

Richard Bell: Historian of Early America

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Richard Bell is a distinguished historian specializing in American history from 1750 to 1877. He holds a PhD from Harvard University and a BA from the University of Cambridge.

Bell's latest book, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World* (Penguin/Riverhead, 2025), earned starred reviews from *Publisher's Weekly*, *Library Journal*, and *Kirkus Reviews*. The book reframes the Revolution as a global cataclysm reaching from India and Africa to Central America and Australia, revealing how this conflict disrupted international trade, restructured penal systems, and created the first global refugee crisis.

His previous book, *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped Into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home* (Simon & Schuster, 2019), received the NEH Public Scholar Award and was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and Harriet Tubman Prize. This narrative chronicles five free Black boys kidnapped from Philadelphia in 1825 and sold into the Deep South, exposing the "Reverse Underground Railroad" that stole thousands of legally free African Americans before the Civil War.

Bell has also authored *We Shall Be No More: Suicide and Self-Government in the Newly United States* and co-edited *Buried Lives: Incarcerated in Early America*, along with a dozen book chapters and journal articles.

An Andrew Carnegie Fellow (2021-2023), Bell has held fellowships at more than two dozen institutions including the Huntington Library, Yale's Gilder Lehrman Center, and the Library of Congress. Since joining the University of Maryland, College Park in 2006, he has lectured regularly on C-Span and at the Smithsonian Institution. He welcomes inquiries from graduate students working on American history between 1750 and 1877.