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*Independent, scholarly, and a bit old fashioned*

## SARATOGA

A Military History of the Decisive Campaign of the American Revolution

John F. Luzader

-- *Finalist, Army Distinguished Writing Award for  
Operational/Battle History (2008)* --

The months-long Saratoga campaign was one of the most important military operations of the American Revolution, and John Luzader's magisterial *Saratoga: A Military History of the Decisive Campaign of the American Revolution* is the first all-encompassing objective account of those pivotal months in American history.

British General John Burgoyne assembled his command at St. Johns (Canada) in June 1777, a force consisting of warships, a massive artillery train, and 7,800 men including two large divisions of veteran British Regulars. Burgoyne intended to capture Albany, New York, wrest control of the vital Hudson River Valley from the colonists, carry a brutal war into the American interior, secure the Champlain-Hudson country, and make troops available for Sir William Howe's 1778 campaign.

By comparison, initial colonial opposition was paltry and included widely separated fixed positions, small garrisons and commands, and feuding American commanders. Burgoyne's primary opponent was General Horatio Gates, an ambitious and capable leader who eventually cobbled together some 8,000 men, including officers Benedict Arnold and Daniel Morgan. The series of battles large and small that Gates and his lieutenants would engineer stunned the world and spun the colonial rebellion in an entirely different direction.

The British offensive kicked off with stunning victories at Fort Ticonderoga and Hubbardton, and an American relief column was nearly annihilated at Oriskany during the siege of Fort Stanwix. A large British raid, however, turned disastrous at Bennington. Serious supply problems dogged Burgoyne's column and assistance from General William Howe failed to materialize. Faced with hungry troops and a powerful gathering enemy, Burgoyne decided to take the offensive by crossing to the west side of the Hudson River and moving against Gates. The complicated maneuvers and command frictions that followed sparked two major battles, one at Freeman's Farm on September 19 and a second on much the same ground on October 7. Seared into the public consciousness as "the battle of Saratoga," these engagements culminated in the humiliating defeat and surrender of Burgoyne's entire army.

Luzader's *Saratoga* is the first complete study to combine the strategic, political, and tactical history of these complex operations into a single compelling account. Decades in the making, his sweeping prose relies almost exclusively upon original archival research and his own personal expertise with the challenging terrain. Complete with stunning original maps and photos, Luzader's *Saratoga* will take its place as one of the important and illuminating military studies ever written.

**About the Author:** John F. Luzader served as an Army Ranger during World War II. Working with the National Park Service, he conducted extensive archival and ground research for the preservation and interpretation of Saratoga National Historical Park, and served as the NPS's central history office staff historian for the colonial and revolutionary periods.

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