



Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy

Ian W. Toll

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"A fluent, intelligent history...give[s] the reader a feel for the human quirks and harsh demands of life at sea."—*New York Times Book Review*

Before the ink was dry on the U.S. Constitution, the establishment of a permanent military became the most divisive issue facing the new government. The founders—particularly Jefferson, Madison, and Adams—debated fiercely. Would a standing army be the thin end of dictatorship? Would a navy protect from pirates or drain the treasury and provoke hostility? Britain alone had hundreds of powerful warships.

From the decision to build six heavy frigates, through the cliff-hanger campaign against Tripoli, to the war that shook the world in 1812, Ian W. Toll tells this grand tale with the political insight of *Founding Brothers* and the narrative flair of Patrick O'Brian.

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