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Apostles of Revolution

Jefferson, Paine, Monroe, and the Struggle Against the Old Order in America and Europe

John Ferling

“John Ferling is a national resource.” —Michael Beschloss

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Praise for *Apostles of Revolution*:

“Another winner of early American history from a renowned practitioner.”
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Ferling’s bringing together of events in Europe and America is unusual and insightful ... provides a sophisticated view of revolutionary times on both sides of the Atlantic.”
—*Booklist*

“Illuminating, insightful, and absorbing.” —Susan Dunn, author of *Sister Revolutions: French Lightning, American Light*

“Ferling’s deep experience in founding history, and in storytelling, has him at the top of his game here. A powerful achievement—and a great read.” —William Hogeland, author of *Autumn of the Black Snake*

Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, and James Monroe were in the vanguard of revolutionary ideas in the eighteenth century. As founding fathers, they risked their lives for American independence, but they also wanted more. Each wished for profound changes in the political and social fabric of pre-1776 America and hoped that the American Revolution would spark republican and egalitarian revolutions throughout Europe, sweeping away the old monarchical order. Ultimately, each rejoiced at the opportunity to be a part of the French Revolution, a cause that became untenable as idealism gave way to the bloody Terror.

APOSTLES OF REVOLUTION spans a crucial period in Western Civilization ranging from the American insurgency against Great Britain to the Declaration of Independence, from desperate engagements on American battlefields to the threat posed to the democratic and egalitarian ideals of the Revolution by the Federalist Party. With the French Revolution devolving into anarchy in the background, the era culminates with the “Revolution of 1800,” Jefferson’s election as president.

Written as a sweeping narrative of a pivotal epoch, **APOSTLES OF REVOLUTION** captures the turbulent spirit of the times and the personal dangers experienced by Jefferson, Paine, and Monroe. It reminds us that the liberty we take for granted is ours only because we, both champions and common citizens, have fought for it. A particularly relevant reminder today, when democracy is facing such huge challenges from the monied elite.

John Ferling is professor emeritus of history at the University of West Georgia. He is the author of many books on American Revolutionary history, including *The Ascent of George Washington*; *Almost a Miracle*, an acclaimed military history of the War of Independence; and the award-winning *A Leap in the Dark*. His most recent book on American history is *Whirlwind: The American Revolution and the War That Won It*. He and his wife, Carol, live near Atlanta, Georgia.

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