

1776 v. 2010

By Daniel L. Gardner

Where are we in history anyway? How similar are our times to those of Revolutionary War times?

In his 2005 novel, "1776," David McCullough chronicles American colonists' struggles against an overbearing and arrogant aristocracy hell-bent on teaching unruly American ragamuffins who was in charge.

Interestingly, McCullough focuses on three men and the roles they played in that critical year of American independence: George Washington, Nathanael Greene, and Henry Knox. Greene was a Quaker made general at age 33, and Knox was a 25-year old bookseller who suggested – and accomplished – haul-

ing cannons from Fort Ticonderoga overland in the dead of winter to fight the Redcoats in Boston.

On a recent tour of FOX News, Sarah Palin, asked who her favorite founding father was, replied she was amazed how all the founders from such diverse backgrounds had come together for the common good, founding our nation. Then she followed by settling on George Washington for his leadership – an answer scoffed at by MSNBC analysts, one of whom wondered why she had not even mentioned Abraham Lincoln.

McCullough notes a critical turning point among colonists at the beginning of 1776. British warships had arrived in Boston the closing days of December 1775, and copies of King George III's speech to

Parliament denouncing colonists – essentially declaring war against America's rebellious rabble – was read on New Year's Day.

Until this historic moment, colonies had been split between British loyalists and American colonists who wanted freedom from excessive government taxes, regulations, rules, and rhetoricians. This moment transformed many colonists from merely seeking freedom from aristocratic arrogance to seeking independence from elite rulers whose reach exceeded their grasp.

McCullough quotes a letter Greene wrote to Continental Congressman Samuel Ward after hearing King George's speech, in which Greene expresses his change of mind re-

garding aims of the Continental Congress:

"We have consulted our wishes rather than our reason in the indulgence of an idea of accommodation.... Heaven hath decreed that

then to recommend from the sincerity of my heart, ready at all times to bleed in my country's cause, a Declaration of Independence, and call upon the world and the great God

ridiculed Palin.

"America must raise an empire of permanent duration, supported upon the grand pillars of Truth, Freedom, and Religion, encouraged by the smiles of Justice and defended by her own patriotic sons...." Written in 1776 with faith in God and hope for a better future, repeated today among patriots not unlike our Founding Fathers.

What moment in 2010 will ignite American patriots into political revolution against arrogance in Washington?

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tottering empire Britain to irretrievable ruin and thanks to God, since Providence hath so determined, America must raise an empire of permanent duration, supported upon the grand pillars of Truth, Freedom, and Religion, encouraged by the smiles of Justice and defended by her own patriotic sons.... Permit me

who governs it to witness the necessity, propriety and rectitude thereof."

Sarah Palin couldn't have said it better. Britain's elite ruling classes derided colonists' religious quest for freedom, much like today's ruling elite, affluent mainstream media, and liberal academic rewriters of history have derided and

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