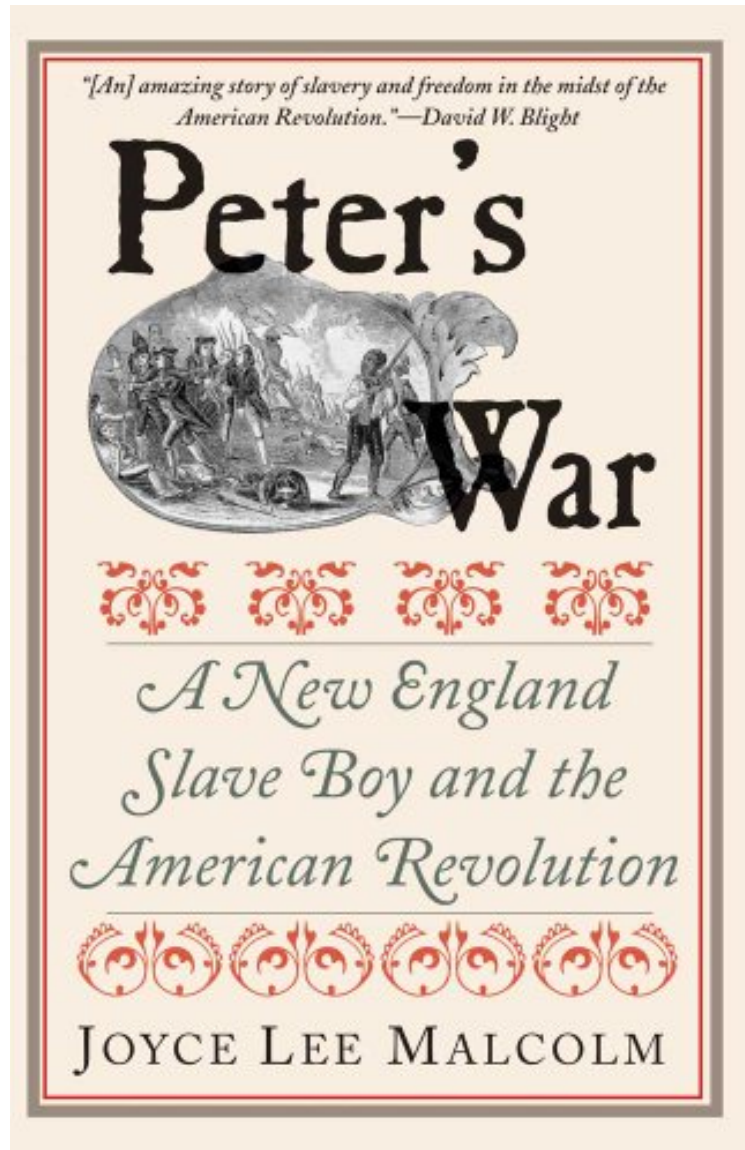


Peter's War: A New England Slave Boy and the American Revolution

Joyce Lee Malcolm

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Joyce Lee Malcolm : Peter's War: A New England Slave Boy and the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Peter's War: A New England Slave Boy and the American Revolution:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Peter's War: A New England Slave Boy and the American

RevolutionBy Austin WhatleyJoyce Lee Malcolm added a new and exciting twist on the American Revolution. Many historians just describe the battles and actions of the major participants in the war. What some historians forget is that without the masses the Revolutionary War would not have been as successful. Malcolm gives us a view of not just from a soldier, but from a young African American boy named Peter. Through Peter's eyes Malcolm is able to portray the mistreatment and actions of both the African Americans joining the war and the white Americans fighting in the war. Malcolm is also successful in capturing the political atmosphere, relationships, and the surroundings in and out of the fights. Along with Malcolm's successful narrative style work she left some things to be questioned. In the book Malcolm attempts to recreate the life of an adopted slave boy Peter, by going by a bill of sale as her main point of reference. This leaves some question to the validity of the book. How much was really the truth and how much was speculation? Also Malcolm takes the story away from Peter by going on to talk about another slave named Titus. By talking about Titus the story takes a turn and begins to talk about a slave who joined the British Army to gain his freedom. Did she put this in the book because she ran out of facts about Peter? Or did she add this other character to show the differences of slaves in the American army versus the British army? Overall Malcolm was able to create a new and inventive book about the American Revolution that is more likely to capture the attention of more people that are not necessarily historians. Her narrative piece was able to incorporate the key elements of the time period and project them in an efficient and clean way in which the audience can learn quickly and easily. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. uniqueBy LJD. Malcolm's other works tend toward the scholarly...deeply researched and documented books on history, especially early American history and how it was impacted by those who first came from England. This one, however, is an in-depth look at both the ferment that birthed our nation and the heart-breaking paradox of the slaves ignored in the quest for freedom. I typically don't like a rehashing of the fact that, while thirsting for freedom in the political arena, the founding fathers left alone the issue of slavery of (typically) African-Americans...I think we find it too easy from a (time and political) distance to offer the crass comments I usually hear. But Dr. Malcolm's book is an amazing piece of research, and balances every aspect of the issues of the day. If you're a history buff, this will take you places that you wouldn't have imagined...probably quite real in every respect. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Required ReadingBy christopher r. fausettThis book offers great insight into the American Revolution and the complexity of race relations, at the time. I found it to be stirring, uplifting and, at times, heart breaking. The author did an amazing job of researching the lives of some of the first Americans. It would make incredible teaching material for junior high or lower high school grades. Peter is an American hero!!!

A boy named Peter, born to a slave in Massachusetts in 1763, was sold nineteen months later to a childless white couple there. This book recounts the fascinating history of how the American Revolution came to Peter's small town, how he joined the revolutionary army at the age of twelve, and how he participated in the battles of Bunker Hill and Yorktown and witnessed the surrender at Saratoga. Joyce Lee Malcolm describes Peter's home life in rural New England, which became increasingly unhappy as he grew aware of racial differences and prejudices. She then relates how he and other blacks, slave and free, joined the war to achieve their own independence. Malcolm juxtaposes Peter's life in the patriot armies with that of the life of Titus, a New Jersey slave who fled to the British in 1775 and reemerged as a feared guerrilla leader. A remarkable feat of investigation, Peter's biography illuminates many themes in American history: race relations in New England, the prelude to and military history of the Revolutionary War, and the varied experience of black soldiers who fought on both sides.

"In clear, engaging language, Malcolm reconstructs the surroundings, relationships and political atmosphere of the Revolution... Malcolm seamlessly captures the intersection of personal, political and military strategy. History buffs will revel in Peter's never-before-told story, which makes a vivid addition to Revolutionary War literature.' Kirkus s"About the AuthorJoyce Lee Malcolm is professor of law at George Mason University School of Law. She lives in Alexandria, VA.