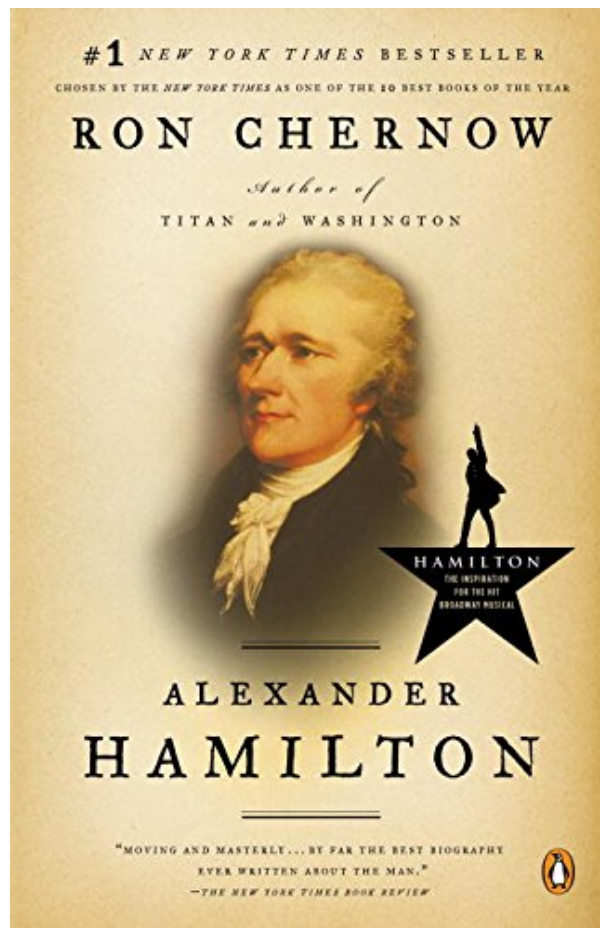


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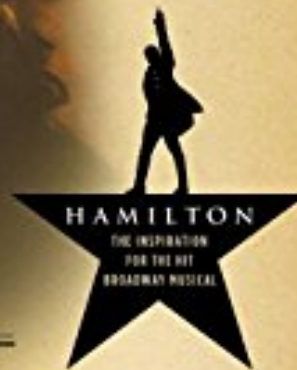
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RON CHERNOW

*Author of*

TITAN and WASHINGTON



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HAMILTON

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EVER WRITTEN ABOUT THE MAN."  
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# ALEXANDER HAMILTON BY RON CHERNOW PDF

A New York Times Bestseller, and the inspiration for the hit Broadway musical Hamilton!

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Chernow presents a landmark biography of Alexander Hamilton, the Founding Father who galvanized, inspired, scandalized, and shaped the newborn nation.

In the first full-length biography of Alexander Hamilton in decades, Ron Chernow tells the riveting story of a man who overcame all odds to shape, inspire, and scandalize the newborn America. According to historian Joseph Ellis, Alexander Hamilton is “a robust full-length portrait, in my view the best ever written, of the most brilliant, charismatic and dangerous founder of them all.”

Few figures in American history have been more hotly debated or more grossly misunderstood than Alexander Hamilton. Chernow’s biography gives Hamilton his due and sets the record straight, deftly illustrating that the political and economic greatness of today’s America is the result of Hamilton’s countless sacrifices to champion ideas that were often wildly disputed during his time. “To repudiate his legacy,” Chernow writes, “is, in many ways, to repudiate the modern world.” Chernow here recounts Hamilton’s turbulent life: an illegitimate, largely self-taught orphan from the Caribbean, he came out of nowhere to take America by storm, rising to become George Washington’s aide-de-camp in the Continental Army, coauthoring *The Federalist Papers*, founding the Bank of New York, leading the Federalist Party, and becoming the first Treasury Secretary of the United States. Historians have long told the story of America’s birth as the triumph of Jefferson’s democratic ideals over the aristocratic intentions of Hamilton. Chernow presents an entirely different man, whose legendary ambitions were motivated not merely by self-interest but by passionate patriotism and a stubborn will to build the foundations of American prosperity and power. His is a Hamilton far more human than we’ve encountered before—from his shame about his birth to his fiery aspirations, from his intimate relationships with childhood friends to his titanic feuds with Jefferson, Madison, Adams, Monroe, and Burr, and from his highly public affair with Maria Reynolds to his loving marriage to his loyal wife Eliza. And never before has there been a more vivid account of Hamilton’s famous and mysterious death in a duel with Aaron Burr in July of 1804.

Chernow’s biography is not just a portrait of Hamilton, but the story of America’s birth seen through its most central figure. At a critical time to look back to our roots, Alexander Hamilton will remind readers of the purpose of our institutions and our heritage as Americans.

“Nobody has captured Hamilton better than Chernow” —The New York Times Book Review

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- Alexander Hamilton

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Setting the record straight, and a clear lens with which to focus today's politics

By RC in NYC

Chernow's meticulously researched story about Alexander Hamilton is well worth the read in times such as we live. This illuminating portrait of the birth and early years of our republic, and Hamilton's pivotal role, should be required reading for all citizens concerned with future of this great nation.

Chernow sets the record straight by the telling of the true nature of the political machinations afoot to besmirch the towering figure that was Alexander Hamilton. His ongoing commentary throughout the tale belies a sensitive, if not prescient, reading of the times, of human nature and of the souls involved in this dramatic and awe inspiring history.

The fracas and frustrating scenes of today's American political goings-on can now be seen with a new light after reading this incredibly well researched history.

By stripping away all of the malicious and duplicitous and self serving commentary about Hamilton, Chernow paints a true picture of what really went down for this poor man. From his immigrant roots to his amazing sacrifices in public office to his tragic, heart wrenching demise, we see a courageous, but flawed human.

Hamilton's industry and prodigious accomplishments are awe inspiring and terrifying at the same time.

Chernow's exhaustive research and meticulous annotation throughout gives credence and veracity to the tale; Hamilton would be proud. It is as if the author was possessed of the spirit and drive of his subject himself.

As something of a student of American history and politics, I can attest that this is by far the best book I've ever read on the subject matter.

Looking at contemporary politics with a newly informed framework and mindset, it makes total sense that Mr. Trump can be prevailing the way he is today. He is a most pernicious, demagogic, immoral and unprincipled a human being as has ever sprung up from the body politic of America. The insanity of Mr. Trump's success gives credence to Hamilton's fear that the American people might not be capable of discerning that this truly despicable person is not fit for the highest office in the land. That he just panders to



the basest of human failings and weaknesses is not apparent to his ardent supporters boggles the mind of right thinking people the world over.

On the other hand, my faith in American political wisdom holds that we shall see a moderate and sensible outcome. Fanatics and demagogues don't play well with the moderate, middle of the road American sentiment. Which Hamilton saw and defended and cultivated.

And it is my fervent hope this moderating spirit of the general public will check the excessive, nasty and brutish sectors of the body politic that has thrust Mr. Trump onto the national stage. (I believe that Faith is needed but energetic action is required to effect the right outcome.)

My further hope is that the system will work just as Hamilton had designed the system to work. Checks and balances to protect and to preserve the liberty we hold so dear and which is the envy of those oppressed by the flawed and poorly constructed, unenlightened governments alive and well that capriciously rule billions the world over, stifling human progress at every turn and chance.

Let me close by saying Mr. Chernow has given us a gift of immense value. A clear understanding of what a truly American character is made of, what a beautiful yet flawed human being can accomplish and a subtle call to action to all of us lest we lose this great enterprise to the folly of human weakness.

We need to know our past clearly and without prejudice in order to move forward and to positively contribute to the enlightenment of future generations and the advancement of human civilization.

South Jamesport, NY

9th July 2016

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Historical Perspective and Compelling Style

By Plumeria

Current political debates, ubiquitous in the news, are put into historical perspective by reading this book. Documents like the Constitution, and federal government powers to tax and regulate, were not taken for granted at the outset; and political differences of opinion were not merely debated but were settled by means as extreme as dueling to the death.

Alexander Hamilton was probably the most significant Founding Father who was never elected to the Presidency (all right, maybe Franklin too). His life, while truncated, put him at the forefront of all the issues of early day America. Perhaps the reason this book fascinates me is because it presents each issue both from Hamilton's viewpoint and from his opponents' viewpoints; and often there was compelling logic on both sides. For example, should the debts incurred by the individual states in fighting the Revolutionary War be paid off by the federal government? On the one hand, the victory benefitted the whole country, and individual state taxes would conflict with federal taxing powers; but on the other, some of the states had already done a good job of paying down their debts on their own. Also of interest was the difference in perspective between Hamilton's dream of America as a manufacturing powerhouse and a strong united nation, versus Jefferson's as an agrarian society with emphasis on states' rights. Hamilton set up a logical monetary system that would be a foundation for long-term economic strength to the nation, but there were reasons for people to mistrust it (and him, as a result). Disputes between major players were often philosophical, but sometimes personal events got entangled too. This book really fills in the gaps in understanding American history but manages to be much more interesting than the history books I was required to read as a young student. It is jam-packed with historical content but remarkably readable as a

story.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A Challenging But Revealing and Relevant Read

By David C. Howell

This, of course, is the book upon which the current Broadway hit, "Hamilton" is based. Not having studied much about this period of American history for many years, I thought that this book would offer an excellent opportunity to update my understanding. Did it ever! There are many things I could say here, but, above all, what stands out for me is the light this book shines on our contemporary political scene, as the name calling, petty bickering, and out-right ornery behavior that characterizes our politics today was very much in evidence then, as well, as was the profound level of distrust between factions that existed at that time. I learned that the first political parties evolved out of that fundamental mistrust. "Alexander Hamilton" is dense and slow reading; after a couple chapters, I have to put it down and return to it in another day or two. But Chernov is a fine writer. His research is top-notch, and his writing style and extensive vocabulary cause this book to resonate on several levels. Readers will have to work hard to get through this tome, but the insights and the "revelations," if I may use the word, make the effort well worthwhile.

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