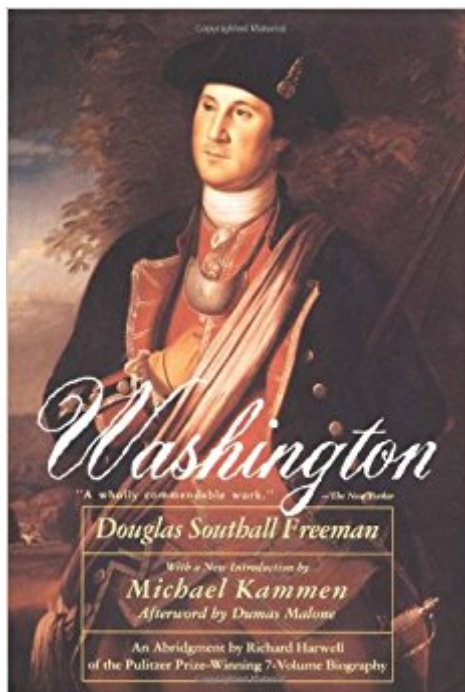


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Washington



Synopsis

"Freeman's treatment of Washington as a Commander in Chief is virtually definitive" (The New York Times Book Review). Washington is the most complete, definitive one-volume biography of George Washington ever written. In 1948 renowned biographer and military historian Douglas Southall Freeman won his second Pulitzer Prize for his new and dramatic reexamination of George Washington. For years biographies had gone from idolatry to muckraking in their depictions of this somewhat marbleized Founding Father. Freeman's new interpretation was a fresh step, making Washington a living, breathing individual, flawed but heroic. An able commander who defeated the British Empire against incredible odds, Washington proved to be just as adept at wielding political power, and adroitly steered our new loosely called nation through the first stormy years of our unproven federal stewardship and the first two presidential administrations. Here with an introduction by Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Kammen, who puts the writing and publication of Washington into perspective, and an afterword by Pulitzer Prize winner Dumas Malone, who explains the travails of Freeman's grinding work, Washington is the most comprehensive biography available, and its value as an important classic has never been more evident.

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Customer Reviews

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Freeman's epic seven-volume biography of the founding father is here abridged into 896 pages. Illustrations. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Washington is the most complete, definitive one-volume biography of George Washington ever written. In 1948 renowned biographer and military historian Douglas Southall Freeman won his second Pulitzer Prize for his new dramatic reexamination of George Washington.

Douglas Southall Freeman's unabridged Washington biography would be the best thing for serious students of American history. It is one of the best Washington biographies and the author won a Pulitzer Prize. Richard Harwell has done a good job with this abridgement for people who don't have time for the full work. I notice that some reviewers think this work is "dry," however the original is also dry, and more so! But both versions are full of important information. The introduction and afterward contain some useful biographical information about Freeman and were written by Michael Kammen and Dumas Malone, also Pulitzer Prize winners. John Christmas, author of "Democracy Society"

This volume condenses a much larger work into a manageable read that does not gloss over the mistakes and human shortcomings of Washington, while at the same time illuminating the elements of the General's character that made him great. I found it refreshingly candid and extremely interesting; in fact, I couldn't put it down once I dug into it in earnest. I live 10 minutes from Mount Vernon and I've been to West Point, Trenton, Princeton, Philadelphia, and other places where Washington fought the American Revolution and carried out the earliest business of our nation. Reading this book after seeing these historic sites makes Washington real and causes me to want to return to these places and walk in his footsteps again. If you are looking for an excellent, well-written summary of the life of one of the greatest leaders who ever lived, look no further.

One of the best works on President Washington out there. I have read over 14 books about the Man and Freeman and Flexner are the best.

Very interesting bio!

It was written by a man who knew Washington. It is somehow more intriguing because George Washington died before photographs and movies. I enjoyed learning about this amazing man.

This is very interesting stuff, not as easily read as Freeman's abridged Lee. It is well researched and still classic Freeman.

Originally published in multiple volumes, we have the condensed version, which is still over 700 pages long. It's absolutely gorgeous. Freeman left no stone unturned in finding resources for the book, and brings Washington forth, not so much from description as from his actions. I never get a sense of Washington's voice, yet I see him and feel him clearly in what he's doing. The man emerges in his incredible tenacity in trying circumstances. In slogging through the war, feeling like I was right in there with them, I was amazed that our nation even formed, so formidable and numerous were the obstacles, that I thought there really must have been some heavenly providence guiding this republic to succeed. His character reveals itself further with the strong sense of duty he demonstrates, when having already given not only the Revolutionary War his all, but to the Indian wars prior to that, by his taking up office, even though he would rather have been tending his plantation and farms. Broke, having spent his personal funds on the war, Washington puts himself in debt further still by feeding all who stop by to visit at war's end. Seeing the turmoil of our beginning sheds light on our current situation as well, the discordant voices and desires that don't seem to have changed very much through time but, which altogether, continue our republic. I strongly recommend it. (This might not have been an purchase as we've had the book for a while.)

Although I greatly appreciate the tremendous historical significance of Freeman's work, I have to say that I strongly prefer Flexner's 1-volume abridgement of "Washington: The Indispensable Man" over this one. Although I think the scholarship and scope of both are excellent, Flexner is much more readable and enjoyable in my opinion. Maybe historians would prefer Freeman, but I think most lay readers (like me) would prefer Flexner. Joseph Ellis' "Excellency" is also a great read, but not comprehensive enough to challenge Freeman and Flexner as the best single-volume biography of Washington. I am currently reading Ron Chernow's biography of Washington, and I think it will give Flexner a good run for his money.

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