

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER JACK RAKOVE TO EXPLORE THE MEN BEHIND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (April 20, 2010) – Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Jack Rakove** will join the National Constitution Center for a conversation about his new book, *Revolutionaries: A New History of the Invention of America*, which explores how our nation came to be and why the idea of America endures. Author and historian **Richard Beeman** will moderate. The program will take place on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In *Revolutionaries*, Rakove tells the stories of America's Founding Fathers before they became fully formed leaders, as individuals whose lives were radically altered by the explosive events of the mid-1770s. Spanning the two crucial decades of the country's birth, from 1773 to 1792, Rakove uses little-known stories of these men to capture the intensely creative period of the republic's founding. From the Boston Tea Party to the First Continental Congress, from Trenton to Valley Forge, and from the ratification of the Constitution to the disputes that led to our two-party system, he explores the competing views of politics, war, diplomacy, and society that shaped our nation.

Jack Rakove, the William Robertson Coe Professor of History and American Studies and a professor of political science at Stanford University, is one of the most distinguished historians of the early American republic. He is the author of *Original*

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Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution, which won the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1997. Rakove frequently writes op-ed articles for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other major newspapers. He has been an expert witness in Indian land claims litigation and has testified in Congress on the background and history of impeachment.

Richard Beeman is a professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and the author of several books on the history of revolutionary America. His most recent book is *Plain, Honest Men: The Making of the American Constitution*. His biography of Patrick Henry was a finalist for the National Book Award. Beeman has also received awards from the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has served as Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University. In addition, he serves as a trustee and vice-chair of the Distinguished Scholars Panel of the National Constitution Center.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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