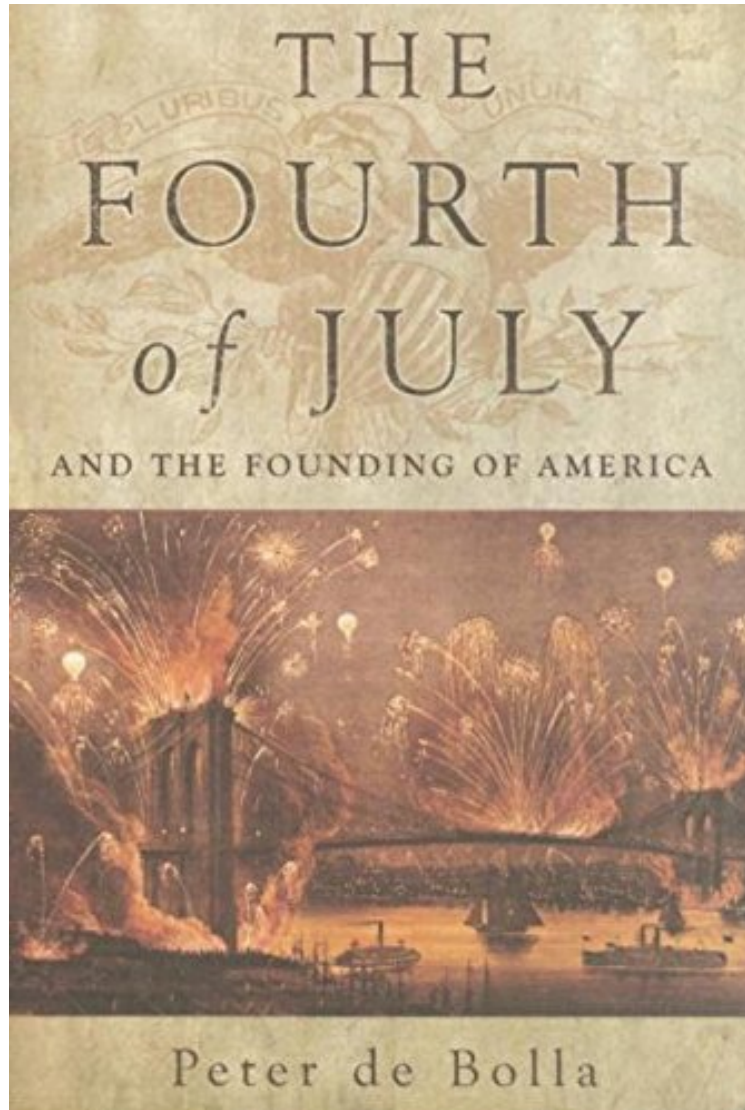


[Get free] The Fourth of July: And the Founding of America

The Fourth of July: And the Founding of America

Peter De Bolla

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Peter De Bolla : The Fourth of July: And the Founding of America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fourth of July: And the Founding of America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative, Entertaining, Inspiring By S. Smith This book provides valuable historical information about the origin of the Fourth of July holiday and its relevance to the country we know today. Reading about the early celebrations and their backgrounds is entertaining. Being made aware of the worshipful attitude with which they were originally approached is inspiring. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A promise unfulfilled By James R. Michaels I bought the book because I had read a couple of short pieces by the author.

He used them to promote the book as one which would fill in the details about our so-called Independence Day. In reality, he spends more time talking about various symbols of patriotism than he does about the Declaration of Independence. He has plenty of new information, but the book left me disappointed. If you're interested in historical trivia, buy the book; if you want to read the story of the birth of the United States, get one of the works which are already in print. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Seems so much longer than it really is....By E. GILMAN
This excellent and exhaustive book about July 4th and all the details one might want to know about it covers everything. Everything (and I mean everything) is covered so well that the book expands, as you hold it, from exhaustive to exhausting. What might have been a sixty to eighty page book, if carefully pared, heavily occupies most of the surface of a hundred and eighty-one pages. Each new aspect is chewed and ruminated as though the book had six stomachs. All the sentence fragments one could want. And more. Read it if you have the time to invest in the good parts and the time to waste in the repetition and boring point-making of the rest of it.

The United States is a nation that touts its diversity, but there is one tradition that all Americans love to share. Every year on the Fourth of July, Americans celebrate the founding of the nation. Independence Day is the greatest of national traditions, but much of the inherited lore that surrounds the Fourth is myth and legend, not history. Even the fact that the holiday is celebrated on the fourth is misleading, as the Declaration of Independence was in fact penned on July 2nd, 1776. Jefferson did not write it himself, nor was it intended to mark the birth of a new nation. In this remarkable and wonderful work of research and narrative, Peter de Bolla teases out the true story of the Fourth of July. De Bolla traces the holiday's history from 1776 through the Civil War, the Cold War, and the present. This enlightening exploration of the ritual celebration and mythology of America's birthday offers a fascinating window into the history of our nation and our people.

From Booklist
As a celebration, Independence Day has an involved history, starting with what exactly occurred on that July day in 1776. The prosaic fact is the Declaration of Independence was not signed, as is popularly believed. Setting history aright only begins historian de Bolla's story of America's premier national holiday. Describing an architecture of belief that time and custom have constructed around July 4, de Bolla credits the symbolic capacity of the Declaration with answering the public needs of every generation: to honor the revolutionary generation, to express patriotism, to express dissent, to kick back on a day off. Naturally the first motivation predominated in the decades after independence, culminating in the amazing coincidence of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson's deaths on the Fourth's golden jubilee. De Bolla's analysis of subsequent observances upholds a tension at their centers: their tributes to the creation of the U.S. coexist with destinies yet-to-be, as proclaimed in the Declaration's universal principles. An engaging inquiry. --Gilbert Taylor "Americans, unlike poets, are made, not born. Peter de Bolla, in his witty monograph on that most patriotic of days, July 4, dismantles the making machinery...[An] elegant, ironic, brief but deeply researched meditation on what makes America America."-The Financial Times