

Inventing George Washington Americas Founder In Myth And Memory Ebook

Edward G Lengel

the authoritative dramatic and previously untold story of the bloodiest battle in american history the epic fight for the meuse argonne in world war i on september 26 1918 more than one million american soldiers prepared to assault the german held meuse argonne region of france their commander general john j pershing believed in the superiority of american guts over barbed wire machine guns massed artillery and poison gas in thirty six hours he said the doughboys would crack the german defenses and open the road to berlin six weeks later after savage fighting across swamps forests towns and rugged hills the battle finally ended with the signing of the armistice that concluded the first world war the meuse argonne had fallen at the cost of more than 120 000 american casualties including 26 000 dead in the bloodiest battle the country had ever seen an entire generation of young americans had been transformed forever to conquer hell is gripping in its accounts of combat studded with portraits of remarkable soldiers like pershing harry truman george patton and alvin york and authoritative in presenting the big picture it is military history of the first rank and incredibly the first in depth account of this fascinating and important battle

this comprehensive annotated bibliography includes over 1 400 references to memoirs diaries and letters by soldiers and civilians from all belligerent nations during world war i key features include incisive commentary on each entry s value to historians enthusiasts and collectors includes well known and overlooked titles organization by country introduction provides a reader s guide to the best world war i literature indexes by title and subject allow searching by units fronts personal perspectives and battles this reference source is a necessary addition to the collections of world war i enthusiasts military historians and academic and public libraries

the united states was conceived in business founded on business and operated as a business all because of the entrepreneurial mind of the greatest american businessman of any generation george washington using washington s extensive but often overlooked financial papers edward g lengel chronicles the fascinating and inspiring story of how this self educated man built the mount vernon estate into a vast multilayered enterprise and prudently managed meager resources to win the war of independence later as president he helped establish the national economy on a solid footing and favorably positioned the nation for the industrial revolution washington s steadfast commitment to the core economic principles of probity transparency careful management and calculated boldness are timeless lessons that should inspire and instruct investors even today first entrepreneur will transform how ordinary americans think about george washington and how his success in commercial enterprise influenced and guided the emerging nation

much has been written in the past two centuries about george washington the statesman and father of his country less often discussed is washington s military career including his exploits as a young officer and his performance as the revolutionary war commander in chief now in a revealing work of historical biography edward lengel has written the definitive account of george washington the soldier based largely on washington s personal papers this engrossing book paints a vivid factual portrait of a man to whom lore and legend so tenaciously cling to lengel washington was the imperfect commander washington possessed no great tactical ingenuity and his acknowledged brilliance in retreat only demonstrates the role luck plays in the fortunes of all great men he was not an enlisted man s leader he made a point of never mingling with his troops he was not an especially creative military thinker he fought largely by the book he was not a professional but a citizen soldier who at a time when warfare demanded that armies maneuver efficiently in precise formation had little practical training handling men in combat yet despite his flaws washington was a remarkable figure a true man of the moment a leader who possessed a clear strategic national and continental vision and who inspired complete loyalty from his fellow revolutionaries officers and enlisted men america could never have won freedom without him a trained surveyor washington mastered topography and used his superior knowledge of battlegrounds to maximum effect he appreciated the importance of good allies in times of crisis and understood well the benefits of coordination of ground and naval forces like the american nation itself he was a whole that was greater than the sum of its parts a remarkable everyman whose acts determined the course of history lengel argues that washington s excellence was in his completeness

in how he united the military political and personal skills necessary to lead a nation in war and peace at once informative and engaging and filled with some eye opening revelations about washington the war for american independence and the very nature of military command general george washington is a book that reintroduces readers to a figure many think they already know

lengel s washington is the archetypal american soldier an amateur citizen in arms who struggles to learn an unfamiliar and demanding craft on the job outstanding publishers weekly starred review on the glorious struggleeditor in chief of the washington papers project edward g lengel delivers an entertaining and erudite history of america s founding father in inventing george washington a captivating counterpart to lengel s general george washington a military life the historian looks at washington s life and writings at the creation of his mythos and at what his legacy means for our nation and ourselves

a companion to the meuse argonne campaign explores the single largest and bloodiest battle in american military history including its many controversies in historiographical essays that reflect the current state of the field presents original essays on the french and german participation in and perspectives on this important event makes use of original archival research from the united states france and germany contributors include wwi scholars from france germany the united states and the united kingdom essays examine the military social and political consequences of the meuse argonne and points the way for future scholarship in this area

an entertaining and erudite history that offers a fresh look at america s first founding father the creation of his legend and what it means for our nation and ourselves george washington s death on december 14 1799 dealt a dreadful blow to public morale for three decades americans had depended on his leadership to guide them through every trial at the cusp of a new century the fledgling nation caught in another war this time with its former ally france desperately needed to believe that washington was and would continue to be there for them thus began the extraordinary immortalization of this towering historical figure in inventing george washington historian edward g lengel shows how the late president and war hero continued to serve his nation on two distinct levels the public washington evolved into an eternal symbol as father of his country while the private man remained at the periphery of the national vision always just out of reach for successive generations yearning to know him as never before both images public and private were vital to perceptions americans had of their nation and themselves yet over time as lengel shows the contrasting and simultaneous urges to deify washington and to understand him as a man have produced tensions that have played out in every generation as some exalted him others sought to bring him down to earth creating a series of competing mythologies that depicted washington as every sort of human being imaginable inventing george washington explores these representations shedding new light on this national emblem our nation itself and who we are

from december 1777 through june 1778 the american revolution achieved a remarkable turnaround i these months the continental army recovered from abject demoralization at valley forge to achieve a stunning victory against

the british at monmouth courthouse this compelling history chronicles how the war began to turn from the consequential leadership of general washington and the marquis de lafayette to the experiences of the men who marched and fought in the ranks and reexamines one of the most controversial periods of early american history

in 1776 one man s words and the determination of american patriots allowed our nation to survive its first crisis two hundred and fifty years ago the declaration of independence marked the birth of the united states but two essays of that era appealed even more directly to americans feelings in january 1776 thomas paine a recent immigrant to america published common sense his straightforward argument upended the fraud of monarchy and dismantled the idea of aristocratic privilege that had dominated the world for centuries his words convinced americans that the king had no divine right to rule them they could rule themselves he turned a rebellion over taxes and representation into a true revolution having inspired patriots to declare their independence paine enlisted as a militia private he saw washington s army suffer grievous defeats he slogged through the mud with retreating troops to pennsylvania there he wrote the american crisis the most stirring rallying cry in our history it began these are the times that try men s souls with paine s words ringing in their ears washington and his men crossed the delaware river and defeated the enemy at trenton the battle reversed the fortunes of the campaign and of the revolution itself a tribute to the revolution s 250th anniversary tom paine s war is a riveting exploration of our nation s birth this is a story of the power of words and the power of belief and how both speak as well to america s current crisis

george washington wrote an astonishing number of letters both personal and professional the majority about 140 000 documents are from his years as commander in chief during the revolutionary war from 1775 to 1783 this glorious struggle presents a selection of washington s most important and interesting letters from that time including many that have never been published washington s lively and often surprisingly candid notes to his wife and family friends congress fellow soldiers and even the enemy chronicle his most critical tactical and strategic decisions while offering a rare glimpse of the extremes of depression and exultation into which he was cast by the fortunes of war the letters are arranged chronologically and give a dramatic sense of the major phases of the war from boston trenton and valley forge to monmouth and yorktown the more personal missives show us a washington who worried about his wife s well being and who appreciated a good joke and a well laid table not to mention the company of the ladies this glorious struggle brings washington to vivid life offering a fresh and intimate sense of this most towering american figure and the critical role he played in the creation of our country

the papers of george washington a grant funded project was established in 1968 at the university of virginia under the joint auspices of the university and the mount vernon ladies association of the union to publish a comprehensive edition of washington s correspondence letters written to washington as well as letters and documents written by him are being published in the complete edition that will consist of approximately ninety volumes the work is now 2011 more than two thirds complete the edition is

supported financially by grants from the national endowment for the humanities the national historical publications and records commission the mount vernon ladies association the university of virginia and gifts from private foundations and individuals today there are copies of over 135 000 washington documents in the project s document room this is one of the richest collections of american historical manuscripts extant there is almost no facet of research on life and enterprise in the late colonial and early national periods that will not be enhanced by material from these documents the publication of washington s papers will make this source material available not only to scholars but to all americans interested in the founding of their nation publisher

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