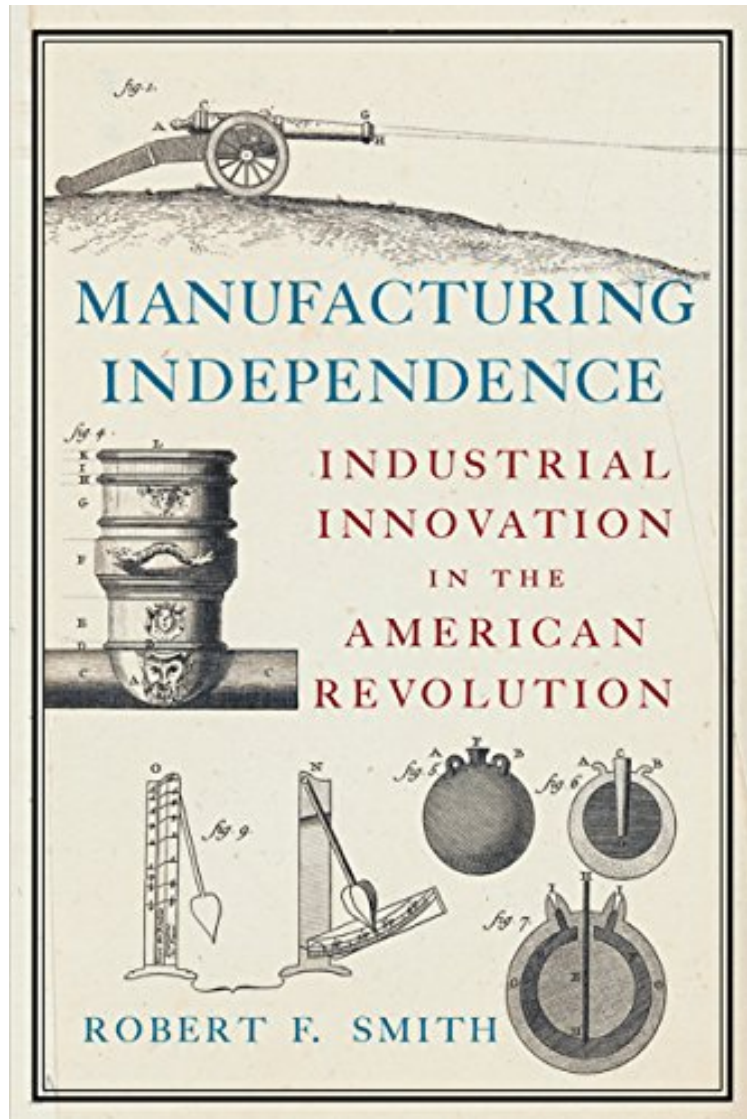


# Manufacturing Independence: Industrial Innovation in the American Revolution

Robert F. Smith

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**Robert F. Smith : Manufacturing Independence: Industrial Innovation in the American Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Manufacturing Independence: Industrial Innovation in the American Revolution:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must own for the True Student of the American Revolution By Stanley D. Saperstein As a professional historian of the American Revolution with a special interest in the social and economic history of the period and as a living historian playing Col. Benj. Flower I have the utmost praise for Robert

K. Smith's book *Manufacturing Independence*. This book is now the Bible on the subject of how a few unsung heroes like Flower and Samuel Hodgdon built from nothing The Department of the Commissary General of Military Stores and organized hundreds of cottage crafts into a industrial revolution bring manufacturing to the United States. Without this process the war for independence could not have been won. Robert Smith actually tells two stories one of the Department of the Commissary General and the other of how the industrial revolution came to the US. The book is very detailed. Using the records of the DCGMS you get to see how many of everything was made and what it cost. He explains the successes and failures of the huge logistic effort it took arm a army. The personalities and conflicts are explained through correspondence giving the reader a real feel for the time. You see right before your eyes the unfolding of what was to become the military industrial complex of the US. The book for its detail is very readable and will now replace the only other book written on this subject which is *How to Starve a Army* written in the 1960's and only touches on the DCGMS and is more about the Quarter Master Department. I would love to sit down with sometime with Dr. Smith to discuss the book and glean additional information. Well done Dr. Smith this is a book that needed to be written for real historians of the American Revolution. It has improved my impression of Col Flower and I can now add Samuel Hodgdon to my list of first person impressions. I have had Col Flower's uniform duplicated and it is magnificent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unique book with interesting information By EllieGirl Great book, and unlike any other that I have read. I learned so much from it! Very interesting that women were employed to make ammunition cartridges, and that the weapons initially sent by the French needed a lot of repair. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Especially my 4th great grandfather, Colonel David Mason By CustomerA thorough and well written book of the enormous logistical and personal challenges facing the fledgling Continental Army. Especially my 4th great grandfather, Colonel David Mason.

*The Untold Story of the Industrial Revolution and the American Victory in the War for Independence* Benjamin Franklin was serious when he suggested the colonists arm themselves with the longbow. The American colonies were not logistically prepared for the revolution and this became painfully obvious in war's first years. Trade networks were destroyed, inflation undermined the economy, and American artisans could not produce or repair enough weapons to keep the Continental Army in the field. The Continental Congress responded to this crisis by mobilizing the nation's manufacturing sector for war. With information obtained from Europe through both commercial exchange and French military networks, Congress became familiar with the latest manufacturing techniques and processes of the nascent European industrial revolution. They therefore initiated an innovative program of munitions manufacturing under the Department of the Commissary General of Military Stores. The department gathered craftsmen and workers into three national arsenals where they were trained for the large-scale production of weapons. The department also engaged private manufacturers, providing them with materials and worker training, and instituting a program of inspecting their finished products. As historian Robert F. Smith relates in *Manufacturing Independence: Industrial Innovation in the American Revolution*, the colonies were able to provide their military with the arms it needed to fight, survive, and outlast the enemy—supplying weapons for the victory at Saratoga, rearming their armies in the South on three different occasions, and providing munitions to sustain the siege at Yorktown. But this manufacturing system not only successfully supported the Continental Army, it also demonstrated new production ideas to the nation. Through this system, the government went on to promote domestic manufacturing after the war, becoming a model for how the nation could produce goods for its own needs. The War for Independence was not just a political revolution, it was an integral part of the Industrial Revolution in America.

About the Author ROBERT F. SMITH is Assistant Dean for Humanities and Social Sciences at Northampton Community College. He received his PhD in Early American History and Technology from Lehigh University and his MA in American History from Villanova University. He is the author of numerous articles on military history and the history of technology. This is his first book.