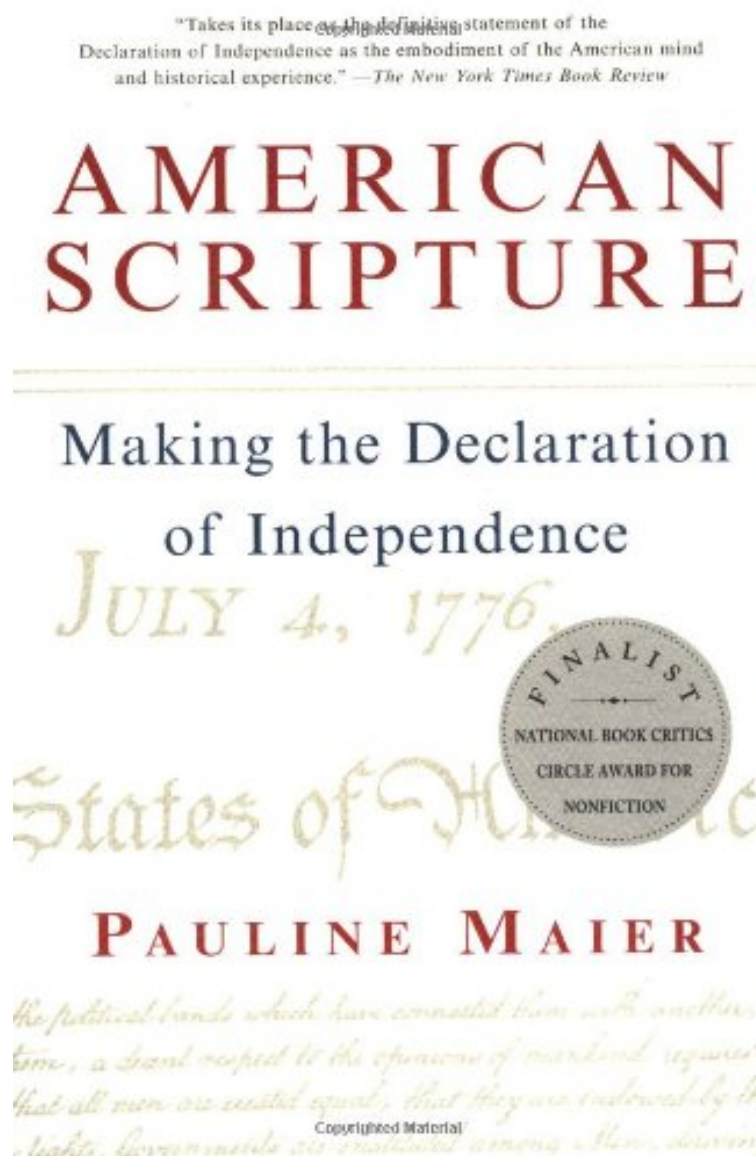


(Download ebook) American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence

American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence

Pauline Maier

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#141577 in Books 1998-05-26 1998-05-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.97 x .72 x 5.171, .55 #File Name: 0679779086336 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Pauline Maier : American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good for the home library By Andrew Czernek Excellent description of the emergence of the Declaration of Independence -- including the politics of the time. Shows all of the human frailties, especially those of memory when Adams and Jefferson are asked to describe how the Declaration was

written. Maier shows the changes made in Jefferson's drafts and what may be the single instance of group editing actually making a document BETTER! It is well-enough written to still raise questions of modern political importance, such as what were the Founding Fathers' attitudes towards religion? Why did two of the rights in the Bill of Rights get rejected? Only objection: a little professorial and dry in spots. 27 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Valuable source of knowledge for student of American History

By A Customer Pauline Maier gives an insightful view of several of our most prominent founding fathers. And the parts played by each in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence. In addition to the part played by the "committee of five" and the Congress as a reviewing and adapting committee itself. She enlightens us on the friendships, political philosophies and philosophical differences of the two most important figures (Jefferson and Adams). Not to mention giving us a glimpse at their self controlled egos and jealousies as well. Of considerable interest is the overall public or social climate during the drafting of one of our most precious Documents. An understanding I had not had before. I very much enjoyed this book as a reference for further and/or continuing studies of the beginnings of this great Republic of ours and the men who made it possible. In any study of the same the more broad picture one can paint of these men the better one will be able to understand them and their motives. Never relying solely on any one point of view or perspective. But taking in as many as possible. It does not provide the in depth philosophies that Carl Becker provides in his book "The Declaration of Independence". But together they are a formidable start on understanding certain aspects of our Heritage and our founders intentions. When combined with an understanding of the Religious, moral and ethical standards of the time period (those manuals and books which shaped their thought processes). The desperate straits that a break away philosophy created is brought vividly to life. One can begin to get a clear picture of the magnificent and wonderful event this document represents. Pauline Maier has created a work that should without a doubt be included in any dedicated study of the Birth of our Nation.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Demystified Declaration

By VA Duck The late Professor Pauline Maier examines the Declaration of Independence with an objective of tracing its 'authorship' beyond its principal draftsman and examines the ebb and flood of the tide of popular opinion of the document itself. Her writing is clear, cogent and dispassionate. She once called Jefferson, "The most overrated person in American history", and with that you might expect bias, yet it is hard to find if at all within this book. Her point is that Jefferson came to be seen incorrectly as "The Author" of the Declaration when in fact he was, "The Principal Draftsman". Not a small distinction and one that Jefferson chose not to correct in his latter years; the efforts of the Committee of Five and that of the Continental Congress are shown to be substantial as is Jefferson's reference and allusion to... and occasional inclusion of ideas and phrases coined much earlier in historical documents. The book is a thorough, scholarly treatment of the subject - well documented with citations to supporting and source material. In the end the book takes little away from Jefferson - while illuminating the contribution of other participants and clearly illustrating prior documentation incorporated into the Declaration. A very recommended read to better understand the history, objective and content of this piece of 'American Scripture'.-----kindle edition-----Well done e-book publication; text-to-speech is implemented and the full expected range of presentation formatting is available (text size, typeface choices, line spacing, margins and background color) Notes are properly hyperlinked and the index is fully and impressively hyperlinked to the contents. Missing are page numbers and the book contains no illustrations. - for Random House publishers.

Pauline Maier shows us the Declaration as both the defining statement of our national identity and the moral standard by which we live as a nation. It is truly "American Scripture," and Maier tells us how it came to be -- from the Declaration's birth in the hard and tortuous struggle by which Americans arrived at Independence to the ways in which, in the nineteenth century, the document itself became sanctified. Maier describes the transformation of the Second Continental Congress into a national government, unlike anything that preceded or followed it, and with more authority than the colonists would ever have conceded to the British Parliament; the great difficulty in making the decision for Independence; the influence of Paine's Common Sense, which shifted the terms of debate; and the political maneuvers that allowed Congress to make the momentous decision. In Maier's hands, the Declaration of Independence is brought close to us. She lets us hear the voice of the people as revealed in the other "declarations" of 1776: the local resolutions -- most of which have gone unnoticed over the past two centuries -- that explained, advocated, and justified Independence and undergirded Congress's work. Detective-like, she discloses the origins of key ideas and phrases in the Declaration and unravels the complex story of its drafting and of the group-editing job which angered Thomas Jefferson. Maier also reveals what happened to the Declaration after the signing and celebration: how it was largely forgotten and then revived to buttress political arguments of the nineteenth century; and, most important, how Abraham Lincoln ensured its persistence as a living force in American society. Finally, she shows how by the very act of venerating the Declaration as we do -- by holding it as sacrosanct, akin to holy writ -- we may actually be betraying its purpose and its power.

.com This is a well-written, well-researched, entertaining account of the creation of the United States' Declaration of Independence as well as an analysis of how the declaration has been enshrined as something of a sacred document (a place it did not always hold). Pauline Maier, a history professor at MIT, will no doubt surprise many readers with

detective work demonstrating that Jefferson's Declaration of Independence was actually preceded by many local declarations, which have been generally overlooked by historians but which were published throughout the colonies and were well known in their day. American Scripture holds many surprises as it details Jefferson's drafting of the document, the editing process, and the varying regard with which the Declaration of Independence has been held in the past two centuries. From Library Journal Maier (American history, MIT; From Resistance to Revolution, LJ 7/72) sets the stage for her fascinating history of the Declaration of Independence with a concise and well-written introduction into the political background of the American Revolution. She provides the context for the document within the British tradition of declarations, addresses, and petitions and relates it to the many local and state declarations that aimed to mobilize support for independence. The thrust of her work is a careful examination of the drafting of the document by Jefferson and the Congressional committee; she then describes how Congress edited it into its final form. The latter third of the book is dedicated to the ways in which the Declaration has been redefined and used by different groups of Americans. Combining meticulous scholarship with clear prose, Maier tells a compelling story that will succeed in winning her a general audience. Highly recommended. -?David B. Mattern, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This analysis of the initial crafting of the Declaration of Independence and its subsequent metamorphosis into a sacred document is a worthy successor to Carl Becker's landmark 1922 publication The Declaration of Independence. Instead of assuming the Declaration and the political ideas it expounded were essentially European in origin, Maier places the document itself and the process by which it was conceived and executed firmly in the context of eighteenth-century American sensibilities. By evaluating the Declaration of Independence as a homegrown expression of colonial discontent, it becomes a natural extension of prior revolutionary activities and ideologies rather than a precursor to the rebellion. After the Declaration caused its initial sensation, it served merely as a footnote to the history of the Revolutionary War until well into the nineteenth century, when it was resurrected, revitalized, and ultimately transformed into sanctified dogma. A powerful and engrossing account of the document most responsible for defining the cultural ethos of the American citizenry. Sure to become a classic, this is recommended for most public library collections. Margaret Flanagan