Rick Atkinson

Pulitzer-Prize Winning Author and Military Historian

The Fate of the Day: Turning Points in America's Fight for Independence Pulitzer Prize–winning historian Rick Atkinson brings to life the gripping middle years of the American Revolution, from the battles of Saratoga and Monmouth to the desperate winter at Valley Forge. Drawing from his new book *The Fate of the Day*, Atkinson reveals how the outcome of the war—and the fate of the United States—hung by a thread between 1777 and 1780. He shares dramatic stories of courage, sacrifice, and leadership, set against a backdrop of global politics and fragile alliances. This talk offers a compelling reexamination of the people and decisions that shaped a nation as we celebrate the country's 250th anniversary. Audiences will gain fresh insight into how ordinary individuals persevered through crisis to forge democracy. Atkinson seamlessly connects past to present, sharing lessons from America's birth that still resonate today.

Follow the Leaders: What Our Military History Teaches About Being in Charge World War II was the greatest political event in the last century, shaping the U.S. socially, economically, and internationally. Rick Atkinson looks at prominent military leaders of this great conflict and discusses what we can learn from their successes and failures as leaders. He focuses on General Eisenhower, assessing the strengths and weaknesses that led to his incredible rise in the military and successful leadership style. Atkinson's scope as a historian extends beyond WWII, allowing him to share stories of other prominent military leaders like Generals Washington and Petraeus. He shows audiences the commonalities amongst military greats and how they can apply the essential leadership characteristics – like resilience, adaptability, and perseverance – to their own lives and organizations. The stories and examples Atkinson shares are so vivid that audiences feel transported, learning the field-tested lessons as the generals do, and his depth of knowledge and recall for historical facts and figures is incredible.

Ten Things Every American Should Know about World War II Atkinson is among the most celebrated historians of the Second World War, and his *Liberation Trilogy*—nearly 15 years in the making—has achieved both critical and popular success. It is what every American should know about the greatest epic of the 20th century. In this presentation, Atkinson shares amazing stories and lessons about WWII while discussing its seminal moments and how the war shaped our modern world, created an American heritage, and led to great social change (especially in gender and race relations), medical advancement, and more.