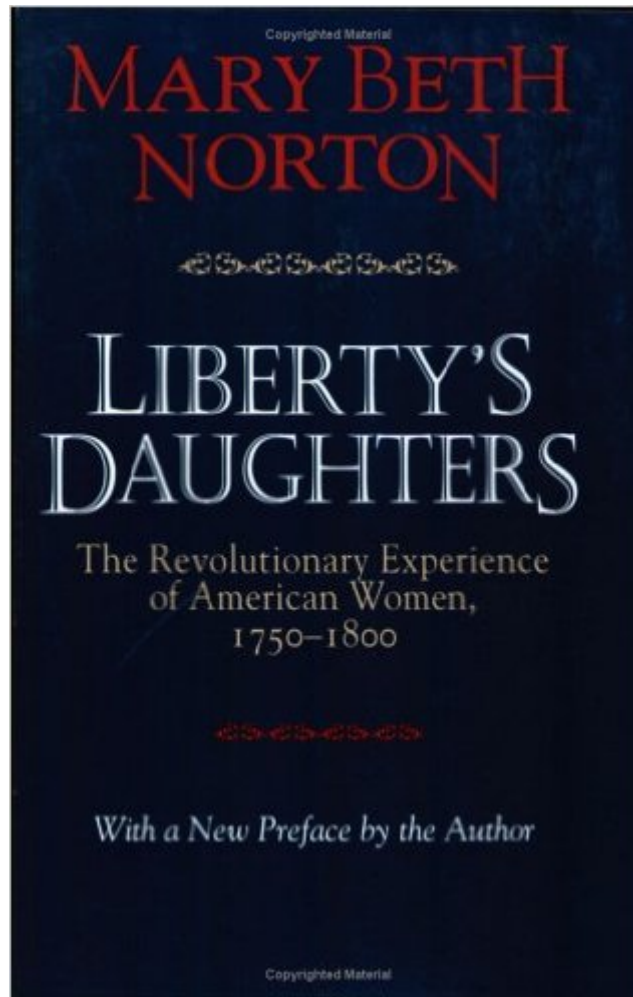


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Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience Of American Women, 1750-1800



Synopsis

First published in 1980 and recently out of print, *Liberty's Daughters* is widely considered a landmark book on the history of American women and on the Revolution itself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Liberty's Daughters is really the combined collection of two books. Part I: *The Constant Patterns of Women's Lives*, sets the reader up for Part II: *The Changing Patterns of Women's Lives*. In a way, Part I explains the life of the prewar colonial woman. Part II discusses the changes that would occur for women during and immediately following the war. Norton makes a convincing argument that women's lives were forever changed by the Revolutionary War. Chapter 1 was extremely interesting as Norton details the differences between rural women of the colonies with urban women. She details the lives of rural women of the North in comparison to women of the rural South. Plus, Norton discusses the even harsher life of the female slave. In a way, there is an underlying sentiment that life was very difficult for both men and women during this period of time. I appreciated Norton's realization that men also experienced plenty of toil during this time in history. In other words, there was plenty of hardship to go around. One main theme that the reader quickly notices is how important spinning was to the women of colonial America. The first chapters detail how women would have to spin to make clothes for themselves and their families (and sometimes very large families). To pass the time, women would often spin in groups. This activity gave them a sense of companionship. This community would lay the important groundwork for their support of the men during the Revolutionary War. The second part of the book informs the reader how women

formed formal spinning groups that actively worked to help the patriots. In a way, women now took up spinning as a part of the campaign for freedom against the British.

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