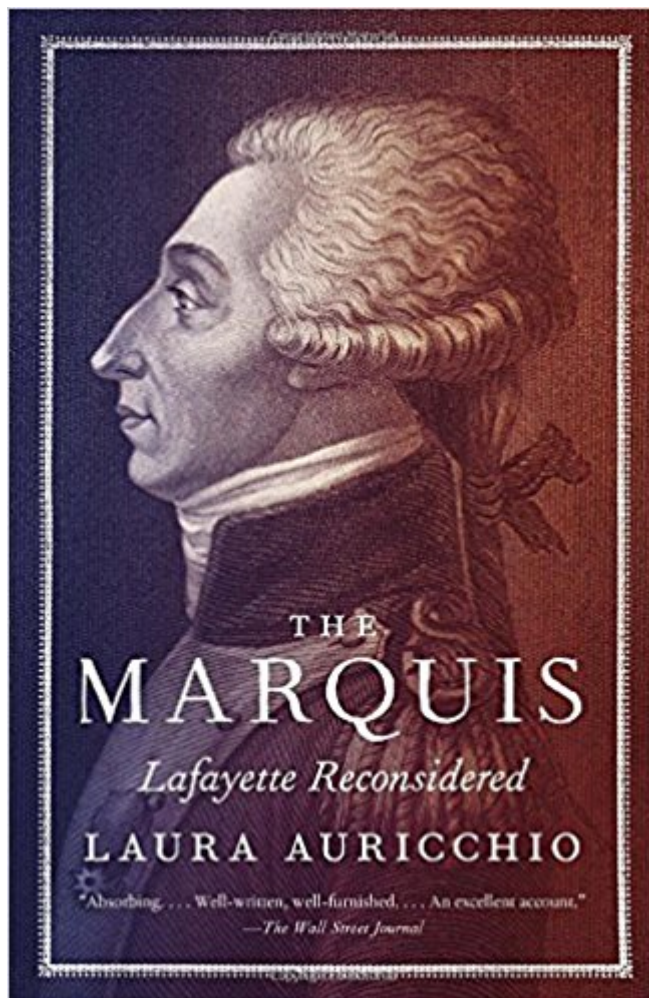


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The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered



Synopsis

Winner of the 2015 American Library in Paris Book Award
The Marquis de Lafayette at age nineteen volunteered to fight under George Washington and became the French hero of the American Revolution. In this major biography Laura Auricchio looks past the storybook hero and selfless champion of righteous causes who cast aside family and fortune to advance the transcendent aims of liberty and fully reveals a man driven by dreams of glory only to be felled by tragic, human weaknesses. Drawing on substantial new research conducted in libraries, archives, museums, and private homes in France and the United States, Auricchio, gives us history on a grand scale revealing the man and his complex life, while challenging and exploring the complicated myths that have surrounded his name for more than two centuries

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One hundred and eighty years after his death, Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, remains a fascinating but elusive figure. He was hailed and idealized by Americans as a stalwart champion of liberty for his role in both the American and French revolutions, and his legacy and achievements are far less celebrated in his native France. Auricchio admirably separates the man from the myth while examining some of the elements used to build the myth, at the same time often sympathetic and attracted to her subject's laudable qualities. Lafayette, the scion of one of the oldest French aristocratic families, arrived in America as a 19-year-old youth imbued with Enlightenment ideals concerning political liberty and a thirst for glory. He quickly established an enduring father-son relationship with George Washington and served him and the American cause with distinction.

Returning to France, he was caught up in revolutionary politics but often seemed befuddled by France's fast turn to radicalism and violence, and he eventually ran afoul of the Jacobins and, later, Napoleon. This is a fine reexamination of both the character and career of a compelling, but in some ways a sad, historical figure. --Jay Freeman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• "Excellent . . . abundantly detailed." • "Jonathan Yardley, The Washington Post" • "Astute and often thrilling." • "The New Yorker" • "A vivid raconteur and avid researcher, Laura Auricchio tells the story of Lafayette's precocious military feats and political maneuvering on an international stage with passionate interest." • "Radcliffe Magazine" • "Absorbing . . . well-written, well-furnished. . . . An excellent account." • "Frederick Brown, Wall Street Journal" • "Describes vividly and critically the roller coaster of Lafayette's successes and failures." • "Public Books" • "A lively portrait." • "Peggy Carlson, The Free Lance-Star" • "Admirably well-written, fresh." • "Harvard Magazine" • "Robust, hugely satisfying . . . spirited and entirely accurate . . . [Laura Auricchio's] book follows Lafayette's life and career with greater sympathy and in greater detail than any previous account in English that I know of, and the infectious zest of her character descriptions is by no means limited to her illustrious hero. . . . [Lafayette has] always been far more deserving of a first-rate popular biography than either the General he worshipped or the Tyrants he opposed, and now at last he's got one." • "Steve Donoghue, Open Letters Monthly" • "Absorbing." • "Henrik Bering, The Weekly Standard" • "Superb. . . . Auricchio's portrait of Lafayette will appeal to lovers of biography and history alike. She artfully weaves Lafayette's story into a rich account of the interconnections between 18th-century France and America, recreating in vivid detail the worlds he occupied, from the salons of the Enlightenment to the battlefield and public squares of the New World. This is a book of remarkable historical depth, yet is very accessible to a general reader." • "America Magazine" • "Engrossing. . . . Laura Auricchio is as adept at recounting the Marquis's first, awkward moments negotiating the subtleties of Versailles as she is bringing to life his seemingly father-son relationship with George Washington. Impeccably researched and compelling." • "Andrew Curran, Dean of the Arts and Humanities, Wesleyan University" • "In a sharp and moving biography, Auricchio captures the essence of the French hero of the American Revolution—the Hero of Two Worlds, the Apostle of Liberty." • "Kirkus (Starred Review)" • "Laura Auricchio has managed to bring the Marquis de Lafayette back to life, replacing the rather wooden figure of legend with the real man, a hero of two great revolutions, the American

and the French, and man of great complexity and unfailing courage. An immensely rewarding book. • "Michael Korda, author of Clouds of Glory" [A] fine biography. . . . Lafayette still deserves more attention in France, but he's found just the right American biographer in Auricchio. • "Publishers Weekly"

Great book, great research.

Interesting insights to a man of two nations

This is great story of a true American "hero." It also explains a lot about the time of the French Revolution.

Marvelous! Great delivery, too....

Great book! I read this for a research paper I had to do in a college history class. It was very well written and very thorough. I recommend it greatly! I plan on rereading it again on my own time!

The review of this book, by Jonathan Yardley, prompted me to get it. To date, the books I am reading on our founding fathers and the beginnings of what we call our democracy, have been rated highly by readers. So far I have not been disappointed...they are all five-star reads.

This is a fascinating book that helped explain a complex personality who helped our early colonies in such a significant way. But, the book helps us understand all the complexities of his life both before and after the American Revolution.

As a fan of Lafayette, I eagerly looked forward to this view of his life and times. After reading it I felt only somewhat satisfied. If you are new to Lafayette this book offers a nice summary of the man. Alternatively, If you are looking for more substance and detail, I would recommend the book by Unger. Unfortunately, there is little new here.

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