



The Real George Washington

Jay A. Parry, Andrew M. Allison, W. Cleon Skousen

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This is the best-selling classic regularly featured by Glenn Beck to Fox TV viewers!

The Real George Washington: The True Story of America's Most Indispensable Man. *There is properly no history; only biography,* wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson. If that is true of the general run of mankind, it is particularly true of George Washington. The story of his life is the story of the founding of America. His was the dominant personality in three of the most critical events in that founding: the Revolutionary War, the Constitutional Convention, and the first national administration. Had he not served as America's leader in those three events, all would likely have failed -- and America, as we know it today, would not exist.

Why, after two centuries, does George Washington remain one of the most beloved figures in our history? *The Real George Washington* answers that question by giving us a close look at this man who became the father of our country and the first American President. But rather than focus on the interpretations of historians, much of his exciting story is told in his own words. The second part of this 928-page book brings together the most important and insightful passages from Washington's writings, conveniently arranged by subject.

Published by the National Center for Constitutional Studies, a nonprofit educational foundation dedicated to restoring Constitutional principles in the tradition of America's Founding Fathers. *The National Center for Constitutional Studies...is doing a fine public service in educating Americans about the principles of the Constitution.* -- Ronald Reagan, President of the United States

The Real George Washington Details

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From Reader Review The Real George Washington for online ebook

Diane says

In- depth look at the man who lead our country in battle to secure our freedom and then provided a steady hand in establishing a United States. Written mainly through GW's own words through correspondence, we get a feel for the man whom others felt (as well as he) was divinely appointed to lead our country at that specific time. He felt many times that he was being guided by " the hand of Providence" and encouraged his armies to attend church services to pray for strength, guidance, and give thanks for their blessings. He was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and friend who was honest and upright in dealings with his fellow man.

Stephen says

George Washington was without a doubt a pivotal cog in the machinery of the American Revolution. He served as Commander in Chief of the American armed forces and led its poorly trained and resource-deficient soldiers to victory over the mightiest empire of the time -- Great Britain. He presided over the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and guided tempers and passions to prevail in creating the greatest foundation of any democracy in history. And, when a new union of the states was formed, he accepted nomination as the first President of the United States of America, establishing our nation's precedents and overseeing construction of its longstanding institutions.

"The Real George Washington" does a good job of illustrating George Washington's accomplishments and contributions to our nation -- especially with regard to his military duties. There are many interwoven writings from Washington's own diaries and letters, providing additional insight into his responsibilities and interactions with others. However, Jay A. Parry seems to shade every act of Washington with a holy glow. In reality, he was a man with the same core makeup as any other. A very influential and upright man, but a man nonetheless. In doing this, Parry makes it tougher for the reader to connect with the "Real" George Washington. Parry's Washington seems very distant at times.

This book also does injustice to the gravity of some of the happenings of Washington's administration. From scenes such as the feud between Jefferson and Hamilton to the Whiskey Rebellion, Washington appears in Parry's writings to stay above the fray although other authors such as Ron Chernow and others provide a much more realistic background on these matters.

All in all, "The Real George Washington" is a fair primer in the life of America's first and most influential president. Expect to glean much about his accomplishments and adherence to duty, but do not expect to see deep into the humanity of this American demigod.

Jim says

There are a host of books about George Washington and his life during the Revolutionary War. This is a good one. Disclosure, there is a section of the book which I have not finished yet. I can only read historical novels for a certain length of time and need a rest with some other good reads. I will get back to it.

Angie Bolland says

This was a really interesting and in depth look into the life of our first president. He was an amazing man. He only had a elementary education and he taught himself everything else. He felt unequal to the tasks set before him, but he read voraciously and took the advice of all his closest advisors, especially when their view differed, and he adjusted to anything that was thrown at him. By the age of 27 he was the commander-in-chief for the entire Virginia militia. He was a surveyor and a farmer. He loved his wife and was true to her all his days. In addition to this he was the Commander of the Continental Army and he dealt with shortages in troops, clothing, food and pay for those troops and an ineffective Congress for more than 8 long years. In the last year of the war the troops were at a breaking point. They hadn't been paid in almost a year and there was no hope that the situation would be rectified anytime soon. To inflame the situation further a pamphlet was circulated among the troops calling for them to storm Congress and make them pay the delinquent wages. Washington called a meeting to discuss the problem. He told the troops that he knew what they were going through and he urged them to wait on Congress. Most of those in attendance were not moved. He then started to read a letter from a member of congress, he took out his glasses so he could read it and his hand shook. And in simple terms he said, "I am sorry Gentlemen, I have grown old in your service." There wasn't a dry eye in the room and the disaster was averted. Nothing he did was for show and they knew it. I have such a respect for this man. And my respect has only deepened because of this book.

Glenn Kleint says

George Washington, American Hero. Want to know who he was, what he did, how he thought, what inspired how and what he sacrificed for the birth of this nation? Here is your answer

LaRae says

This book was really a great overview of George Washington. I'm so glad I read it! I bogged down a bit during the War (about 350 pages). This part was very factual, but quite dry. It is definitely a worthwhile read.

Niki says

This book is very informative and interesting to read. It is a little slow to read, especially considering about 350 of the 650 pages are about the Revolutionary War. This book uses mostly information and excerpts from actual letters that GW wrote, so I felt I really got to understand who he really was.

After reading this book I realize that it is a miracle that we won the Revolutionary War and the Constitution was established. I also realize that George Washington was the perfect man for the job of first President and Commander in Chief of our first army. His great desire to be free of tyrants and that determination helped him guide our forces to victory in the Rev. War. He was a virtuous and honest man. As a President he didn't take sides very easily, but tried to find compromises to do what is best for everyone. I think my favorite thought from him in the book is: "My first wish is...to see the whole world in peace, and the inhabitants of it

as one band of brothers, striving who should contribute most to the happiness of mankind."

Trevor Parker says

I give this book four stars because of subject matter. I mean, George Washington rocks and I love learning about him.

However, the structure of the book was lacking (I'd give it three stars) and again I felt as if I was reading excerpts and summary instead of an in depth biography. To be fair, how much can I expect in only 600 pages? So while this opened up the character of Washington to me, I now plan on reading another of his biographers in hopes of fleshing him out more.

April says

11 year old project. Good info.

Tori says

This book gave me a greater appreciation for the brave men who fought for our country's independence, and for our founding fathers. George Washington gave so much of his life, and of himself to lead our country. His dedication to God, his marriage, and our country was inspiring.

Susan says

I had wanted to read "The Real George Washington" for a while, hearing it recommended on Glenn Beck's radio show, which I listen to. I was on the library waiting list for a long time for it, and when it finally arrived, I was dismayed to see that it was over 900 pages! However, a further perusal showed that the biography itself was "only" 600 pages (the rest is an appendix featuring various quotes of Washington's).

I did learn a lot about Washington. He really was impressive -- his cohorts begged him to lead the army into the Revolution, then begged him to be President -- once, then again (and actually yet again, but he finally declined). How many folks today are so exemplary that we have to beg them into leadership positions?

I read about seemingly every Revolutionary War battle there ever was, and you know what? I've learned that I should probably limit my reading about world figures to the wives' books. Why? Because I've found that I don't really care so much about Cornwallis' battle strategy, but I do care about the leader's family relationships, or where he gets his clothes. And the women's books tend to focus on those aspects of life more than the men's.

The book did paint Washington as great -- so much so that I was almost wishing for an opposing view. Could one man really have been that impressive? Maybe I'm just jaded by the negativity of our politics today (and indeed, one point Washington made was his dislike of the beginnings of political parties' formation; he felt

that they would be a divisive element in American life).

Susan H says

Well written, amazing story of George Washington. Although it's filled with facts and information, it is not boring! I really loved this book.

Tammi Shamo says

Such a good biography. Really makes you appreciate the man George Washington was.

Lydia says

Debated between a 4 and 5....For a biography it is a 5. Very well researched. I especially love the whole quote section at the end. And I'm glad I bought the book. Why a 4---biographies aren't my fastest read... I have to set it down occasionally--but this one I found myself wanting to read "one more chapter".

But Wow! George Washington is an amazing man. I did visit Mount Vernon last week...and would have loved more of that stuff in this book too...but then think how much of his life he wished he could have spent there but went to serve the country instead...

Emily Powers says

Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Biography is not a genre I frequently read, but Burke, Beck and a love of liberty have encouraged me to revisit our founding fathers and the history of the American experiment. Today, it's popular to be a historical revisionist; these voyeurs often delight in "digging for dirty refuse in the rubble of history." The Real George Washington does not "analyze and dissect the man until nothing remains but faulty interpretations." They have told his story and the story of the founding of America (they are inextricably intertwined) in "simple terms, allowing him the privilege of presenting himself throughout." Part 1 of The Real George Washington consists of the biography. Part 2 contains selected quotations from Washington's writings and speeches. "Together they provide a more meaningful and more complete portrait of George Washington." Jay A. Parry writes the preface to this volume and states, "The citizen of today who turns to the Founders' writings is often surprised by their timeless relevance--and reminded that the self-evident truths which made us the freest and most prosperous country on earth can, with renewed attention, be put back to work again."

Sierra says

Wow! What a great read! It was awesome to have this peak into General Washington's life

Christy says

LOVED this book. I didn't know that Washington wasn't as educated as the other Founding Fathers; it's something that really bothered him. He is probably the greatest leader in our history and was so because of his virtue. His humility and willingness to serve despite his longing to retire was amazing. Most people choose to run for office; he was pretty much elected against his will.

Some important points from the book:

Washington was miraculously preserved during the French and Indian War. This story was also told, but in more detail, in *The Bulletproof George Washington*. Horses were shot out from under him, bullets went through his hat and jacket yet he was unharmed (and was not in the best health because he was recovering from an illness.) An Indian Chief instructed his best shooters to take Washington out, but they couldn't. The Chief concluded that the Great Spirit was protecting him and even said that he would be a great leader someday.

Washington and his troops suffered so much because of the weakness of the Confederacy and lack of a federal government. The people of the states could have stepped up with supplies but they didn't. Ultimately the responsibility of the hardships of starvation, suffering and death rests with the American people. How hard would it have been for a town, community etc... to gather much needed supplies of blankets, shoes and food, on their own, to deliver to the troops? They needed a few "we support our troops" bumper stickers and to live up to it.

It cannot be doubted that "Providence" was involved and saved the American army several times. Whether it was in climate weather and a battle postponed, or fog rolling in just as Washington stepped onto the boat for retreat or whatever. They were looked after.

Washington was against the American people dividing into political parties. He was prophetic about that. At the time, people were dividing into Republicans behind Jefferson and Federalists behind Hamilton.

Slavery. Washington inherited his slaves with the estates. He never bought or sold slaves, and kept families together even though it was a financial hardship to do so. He kept them humanely and well cared for. They had a better life with him than if they were freed to make a living for themselves. He did set them free after Martha's death. Washington's plantations fed many people.

Washington didn't have a crush or love affair with Sally Fairfax. The infamous letter attributed to him "surfaced" many years later and was never proved to be his.

Washington didn't die because of lack of antibiotics as many histories conclude. He died from doctors giving him mercury preparations and bleeding him to death. His cold or flu shouldn't have killed him. I mourn his early death.

Washington deserves the reputation that he has had before history was rewritten to try to say otherwise.

Matthew says

Very Inspirational, i absolutely loved it.

Jeffrey says

In a word - wow! At first I was a bit scared of this book because of how thick it is and because I assumed the subject material would be a bit dry. Boy was I wrong! This book reads like a novel and is very hard to put down. I now have a handful of new heroes that are worth emulation: Washington, Nathaniel Green, Lafayette. This book is pure gold - I would highly recommend it as a fantastic way to learn more about America, the revolutionary war, the creation of the constitution and of course about George Washington, the man that without whom, America could have never been born.

Shawnah says

i LOVED this book. I have a much deeper sense of gratitude and appreciation for the American militamen who fought for our Liberty. I also have a greater understanding of the commitment, love, and passion George Washington had and for his life mission, dedication to God and Country. He is right up in the ranks with Joan of Arc for me. I see a great parallel between the two. Both lead poor country's with tiny army's to win a great battle against the Tyrannical England for freedom and Liberty. For France the kingdom was restored to the rightful Heir- King Charles the VII in July 1429. For the America, George Washington lead his ragmuffin militia to a victorious battle against England for liberty and freedom. I now have two favorite hero's.

I highly recommend this book.

One of my favorite quotes from the book is a little amusing and actually comes from Martha Washington. When asked, "how are you" she would reply, "I am a Virginian, Steady as a Clock, Busy as a Bee, and Happy as a Cricket". I just loved this. It made me smile because i feel exactly the same.
