's "honored" that the unrest has been called the "1619 Riots" and defends looting and wanton destruction of public and private property. In three essays published on the American Revolution Institute website, Executive Director Jack Warren exposes her fundamental errors about the American Revolution and traces them to discredited books by writers who put their radical politics ahead of scholarly integrity. In the third essay he offers an alternative view of the relationship between the American Revolution, the idea of natural rights, and the end of slavery that has been praised as "erudite" and "a powerful scholarly performance that explains how the American Revolution doomed slavery."



Read "[The American Revolution and the Foundations of Free Society](#)" and the companion essays, "[What's Wrong with 'The Idea of America?'](#)" and "[Slavery, Rights, and the Meaning of the American Revolution.](#)"

Work with Us to Build a Better Future

When you reflect on your personal support for the American Revolution Institute, please consider the values we promote and the kind of nation you want to leave to the next generation of Americans. That's a nation in which the American Revolution is honored and respected, and Americans like these young men are proud to help preserve the memory of our heroes. Help us share our message that the Revolution is the foundation of all our freedoms. Let's work to make appalling acts like the desecration in Portland a bad but distant memory.



The proceeds of the Society of the Cincinnati's Annual Giving Campaign, *which ends on June 30*, are dedicated *entirely* to the work of the American Revolution Institute. Recent events have underscored the importance of this work. We're counting on our members and our Associates to join hands to ensure the success of the campaign. Every dollar of Annual Giving supports the American Revolution Institute.

[Contribute Now](#)

Celebrate Independence... John Adams Style

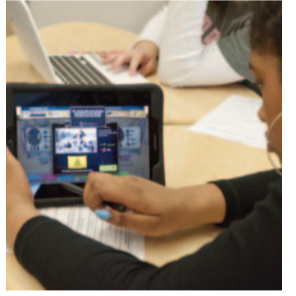
John Adams—the father of American independence if ever there was one—predicted that “the Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival.” Since its early days our republic has celebrated the *Fourth* of July—the day Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence—as our national birthday. We traditionally get a jump on the holiday by honoring Adams and celebrating our independence on the *Second* of July with a concert of Revolutionary music by David and Ginger Hildebrand, co-founders of the Colonial Music Institute and two of the great performers of the music our founders would have known. You can tune in on your computer—no reservations needed!



[Watch a Trailer for the Concert](#)

The Redcoats are Coming... Just in Time

Young Americans only learn what they're taught, and for a generation they've been force fed a radical version of American history that disparages the men and women who won our Revolution. They haven't been taught to appreciate the tough choices the revolutionaries had to make. That's the point of *Revolutionary Choices*, our new educational strategy game, now live online.



In *Revolutionary Choices*, players are challenged to win American independence while expanding liberty and nurturing the fragile union of the states. It's one of many educational tools we're developing to restore understanding and appreciation of our remarkable Revolution. Playing the game is free, and it can be played on any desktop, laptop, tablet, or smart phone. You can find *Revolutionary Choices* in the Classroom menu of the American Revolution Institute website and separately at www.RevChoicesGame.org.

[Play the Game](#)

Honoring America's First Veterans

Some 250,000 Americans served in the armed forces that secured our independence. While others are tearing them down—literally and figuratively—the American Revolution Institute is honoring them all in *America's First Veterans*, a new book by Executive Director Jack Warren, focusing on the experiences of the ordinary soldiers in the decades after the war ended. With a foreword written by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie, *America's First Veterans* uses eighty-five manuscripts, books, artifacts, paintings, and other materials from our collections to tell the story of how the new nation gradually learned to honor and care for the veterans who sacrificed to create the new nation. A scholarly companion to our exhibition on Revolutionary War veterans, *America's First Veterans* is the also the foundation for educational materials that celebrate the achievements of the American Revolution and the ordinary men and women who gave us our independence and laid the foundations of our free society.



For a limited time, you can [read America's First Veterans](#) online on the American Revolution Institute website. The printed version will be available this fall.

[Read the Book Online](#)

Our Digital Library of the American Revolution on the March

A special series of manuscripts—thirty-nine letters of French army engineer François-Ignace Ervoil d'Oyré describing his wartime experiences—have been added to our Digital Library of the American Revolution. The letters begin in April 1780 when Oyré was preparing to depart from Brest with Rochambeau's army and document the French encampment at Newport and the march to Yorktown. On October 19, 1781, Oyré wrote (in French) to his chère amie back in France: “The siege is finished; I saw the English garrison pass, lay down their arms . . . Good night, my good and dear friend, I am going to sleep after having been more than 50 hours in the trenches.” Following the allied victory, he continued to write about his travels through Virginia and the long march to Boston, where Oyré embarked for the Caribbean in late 1782. The 1798 portrait of Oyré by Jean-Baptiste Greuze at right is on long-term loan to the Institute from The Schorr Collection.



[Read the Letters](#)

Teacher Training... Now More Than Ever

George Washington wrote that the key to ensuring “a virtuous and happy people will be found in the right education of youth. Without this foundation, every other means, in my opinion, must fail.” The battle to ensure that young Americans learn to understand and appreciate our nation and the remarkable Revolution that created it will be won in the classroom. We are meeting the challenge of this unusual time by taking our annual Master Teachers Seminar online.



This year's seminar on July 13-17 will include alumni from the past eight summers who will join the 2020 class to discuss best practices for distance-learning during this challenging academic season, as well as the unique lesson plans they developed for the American Revolution Institute website. Library and museum staff will highlight the Institute's digital resources to assist the group in the creation of mini-lesson plans developed specifically for remote learning, which feature the Institute's collections, and support the teaching of the Revolution and its four great constructive achievements.

[Learn More About the Work of Our Master Teachers](#)

A Minute Man's Sword

Weapons carried in the Revolutionary War's greatest battles are among the most precious artifacts in our museum collections. We were lucky to add a special one this month: a rare American-made hanger. A hanger is a short sword carried by infantrymen for close combat. This one was owned by James Taylor of Pelham, Massachusetts—an ensign in David Cowden's militia company who answered the Lexington Alarm and two months later participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Learn more about this sword and our other Revolutionary War armaments in our [online museum database](#).



[Learn More About this Sword](#)

Keep Track of the Passage of Time...

You can support the Institute's mission and improve your home or office with a handsome set of prints from our research library. This eighteen-month desk calendar showcases a variety of images, displayed on a wooden easel. The flip side of each month includes a description so you'll know why it's valuable to our mission. It was nearly impossible to choose eighteen items to represent our growing library holdings that now number in the tens of thousands. But that only means that next year we'll have an entirely new selection of images for you to enjoy.



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The American Revolution secured our independence, created our republic, established our national identity, and expressed ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship that have defined our history and will define our future. The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati promotes knowledge and appreciation of those achievements, fulfilling the aim of the Continental Army officers who founded the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783 to perpetuate the memory of that vast event. The Institute supports advanced study, presents exhibitions and other public programs, advocates effective classroom instruction, and provides resources to teachers and students to enrich understanding of the American Revolution and the principles of the men and women who secured the liberty of the American people.

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