Annotated Bibliography


*The American Revolution: a Concise History*, by Robert J. Allison, examines the period of the American Revolution (1760-1800) in a precise manner. Allison provides a wide range of analysis of military, diplomatic, social, and political aspects of the revolution. He describes how the Americans decided to bring the change in their government after a series of events, such as the Stamp Act and the Boston Massacre. Allison assesses major battles, along with more general strategies employed by the Continental Army against the British. The book depicts the story of individuals protecting their rights from a Parliament in London void of colonial representation.

The content of the book is based on intensive research, which is evident from the bibliographic references included at the end of the book. Also, the Oxford University Press is a reputable publisher. Allison’s description of the surrender of General Burgoyne, while more detailed, is comparable to Trumbull’s 1821 *Surrender of General Burgoyne* (cited below). Allison’s thoughts in the book are generous and the text is written without personal judgment.

This Academic Journal provides the knowledge about Quakers’ efforts to distinguish thanksgiving and fast days from political influence. The author Tara Thompson Strauch summarizes that between 1774 and 1800 Quakers argued continually that thanksgivings and fast days were not religio-political events but were religious events alone and as such should not be used to judge patriotism. Quakers were labeled loyalists, fined, imprisoned, and had their property damaged, for their refusal to participate in thanksgiving and fast days. She wrote about Quakers’ worshipping ideologies and their reasons for the resistance to celebrate the thanksgiving and fast days proclaimed by human conventions. This journal consists the statements of prominent leaders like Christopher Marshall, John Reynell, and James Pemberton about the Quakers viewpoint on the events. In 1863, Thanksgiving had become national holiday after decades long campaign and it was considered religious and patriotic event but not political.

This source had exposed the issues related to religion and politics after independence in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. This source totally complies with the pre-independence era when church and state were not considered separate. The Quakers in Pennsylvania after independence continued the same protest of segregating politics from religion, therefore this source is reliable. This source lay more emphasis on Quakers’ perception about the events which should be religious but these events could also be celebrated as patriotic events. Author neutrally wrote the journal in beginning and end up favoring Quakers’ perception. This source in contrast
to others sources is more revealing and based on the characterization of a particular religious group of America.


The periodical article, “Creatures of the Revolution,” by Virginia DeJohn Anderson acknowledges that part biography and narrative history, “Revolutionaries” by Alexander Hamilton focuses the time frame of 1773 to 1792 (Anderson). Virginia DeJohn Anderson states that in each chapter there are familiar and less well-known revolutionist has transformed America. One of the less well-known figures, George Mason expressed his ideas of the types of challenges the men would encounter to the men who wrote the first constitution. The chapters would each represent each of the revolutionist’s transformation to America during the colonial times.

Anderson summarizes some of the revolutionary leaders around the end of the eighteenth century. The article is partly reliable source because it includes information coming from a book. However, it is not as reliable as other sources such as the primary source, history textbook, or a journal article. The other sources listed have strong references used into their work. Anderson does not state any biased opinion, and it only includes information of the revolutionary leaders that are in the book.


This is the primary source which accommodates the letters of Abigail Adams to her husband John Adams, a Massachusetts patriot, written on march 31st and may 7th of 1776. She wrote to her husband from her home in Braintree, Massachusetts while Mr. Adams was in
Philadelphia to serve in the Continental Congress. These letters focused on the conflict with Great Britain. Adams inquires the proceedings of the military in Virginia against Britain via letters. The letters describe social and political conditions in Boston, Massachusetts, during the conflict. This source is evident in the evacuation of the town and some vandalism to government buildings. Adams wrote that even their house in Boston was captured by the military. She mentioned, “Remember the Ladies” in her letter as Continental Congress was set to determine liberties by the new code of law. She urged his husband to be more liberal towards Women then their ancestors and give then what they deserve that is equality. The letter written in May, 1776 indicates an improvement in conditions in Boston, despite apprehension of political turmoil in other cities.

Since this source is primary and Adams is expressing her thoughts to her husband, this source’s content is convincing. It contains the information of Boston’s situation in 1776 which complies with information provided in other sources, for example, the book *Give Me Liberty!* by Eric Foner. Adams’ writing about gender equality depicts the source is unbiased. This source is similar to the other four sources because it adhered to the facts which define liberty to Americans. It contains persuasive and reliable information regarding which justifies it to be a primary source.

This painting depicts the event of the surrender of British General John Burgoyne at Saratoga, New York on October 17, 1777. It depicts American General Horatio Gates in the center with General Burgoyne on the left. Around are many renowned personalities from the Continental army and militia. Burgoyne is shown surrendering his sword to Gates while Gates is showing respect and directing him to the tent for refreshments. Behind is the hoisted American Flag. The painting reflects the peace attained, ten days after the second battle of Saratoga. This battle was one of the major events of the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). General Burgoyne Invaded south from Canada hoping to seek help from British commander Sir Willian
Howe in the south but help never arrived, which restricted him to surrender. Instead of expressions of rage on the faces of military personnel, there is an expression of satisfaction. All the officers in their uniform under the cloudy blue sky and their silent weapons shows that control has been established over the situation.

Trumbull’s work is a general image of the situation more than forty years after the fact. Notwithstanding, the painting expresses mutual respect between British and American soldiers. This lends to its credibility of displaying the event appropriately. Since the surrender of British troops to the colonists enhanced the might of America, Trumbull’s depiction of dignity among all combatants seems relatively objective. As compared to other sources, this source leaves its viewers to describe the scene according to their perception.