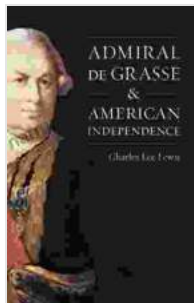


# Admiral De Grasse: A Pivotal Figure in American Independence



## Admiral De Grasse and American Independence

by Jim Edwards

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 8698 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 484 pages

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## **Early Life and Career**

François Joseph Paul de Grasse, Comte de Grasse, was born on September 13, 1722, in Le Bar-sur-Loup, France. From an early age, he showed a keen interest in the sea and joined the French Navy at the age of 15. Over the next few decades, he rose through the ranks, gaining experience in various naval campaigns and conflicts.

## **Arrival in America**

In 1781, De Grasse was dispatched to the American colonies with a squadron of 24 ships of the line. His mission was to assist the Continental Army, led by George Washington, in their struggle for independence from British rule.

## **Battle of the Chesapeake**

De Grasse's first major engagement in the war was the Battle of the Chesapeake in September 1781. The battle pitted a combined French and American fleet, under De Grasse's command, against a British fleet led by Admiral Sir Thomas Graves. De Grasse's superior tactics and the skill of his crews resulted in a decisive French victory.

The Battle of the Chesapeake was a turning point in the Revolutionary War. It prevented the British from relieving their forces at Yorktown, Virginia, where the Continental Army and French troops were besieging the British army under General Lord Cornwallis.

## **Battle of Yorktown**

With the British fleet neutralized, De Grasse moved his ships to Yorktown to support the siege. On October 19, 1781, the combined Franco-American forces launched a final assault on the British fortifications. After a fierce battle, the British surrendered, effectively ending the war in favor of the Americans.

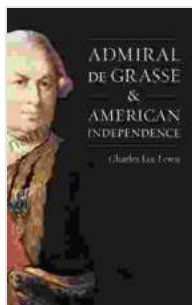
## **Later Career and Legacy**

Following the American victory, De Grasse returned to France, where he continued to serve in the navy. He was promoted to the rank of admiral in

1784 and was awarded the Order of Saint Louis for his service.

Admiral De Grasse died on January 11, 1788, in Paris, France. His legacy as a pivotal figure in American independence is firmly established. He is remembered for his strategic genius, his decisive victories, and his unwavering support for the American cause.

Admiral De Grasse was a brilliant naval commander and a staunch ally of the American colonies in their quest for independence. His contributions to the Revolutionary War were immeasurable, and he played a crucial role in securing the American victory. His name remains forever etched in the annals of American history as one of the most influential figures in the founding of the United States of America.



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