

Rick Atkinson

Pulitzer-Prize Winning Author and Military Historian

Rick Atkinson is a best-selling author, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, and former *Washington Post* journalist. He is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling May 2019 book *The British Are Coming*, which is the first of his highly-anticipated *Revolution Trilogy*. Among many accolades, the book has won the George Washington Prize for the year's best work on our founding era, the New-York Historical Society's Barbara and David Zalaznick Book Prize for the year's best work in American history or biography, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in American History Book Award. Atkinson's second volume in the *Revolution Trilogy* will open in the spring of 1777 and describe events through May 1780, when the American cause suffered a catastrophic defeat at Charleston.

He is also author of the *Liberation Trilogy*, a narrative history of the liberation of Europe in World War II. The third volume of that series, *The Guns at Last Light*, quickly became a No. 1 *New York Times* best-seller in 2013 and was named one of *Washington Post's* "Top 10 Books of 2013." Of it, the paper said, "Atkinson weaves a multitude of tiny details into a tapestry of sublime prose." Similarly, journalist George Will praised the book as "history written at the level of literature," while David Ignatius said it "teaches the greatest lesson of all for the present, which is the need for patience and perseverance against obstacles." Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Atkinson shares the lessons military history can teach us about ourselves, one another, and our collective future. A fascinating and gifted story-teller, he brings the past alive in the present day with cautionary tales and accounts of incredible bravery and triumph alike, highlighting the qualities of leaders that make or break empires.

Acclaimed Author and Historian. The first volume of the Liberation Trilogy, *An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943*, received the Pulitzer Prize and was acclaimed by the *Wall Street Journal* as "the best World War II battle narrative since Cornelius Ryan's classics *The Longest Day* and *A Bridge Too Far*." The second volume, *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944*, drew praise from the *New York Times* as "a triumph of narrative history ... elegantly written." The final volume was received with incredible praise, with *The Los Angeles Times* calling it "Monumental...A masterpiece of deep reporting and powerful storytelling," and the *Dallas Morning News* remarking that "Soon, if not already, Atkinson will show up on the list of giants."

Atkinson is also the best-selling author of *The Long Gray Line*, a narrative saga about the West Point class of 1966, and *Crusade*, a history of the Persian Gulf War. He also wrote *In the Company of Soldiers: A Chronicle of Combat*, an account of his two months with General David H. Petraeus during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. *The New York Times Book Review* called the book "the most intimate, vivid, and well-informed account yet published," and *Newsweek* cited it as "one of the 10 best books of 2004." Atkinson is also the lead essayist in *Where Valor Rests: Arlington National Cemetery*, which was published by *National Geographic* in 2007.

Awards. Atkinson's many awards include the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for history; the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting; and the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for public service, awarded to the *Washington Post* for a series of investigative articles directed and edited by Atkinson on shootings by the District of Columbia police department. He is winner of the 1989 George Polk Award for national reporting, the 2003 Society for Military History Distinguished Book Award, the 2007 Gerald R. Ford Award for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense, the 2010 Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing, the 2014 Samuel Eliot Morison Prize for lifetime achievement, and the 2015 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. Atkinson has served as the Gen. Omar N. Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership at the U.S. Army War College, where he remains an adjunct faculty member.

Successful Journalism Career. Atkinson served as a reporter, foreign correspondent, and senior editor for 25 years at the *Washington Post*. His most recent assignments were covering the 101st Airborne during the invasion of Iraq, and writing about roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2007. Among other assignments, he served as the *Post's* assistant managing editor for investigations as well as the paper's Berlin bureau chief. In that post he covered not only Germany and NATO, but also spending considerable time in Somalia and Bosnia.

Born in Munich, Germany, Atkinson is the son of a U.S. Army officer and grew up on military posts. He holds a Master of Arts degree in English literature from the University of Chicago and an honorary doctorate from Norwich University.