

Empire Of Liberty A History The Early R Lic 1789 1815 Gordon S Wood

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new york times bestseller an elegant synthesis done by the leading scholar in the field which nicely integrates the work on the american revolution over the last three decades but never loses contact with the older classic questions that we have been arguing about for over two hundred years joseph j ellis author of founding brothers a magnificent account of the revolution in arms and consciousness that gave birth to the american republic when abraham lincoln sought to define the significance of the united states he naturally looked back to the american revolution he knew that the revolution not only had legally created the united states but also had produced all of the great hopes and values of the american people our noblest ideals and aspirations our commitments to freedom constitutionalism the well being of ordinary people and equality came out of the revolutionary era lincoln saw as well that the revolution had convinced americans that they were a special people with a special destiny to lead the world toward liberty the revolution in short gave birth to whatever sense of nationhood and national purpose americans have had no doubt the story is a dramatic one thirteen insignificant colonies three thousand miles from the centers of western civilization fought off british rule to become in fewer than three decades a huge sprawling rambunctious republic of nearly four million citizens but the history of the american revolution like the history of the nation as a whole ought not to be viewed simply as a story of right and wrong from which moral lessons are to be drawn it is a complicated and at times ironic story that needs to be explained and understood not blindly celebrated or condemned how did this great revolution come about what was its character what were its consequences these are the questions this short history seeks to answer that it succeeds in such a profound and enthralling way is a tribute to gordon wood s mastery of his subject and of the historian s craft

the preeminent historian of the american revolution explains why it remains the most significant event in our history more than almost any other nation in the world the united states began as an idea for this reason pulitzer prize winning historian gordon s wood believes that the american revolution is the most important event in our history bar none since american identity is so fluid

and not based on any universally shared heritage we have had to continually return to our nation's founding to understand who we are in the idea of america wood reflects on the birth of american nationhood and explains why the revolution remains so essential in a series of elegant and illuminating essays wood explores the ideological origins of the revolution from ancient rome to the european enlightenment and the founders attempts to forge an american democracy as wood reveals while the founders hoped to create a virtuous republic of yeoman farmers and uninterested leaders they instead gave birth to a sprawling licentious and materialistic popular democracy wood also traces the origins of american exceptionalism to this period revealing how the revolutionary generation despite living in a distant sparsely populated country believed itself to be the most enlightened people on earth the revolution gave americans their messianic sense of purpose and perhaps our continued propensity to promote democracy around the world because the founders believed their colonial rebellion had universal significance for oppressed peoples everywhere yet what may seem like audacity in retrospect reflected the fact that in the eighteenth century republicanism was a truly radical ideology as radical as marxism would be in the nineteenth and one that indeed inspired revolutionaries the world over today there exists what wood calls a terrifying gap between us and the founders such that it requires almost an act of imagination to fully recapture their era because we now take our democracy for granted it is nearly impossible for us to appreciate how deeply the founders feared their grand experiment in liberty could evolve into monarchy or dissolve into licentiousness gracefully written and filled with insight the idea of america helps us to recapture the fears and hopes of the revolutionary generation and its attempts to translate those ideals into a working democracy lin manuel miranda's smash Broadway musical hamilton has sparked new interest in the revolutionary war and the founding fathers in addition to alexander hamilton the production also features george washington thomas jefferson james madison aaron burr lafayette and many more look for gordon's new book friends divided

in a grand and immensely readable synthesis of historical political cultural and economic analysis a prize winning historian describes the events that made the american revolution gordon's wood depicts a revolution that was about much more than a break from england rather it transformed an almost feudal society into a democratic one whose emerging realities sometimes baffled and disappointed its founding fathers

for the 250th anniversary of the start of the american revolution acclaimed historian gordon's wood presents a landmark collection of british and american pamphlets from the political debate that divided an empire and created a nation in 1764 in the wake of its triumph in the seven years war great britain possessed the largest and most powerful empire the world had seen since the fall of rome and its north american colonists were justly proud of their vital place within this global colossus just twelve short years later the empire was in tatters and the thirteen colonies proclaimed themselves the free and independent united states of america now for the 250th anniversary of the stamp act crisis the momentous upheaval that marked the beginning of the american revolution pulitzer prize winning historian gordon's wood presents a landmark two volume edition of the political debate that led to the declaration of independence this unprecedented collection gathers in two authoritative library of america volumes the complete texts of thirty nine of the most fascinating and influential british and american pamphlets of the period inexpensive widely circulated works that were the instant media of their day ideal for the rapid exchange of ideas in the first volume a controversy about the origin and function of colonies quickly becomes a deeper dispute over the nature of political liberty itself in which massachusetts lawyer james otis boldly asserts the colonists natural rights benjamin franklin gives dramatic testimony against the stamp act before the house of commons john dickinson calls for collective action in the famous letters from a farmer in pennsylvania and the so called boston pamphlet written by samuel adams and others turns the focus of debate to the question of sovereignty setting the stage for the final crisis to come in the second volume thomas jefferson advances a vision of a radically new kind of empire in the work that first made him famous joseph galloway presents an ingenious but ill fated plan for preserving union with great britain samuel johnson gives vent to his deep animus for the americans and their pretensions to liberty edmund burke makes an eloquent case for reconciliation before it's too late and thomas paine in the truly revolutionary common sense proclaims that the birthday of a new world is at hand prepared by the nation's leading historian of the american revolution each volume includes an introduction headnotes biographical notes about the writers a chronology charting the rise and fall of the first british empire a textual essay describing the production reception and influence of each work and detailed explanatory notes as a special feature the set also features typographic reproductions of the pamphlets original title pages library of america is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in

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an erudite scholar and an elegant writer gordon s wood has won both numerous awards and a broad readership since the 1969 publication of his widely acclaimed the creation of the american republic with the purpose of the past wood has essentially created a history of american history assessing the current state of history vis [?] vis the work of some of its most important scholars doling out praise and scorn with equal measure in this wise passionate defense of history's ongoing necessity wood argues that we cannot make intelligent decisions about the future without understanding our past wood offers a master's insight into what history at its best can be and reflects on its evolving and essential role in our culture

a historical analysis of america's founding leaders identifies the character qualities that enabled them to make their pivotal contributions to the country's formation discussing what their examples can teach modern readers and how their shared vision of a national meritocracy was shaped by period beliefs about character and leadership 75 000 first printing

one of the half dozen most important books ever written about the american revolution new york times book review during the nearly two decades since its publication this book has set the pace furnished benchmarks and afforded targets for many subsequent studies if ever a work of history merited the appellation modern classic this is surely one william and mary quarterly a brilliant and sweeping interpretation of political culture in the revolutionary generation new england quarterly this is an admirable thoughtful and penetrating study of one of the most important chapters in american history wesley frank craven

the oxford history of the united states is by far the most respected multi volume history of our nation the series includes three pulitzer prize winners two new york times bestsellers and winners of the bancroft and parkman prizes now in the newest volume in the series one of america's most esteemed historians gordon s wood offers a brilliant account of the early american republic ranging from 1789 and the beginning of the national government to the end of the war of 1812 as wood reveals the period was marked by tumultuous change in all aspects of american life in politics society economy and culture the men who founded the new government had high hopes for the future but few of their hopes and dreams worked out quite as they expected they hated political parties but parties nonetheless emerged some wanted the united states to become a great fiscal military state like those of britain and france others wanted the country to remain a rural agricultural state very different from the european states instead by 1815 the united states became something neither group anticipated many leaders expected american culture to flourish and surpass that of europe instead it became popularized and vulgarized the leaders also hope to see the end of slavery instead despite the release of many slaves and the end of slavery in the north slavery was stronger in 1815 than it had been in 1789 many wanted to avoid entanglements with europe but instead the country became involved in europe's wars and ended up waging another war with the former mother country still with a new generation emerging by 1815 most americans were confident and optimistic about the future of their country named a new york times notable book empire of liberty offers a marvelous account of this pivotal era when america took its first unsteady steps as a new and rapidly expanding nation

i cannot remember ever reading a work of history and biography that is quite so fluent so perfectly composed and balanced the new york sun exceptionally rich perspective on one of the most accomplished complex and unpredictable americans of his own time or any other the washington post book world from the most respected chronicler of the early days of the republic and winner of both

the pulitzer and bancroft prizes comes a landmark work that rescues benjamin franklin from a mythology that has blinded generations of americans to the man he really was and makes sense of aspects of his life and career that would have otherwise remained mysterious in place of the genial polymath self improver and quintessential american gordon s wood reveals a figure much more ambiguous and complex and much more interesting charting the passage of franklin s life and reputation from relative popular indifference his death while the occasion for mass mourning in france was widely ignored in america to posthumous glory the americanization of benjamin franklin sheds invaluable light on the emergence of our country s idea of itself

written by one of early america s most eminent historians this book masterfully discusses the debates over constitutionalism that took place in the revolutionary era

wood presents important information about the founding period in our nation s history conveying not only the content but also the spirit of the debates surrounding the philadelphia convention and its aftermath

the author offers a series of studies of the men who came to be known as the founding fathers each life is considered in the round but the thread that binds the work together is the idea of character as a lived reality for these men for these were men wood shows that took the matter of character very seriously they were the first generation in history that was self consciously self made men who considered the arc of lives as of nations as being one of moral progress they saw themselves as comprising the world s first meritocracy as opposed to the decadent old world aristocracy of inherited wealth and station historian wood s accomplishment here is to bring these men and their times down to earth and within our reach showing us just who they were and what drove them and that the virtues they defined for themselves are the virtues we aspire to still from publisher description

a new york times book review notable book of 2017 a wall street journal best book of 2017 from the great historian of the american revolution new york times bestselling and pulitzer winning gordon wood comes a majestic dual biography of two of america s most enduringly fascinating figures whose partnership helped birth a nation and whose subsequent falling out did much to fix its course thomas jefferson and john adams could scarcely have come from more different worlds or been more different in temperament jefferson the optimist with enough faith in the innate goodness of his fellow man to be democracy s champion was an aristocratic southern slaveowner while adams the overachiever from new england s rising middling classes painfully aware he was no aristocrat was a skeptic about popular rule and a defender of a more elitist view of government they worked closely in the crucible of revolution crafting the declaration of independence and leading with franklin the diplomatic effort that brought france into the fight but ultimately their profound differences would lead to a fundamental crisis in their friendship and in the nation writ large as they became the figureheads of two entirely new forces the first american political parties it was a bitter breach lasting through the presidential administrations of both men and beyond but late in life something remarkable happened these two men were nudged into reconciliation what started as a grudging trickle of correspondence became a great flood and a friendship was rekindled over the course of hundreds of letters in their final years they were the last surviving founding fathers and cherished their role in this mighty young republic as it approached the half century mark in 1826 at last on the afternoon of july 4th 50 years to the day after the signing of the declaration adams let out a sigh and said at least jefferson still lives he died soon thereafter in fact a few hours earlier on that same day far to the south in his home in monticello jefferson died as well arguably no relationship in this country s history carries as much freight as that of john adams of massachusetts and thomas jefferson of virginia gordon wood has more than done justice to these entwined lives and their meaning he has written a magnificent new addition to america s collective story

guidelines for designing relief programs to counter the effects of natural or human caused disasters the authors assess the needs of afflicted communities and argue that development efforts should be based on existing capacities they examine social and attitudinal characteristics of the affected population and physical aspects of the disaster site no index wood has revised this collection of documents first published in 1971 to reflect changing perceptions of the evolution of america s self definition twenty four selections voice the debate and controversy of a pivotal time period annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

wood scrutinizes the less typically american traits possessed by franklin such as his longtime loyalty to the crown and why he still became one of the revolution s necessary men

this collection of essays by twenty one distinguished american historians reflects on a peculiarly american way of imagining the past at a time when history writing has changed dramatically the authors discuss the birth and evolution of historiography in this country from its origins in the late nineteenth century through its present more cosmopolitan character in the book s first part concerning recent historiography are chapters on exceptionalism gender economic history social theory race and immigration and multiculturalism authors are daniel rodgers linda kerber naomi lamoreaux dorothy ross thomas holt and philip gleason the three american centuries are discussed in the second part with chapters by gordon wood george fredrickson and james patterson the third part is a chronological survey of non american histories including that of western civilization ancient history the middle ages early modern and modern europe russia and asia contributors are eugen weber richard saller gabrielle spiegel anthony molho philip benedict richard kagan keith baker joseph zizak volker berghahn charles maier martin malia and carol gluck together these scholars reveal the unique perspective american historians have brought to the past of their own nation as well as that of the world formerly writing from a conviction that america had a singular destiny american historians have gradually come to share viewpoints of historians in other countries about which they write the result is the virtual disappearance of what was a distinctive american voice that voice is the subject of this book

nine prominent modern russian historians present essays on the american revolution us historians comment on the essays and the russians respond to the critiques sometimes quite strongly the russians discuss topics similar to those considered by americans such as the politics of the continental congress the articles of confederation shay s rebellion and the ideas and actions of the founding fathers but often apply marxist principles that smell bad to the americans annotation copyright by book news inc portland or

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