

# SIX FRIGATES

IAN W. TOLL

Read by Stephen Lang

"Wonderfully atmospheric...brilliantly researched, full of stirring action and rich with the scent of the sea."—Simon Winchester, author of *The Professor and the Madman*

Before the ink was dry on the Constitution of the United States, the establishment of a permanent military had become the most divisive issue facing the young republic. Would a standing army be the thin end of dictatorship? Would a navy protect American commerce from the vicious depredations of the Barbary pirates, or would it drain the treasury and provoke hostilities with the great powers? How large a navy would suffice? The founders—particularly Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, and Adams—debated these questions fiercely and switched sides more than once.

In 1794, President Washington signed legislation authorizing the construction of six heavy frigates. The unique combination of power, speed and tactical versatility—smaller than a battleship and larger than a sloop—that all navies sent on their most daring missions. It was the first great appropriation of federal money and the first demonstration of the power of the new central government, calling for the creation of entirely new domestic industries, and the extraction of natural resources from the backwoods of Maine to the uninhabited coastal islands of Georgia.

From the complicated politics of the initial decision, through the cliffhanger 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 a narrative flair worthy of Patrick O'Brian. In the words of Henry Adams, the 1812 encounter between *USS Constitution* and *HMS Guerriere* "raised the United States in one half hour to the rank of a first class power in the world."

Ian W. Toll has been a Wall Street analyst, a Federal Reserve financial analyst, and a political aide and speechwriter. *Six Frigates* is his first audiobook. He lives with his wife and two-year-old son in San Francisco.

Stephen Lang's Broadway credits include *Wait Until Dark*, *A Few Good Men*, *The Speed of Darkness* (Tony and Outer Critics noms), and *Death of A Salesman* (Drama Desk nom). Among his feature films are *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, *Tombstone*, *Gettysburg*, and *Manhunter*. His television work includes, *The Fugitive*, *Crime Story*, *Babe Ruth*, and *Death of A Salesman*.

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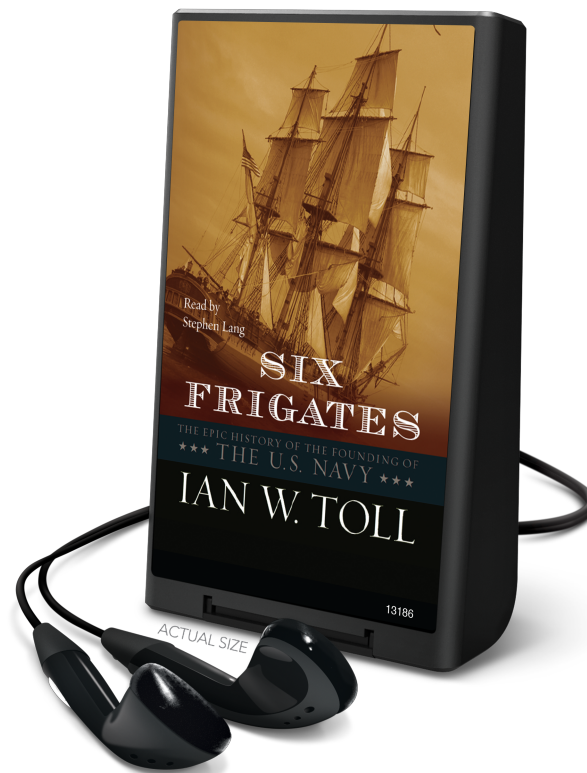
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