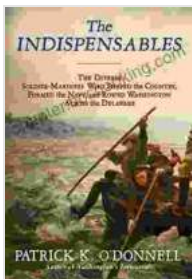


The Indispensable Role of Diverse Soldier Mariners in Shaping the American Navy

The history of the United States Navy is inextricably intertwined with the contributions of a diverse group of soldier mariners who played a pivotal role in the formation and development of the country's maritime force. These individuals, representing a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, brought with them a wealth of knowledge and skills that proved invaluable to the Navy's success.

The Revolutionary War

During the Revolutionary War, African Americans and Native Americans fought alongside white sailors in the Continental Navy. Their contributions were essential to the war effort, as they served in various capacities, including as sailors, marines, and pilots. One notable African American sailor was James Forten, who fought with distinction at the Battle of Yorktown. Native American mariners also played a significant role in the war, providing invaluable local knowledge and navigational skills.



The Indispensables: The Diverse Soldier-Mariners Who Shaped the Country, Formed the Navy, and Rowed Washington Across the Delaware by Patrick K. O'Donnell

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

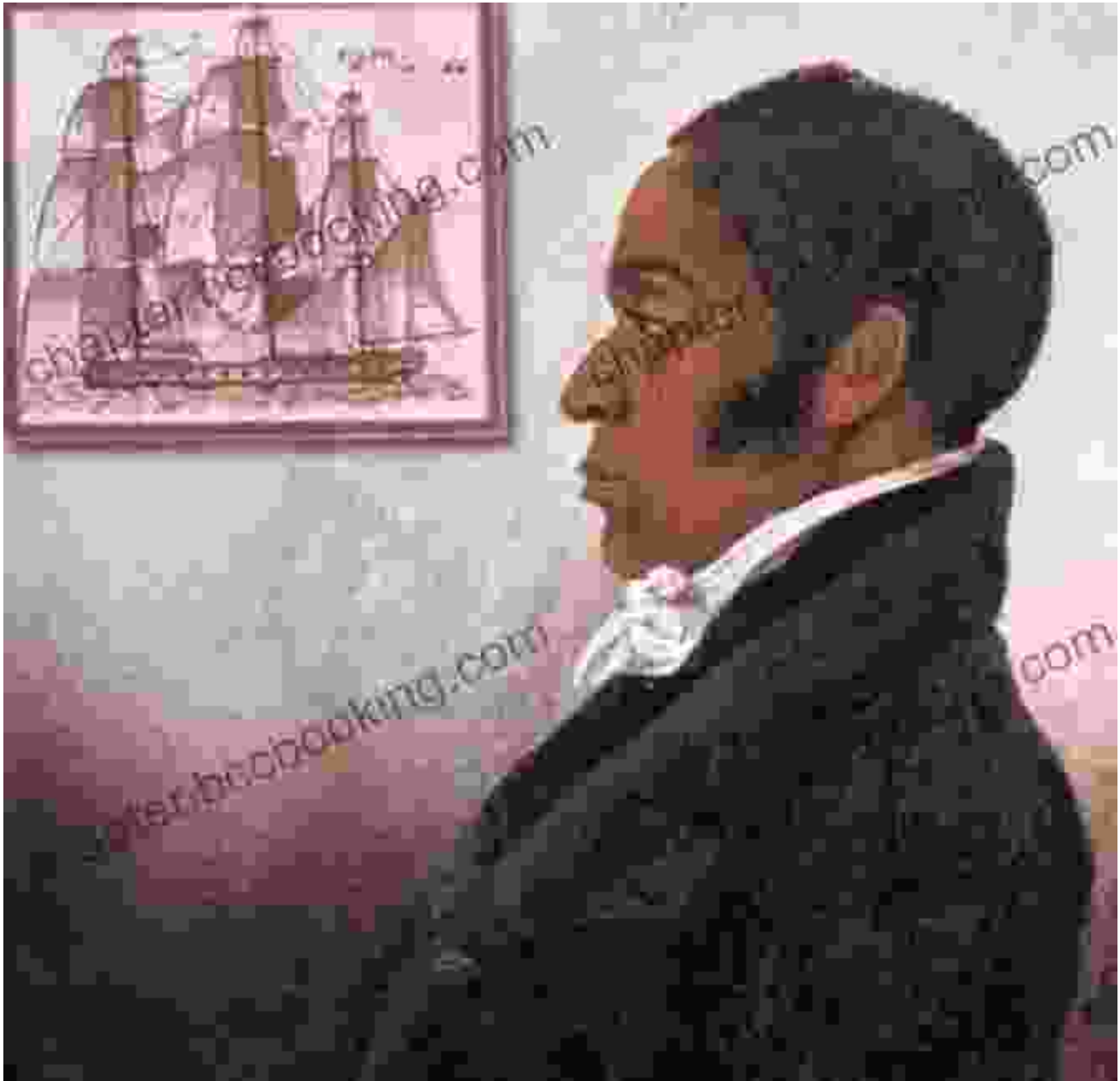
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The War of 1812

The War of 1812 saw the continued contributions of African Americans and Native Americans to the Navy. In addition, a group of women known as

"sailors in skirts" also served on board ships, performing a variety of tasks, including cooking, cleaning, and nursing the sick and wounded.



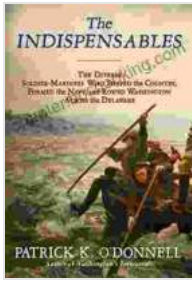
A group of women known as "sailors in skirts" who served on board ships during the War of 1812

The Civil War

During the Civil War, African Americans played a significant role in the Union Navy. They served in a variety of roles, including as sailors, marines, and shipbuilders. One notable African American sailor was Robert Smalls, who escaped from slavery and later became the pilot of the ship Planter. Smalls and his crew successfully sailed the Planter past Confederate fortifications and delivered it to the Union Navy.



The contributions of diverse soldier mariners to the United States Navy have been profound and lasting. Their unwavering service and invaluable skills helped to shape the country's maritime history and ensure its success as a global power. It is important to recognize and celebrate the legacy of these individuals and to continue to promote diversity and inclusion in the Navy and all branches of the military.



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