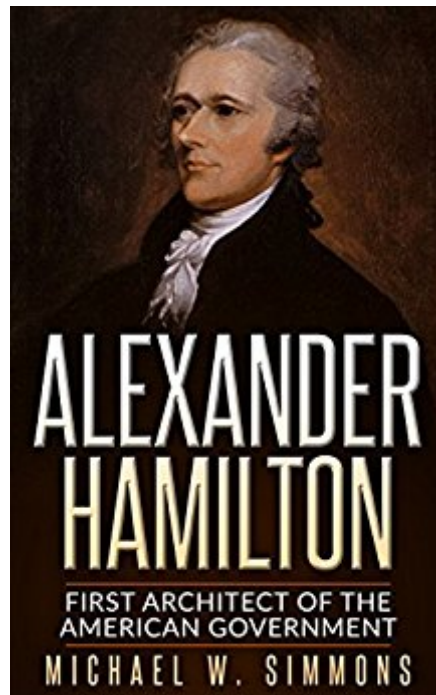




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Alexander Hamilton: First Architect Of The American Government



Synopsis

What did Alexander Hamilton ever do besides get shot in a duel by Aaron Burr? When it comes to the American government, the answer is: practically everything. Born in the West Indies, Hamilton was the illegitimate child of a Scottish nobleman who lost a fortune in sugar plantations. Orphaned as a teenager, he came to America in search of an education, a home, and the war that would at last bring him fame and honor. As George Washington's most trusted aide, Hamilton helped to win the American Revolution—but after the war, his enemies lost no time accusing him of trying to sell his country back to the British. He was the most powerful member of Washington's presidential cabinet—so why did Adams and Jefferson hate him so much? In this book, you will learn how the author of the Federalist Papers and the first Secretary of the Treasury nearly ruined his career by fighting duels, seducing women, and getting involved in America's first sex scandal. The duel that killed Alexander Hamilton is the most famous duel in American history, but you'll have to come up with your own answer to its greatest mystery: who shot first, Hamilton or Burr?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the opportunity to gain greater insight into the life and times of Alexander Hamilton. I particularly appreciated the use of quotations from original documents that supported the author's narrative. This book also provided an intimate look into the culture of the period and the competitive alliances and interactions of our founding fathers. I mostly read technical books and found this biography very enlightening, enjoyable, and particularly relevant to today's political discourse. Just when you think that political infighting can get no worse, you witness in a very personal account that it already has, 200 years ago. The battle of ideas continues, but more dominated by 2 minute sound bites today rather than reasoned, articulate, and well crafted written positions, of which Hamilton was a master. I enjoyed the book.

I learned about Hamilton, which was my goal. But, this is obviously a self-published book, poorly edited. The author used most of his pages with quotes from Hamilton's speeches. Easy way to put together a bunch of pages. Not a fan!

Very minimal for Hamilton's story, even when limited to an emphasis on his contributions to the country's beginnings. Too much left out, I think. Good for someone just starting to learn our history, though.

A short compact look at Mr. Hamilton. Will drive you to learn more about this very complicated, very intelligent, little known founding father of America's banking system.

The book reads like an outline with too many references to Ron Chernow's more exhaustive study on same subject. Use of long quotations nice touch offering first hand examples of Hamilton's brilliant mind and facility for writing. I wanted an overview of Hamilton's life and this did the job very satisfactorily. My rating is based on where the book might fall amidst the small library of books on Hamilton, arguably the best being Chernow's with the caveat that Hamilton is too complex to suggest a so-called definitive study is even fathomable. For what it is, an overview of Hamilton's life, Simmon's effort is a "5."

Good

I expected more depth from this tome. Kind of like a "Cliff Notes" of Mr. Hamilton's life.

A refreshing review of the being of our nation and democracy.

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