

[PDF] George Washington: A Life

Willard Sterne Randall - pdf download free book



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Description:

To most people George Washington is a mysterious icon, the man on the dollar who we know about mostly because of mythical exploits. This substantial biography of the first American president succeeds in portraying Washington as a man with a keen mind and sharp temper who overcame great adversity. In particular, *George Washington* is valuable for its telling of the story of Washington's early life. How the frontier surveyor took to a military career, failed at it, and eventually redeemed himself as a great leader of the American Revolution is an engrossing story that may be surprising to many who think they know about Washington, but mostly know just the myths. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Library Journal Randall, whose previous biographies (e.g., Benedict Arnold: Patriot, LJ 7/90; Thomas Jefferson: A Life, LJ 8/93) have enjoyed commercial success, has now joined the long list of biographers of Washington. Because the ground of the great Virginian's life has been so thoroughly plowed over the two centuries since his death, any new attempt should either bring the reader new insights into Washington's character or be so well written as to new-mint the familiar. This account does neither. Randall's writing is lively enough, but he has not rethought Washington's life in any imaginative way, preferring to write off the top of other biographies. In at least one case, his unattributed reliance on another's work borders on the extreme. In addition, there are enough careless errors that scholars will find the book unreliable. For instance, Patrick Henry did not represent Augusta County, Georgia; McGillivray's visit to New York took place well after Washington's contretemps with the Senate, not during; and at the Battle of Long Island, Randall has Washington commenting to Lord Stirling on the men's bravery, though Stirling had in fact been taken prisoner. There are enough good one-volume biographies of Washington?by Douglas Southall Freeman and John Ferling, to name two?that one need not recommend this one.?David B. Mattern, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville
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