



# France and the American Revolution

## A Symposium

Sponsored by the John Carter Brown Library and the Rhode Island Rochambeau Commission

**Saturday, June 17, 2006**

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

101 Salomon Hall

Brown University

9:15 a.m.

☞ Jeremy Black

*University of Exeter*

“French Policy in the Great Wars of Empire,  
1689 to 1815”

(Moderator: Prof. John Hattendorf, Naval War College)

10:30 a.m.

Coffee break

11:00 a.m.

☞ Edward G. Lengel

*Papers of George Washington*

*University of Virginia*

“From Rhode Island to Yorktown:  
George Washington and the Forging of  
the Alliance That Won the Revolutionary War”

(Moderator: Prof. Gordon Wood, Brown University)

12:00 p.m.

Lunch break (Visitors will find numerous  
restaurants on nearby Thayer Street.)

1:30 p.m.

☞ Marie-Jeanne Rossignol

*Institut Charles V, Université Paris 7 – Denis Diderot*

“Beyond Yorktown: From the American Revolution  
to the French Revolution with the Veterans of  
the War of Independence”

(Moderator: Dr. Norman Fiering, John Carter Brown Library)

## Program Notes

**Jeremy Black** holds a chair in history at the University of Exeter and has published numerous books dealing with British military and diplomatic history. Among his studies of warfare during the colonial period are *Britain as a Military Power, 1688–1815* (1999), *Natural and Necessary Enemies: Anglo-French Relations in the Eighteenth Century* (1986), and *War for America: The Fight for Independence 1775–1783* (1991).

Professor Black will locate Rochambeau's march to Yorktown within the greater strategy of France's longstanding conflict with Britain. He will focus on why the French entered the conflict and set this decision, in particular, against the background of tensions of the 1770s and the pressure for redressing the imperial balance following the French and Indian War.

**Edward G. Lengel** teaches history at the University of Virginia and is Associate Editor of the Papers of George Washington project. His publications in the area of military history include *General George Washington: A Military Life* (2005) and several volumes of *The Papers of George Washington* currently being published by the University of Virginia Press.

Professor Lengel will discuss the development of the Franco-American military relationship from 1778 to 1781, briefly summarizing the allies' first disastrous collaborations at Rhode Island in 1778 and Savannah, Georgia, in 1779, then explaining George Washington's pivotal role in getting the French and American armies to work together efficiently in 1781.

**Marie-Jeanne Rossignol** teaches American studies at the University of Paris 7 – Denis Diderot. Among her publications is *Le ferment nationaliste*, which won the Organization of American Historians' foreign book prize in 1994. An English translation, *The Nationalist Ferment*, appeared in 2004.

Yorktown was just one stage in the general revolutionary movement which started in the United States, and the conclusion of the War of Independence signaled the spread of American universal ideals of liberty. Professor Rossignol's talk will address the question of the role French veterans played in the diffusion of ideas in France and elsewhere in the Atlantic world after hostilities ended.

## Other public events celebrating the French contribution to the American victory at Yorktown

- 2:45 p.m.            Gathering on the Brown University Green for march to the Rhode Island State House
- 3:00–5:00 p.m.    Procession to State House, military review, ceremony
- 5:00–7:00 p.m.    Reception at State House

## Related exhibitions

At the John Carter Brown Library: “**France and the American Revolution**”

*Library hours:* Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, June 17, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

At the John Hay Library: “**The French Army in the American Revolution**”

*Library hours:* Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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