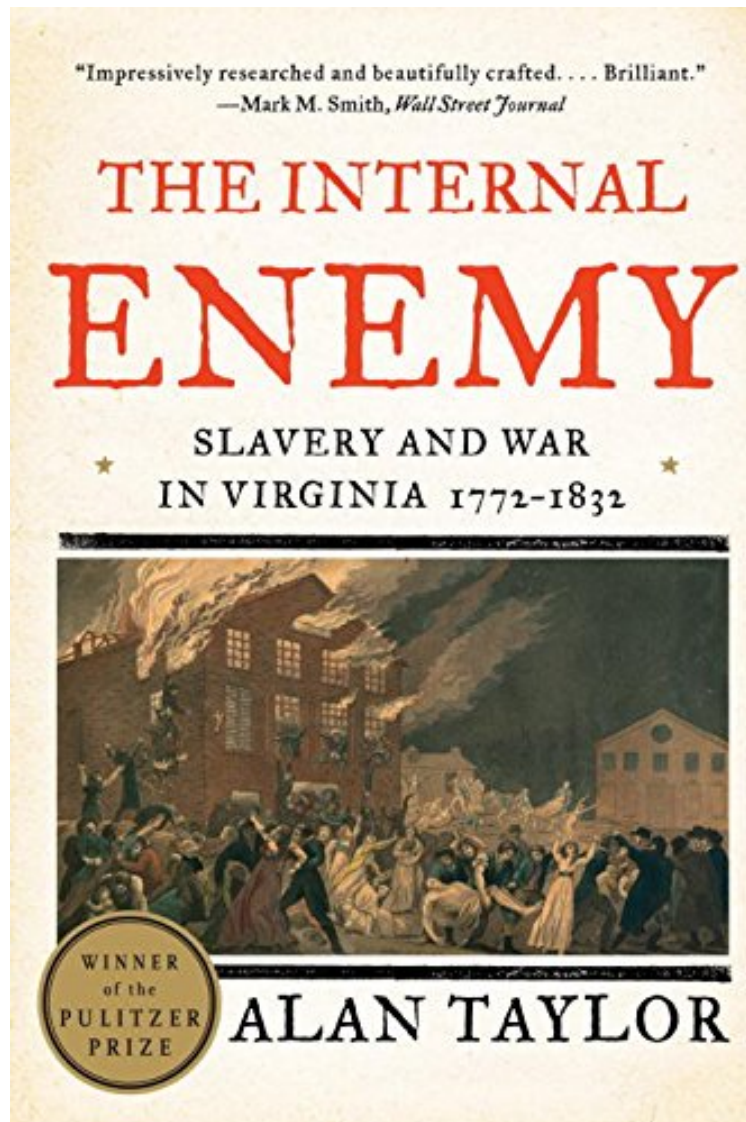


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## The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832

Alan Taylor

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**Alan Taylor : The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832:

30 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding! By Carole T. Goldberg Alan Taylor is an exceptional story teller. This is a meticulously researched, beautifully written account of the little-known details in the nation's history of the crucial role that Black Virginians played in the War of 1812. Around this theme, with Taylor's wonderfully detailed and precise writing style, he creates an intricate tapestry of historical facts and events that bring

to life a vital picture of the conflicted political atmosphere of Virginia and beyond, the day to day operations of the powerful leaders, and the intertwining of their lives with the status and existence of their slaves. The book was mesmerizing and I couldn't put it down.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Significant detailsBy George N. WellsThanks to a good friend (and Barista at my local Starbucks) I've become an autodidact student of American history. This book filled in a lot of gaps in what I knew (or thought I knew) about the period in and around the "War of 1812." The book also sheds some additional light on how slavery shaped American history and culture. Much of this history is never taught in high school or even college, but now that I know more I have a deeper understanding of the realities of early American society and the run-up to the Civil War.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Must read for Virginians, African Americans, and America history scholars.By CustomerThis brilliantly researched history tells the true story of the War of 1812, and the heroism of former enslaved men. African Americans in the thousandsliberated themselves, and worked to liberate their families and friends through military service as Colonial Marines in the British services. The book also shows the lengths to which American slavers and leaders sought to malign the heroism of those marines and the honour of the British who fulfilled their commitments as liberators after the war.

Winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for History "Impressively researched and beautifully crafted... a brilliant account of slavery in Virginia during and after the Revolution." ?Mark M. Smith, Wall Street Journal Frederick Douglass recalled that slaves living along Chesapeake Bay longingly viewed sailing ships as "freedom's swift-winged angels." In 1813 those angels appeared in the bay as British warships coming to punish the Americans for declaring war on the empire. Over many nights, hundreds of slaves paddled out to the warships seeking protection for their families from the ravages of slavery. The runaways pressured the British admirals into becoming liberators. As guides, pilots, sailors, and marines, the former slaves used their intimate knowledge of the countryside to transform the war. They enabled the British to escalate their onshore attacks and to capture and burn Washington, D.C. Tidewater masters had long dreaded their slaves as "an internal enemy." By mobilizing that enemy, the war ignited the deepest fears of Chesapeake slaveholders. It also alienated Virginians from a national government that had neglected their defense. Instead they turned south, their interests aligning more and more with their section. In 1820 Thomas Jefferson observed of sectionalism: "Like a firebell in the night [it] awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once the knell of the union." The notes of alarm in Jefferson's comment speak of the fear aroused by the recent crisis over slavery in his home state. His vision of a cataclysm to come proved prescient. Jefferson's startling observation registered a turn in the nation's course, a pivot from the national purpose of the founding toward the threat of disunion. Drawn from new sources, Alan Taylor's riveting narrative re-creates the events that inspired black Virginians, haunted slaveholders, and set the nation on a new and dangerous course. 35 illustrations; 4 maps

From BooklistEscape from slavery in the antebellum South evokes images of secretive flight on the Underground Railroad or bizarre efforts like that of "Box Brown," who hid in a small shipping crate sent north. Taylor, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, teaches at the University of California, Davis. In this revealing and engrossing study, he illustrates that a great factor in the liberation of thousands of slaves was the policy and intervention of the British government and military. Taylor concentrates on the six decades between the American Revolution and the slave revolt of Nat Turner, and he focuses on the Chesapeake region of Virginia. The area is dotted with numerous rivers flowing to the bay, and here hundreds of slaves paddled out to British warships, especially during the War of 1812. British naval officers, through a combination of military practicality and, in some cases, antislavery sentiments, encouraged and facilitated their flight. This, of course, served to reinforce the slaveholders to view their slaves as "internal enemies." This is a well-written and scrupulously researched examination of an important aspect of the struggle against American slavery. --Jay Freeman "An extraordinary story [told] in vivid prose and compelling detail. Taylor . . . has important things to say about slavery, about war, and about America." - James Oakes, Washington Post"Alan Taylor has added a remarkable chapter to American history, showing how the actions of black Virginians in the War of 1812 remade the nation's politics in ways that profoundly influenced the racialized lead-up to the Civil War. Taylor's meticulous research and crystal-clear prose make this essential reading for anyone seeking new insights into a troubled American past." - Elizabeth A. Fenn, author of Pox Americana"One of the greatest works of American history I have ever read. . . . This elegantly written and carefully researched volume shatters a good deal of received wisdom." - Stephen L. Carter, Bloomberg View"A comprehensive, scholarly work, made accessible by Taylor's skill as a storyteller." - Kel Munger, Sacramento BeeAbout the AuthorAlan Taylor is Thomas Jefferson Professor of History at the University of Virginia. He is the author of many acclaimed books in early American history and has twice been awarded the Pulitzer Prize in History. His most recent book, *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*, won the Pulitzer Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Award.