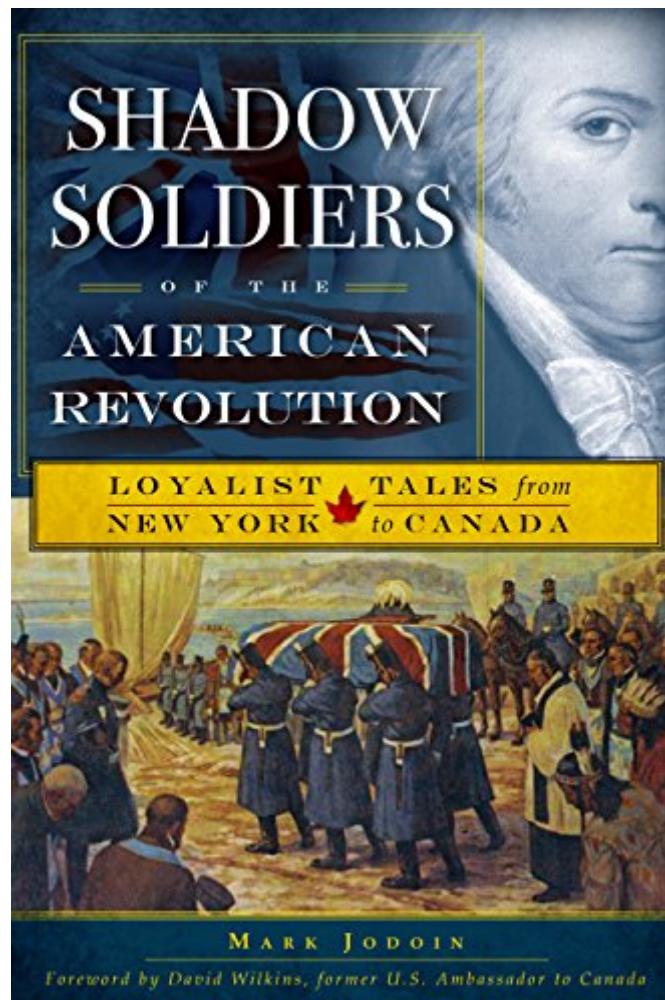




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Shadow Soldiers Of The American Revolution: Loyalist Tales From New York To Canada



Synopsis

In 1778, New York State Patriots forced colonists loyal to the British government to flee north into what became Ontario and Quebec. Many of the defiant young British Americans soon returned south as soldiers, spies and scouts to fight for their multigenerational farms along the Mohawk River, Lake Champlain and Hudson River Valleys. Eventually defeated, they were banished from their ancestral homelands forever. Mark Jodoin offers an enlightened look back at ten young men and women who were forced north into Ontario and Quebec, sharing the struggles these Loyalists faced during our nation's founding.

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Customer Reviews

interesting stories of what happened to the loyalists after the revolution. things that drive me crazy: bad proofreading. 1600s, 1700s, 1800s - doesn't seem to matter, they're all over the place year-wise, and sometimes they even get the years right !

As a Mohawk United Empire Loyalist and Joseph Brant descendant, it's gratifying to read Mark

Jodoin's account of my Loyalist ancestor. Often maligned, it's important to acknowledge the myriad of motivations as well as the many accomplishments of Brant as he led the Haudenosaunee towards an unknown destiny and destination. Mr. Jodoin has achieved this admirably and his other nine individual accounts present a compelling perspective which goes far beyond mere historical facts and delves into emotions, logic and compulsions. The ramifications of these peoples' actions would have a profound effect on the creation of two of the most prominent countries in the world. This book moves easily from each individual to the next; the unity of purpose contrasts with the variety of backgrounds - Natives, soldiers, doctors, entrepreneurs, explorers - yet the common Loyalist bond is thoroughly illustrated by the author. This book is a must-read for those interested in not only the Loyalist experience, but the Native Loyalist perspective as well. Rather than seen as simply adjunct allies, this book shares a view of several key Loyal Haudenosaunee as they fought for their own viability and survival. Highly recommended.

I picked up this book to get some historical background on a road trip I was taking. For a non-history-buff like me, the short self-contained chapters, each focusing on a different Loyalist character, were ideal. Rather than broad brush strokes on battles and territories gained and lost, this book gave flesh and blood to a number of key characters, with clear-eyed accounts of the strengths, weaknesses, grudges, alliances and the complicated human relationships that fueled their Loyalist involvements. Also heartened to see women's and native people's stories featured too, as leaders, healers, and valued negotiators. This is a refreshing inclusion, offering a more balanced view of history, which is typically written by the winners, i.e. white men. Overall, a fascinating read that animates the very human people behind the historical events.

I had great hopes for a book written about the Loyalists who left the colonies and went to Canada. However, my enthusiasm waned as I read the book. There are multiple factual errors that made the information in the book seem unreliable and I did not finish reading. In the first chapter the author makes note of a draft, but there was no draft in the Revolution. Indeed, the draft did not come about until the Civil War (causing the NY Draft Riots). Any notion of a draft in the independent colonies was ludicrous, as the Continental Congress had no authority to call a draft in the Continental Army and the colonies only had volunteer militias. Also, within the first several chapters, the author mentioned that the Siege of Yorktown took place in 1780 (it took place in 1781), and made several typographical errors with dates that the editors should have caught. The premise of the book was interesting. The authors and editors should have researched and checked facts with greater care. I

lost interest by the 4th chapter, as I didn't want to waste my time on a book that had so many mistakes. I do not recommend this book.

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