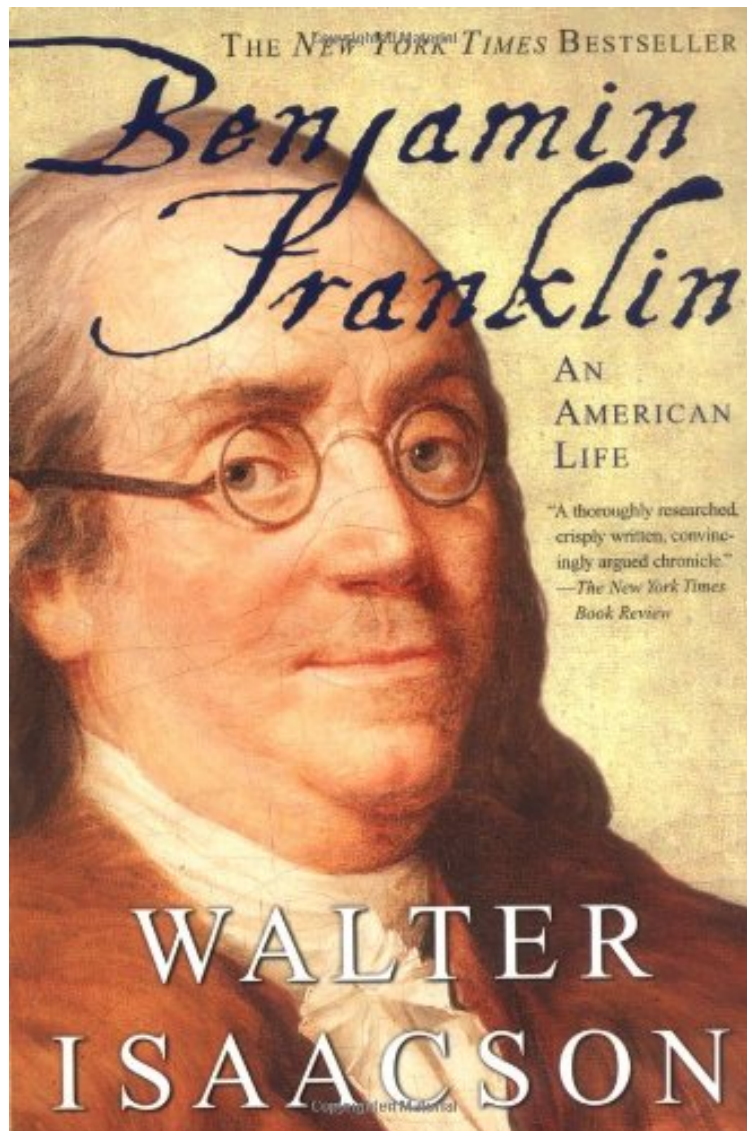


(Library ebook) Benjamin Franklin: An American Life

## Benjamin Franklin: An American Life

Walter Isaacson

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#1231 in Books Walter Isaacson 2004-06-01 2004-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.60 x 6.121, 1.73 #File Name: 074325807X586 pages Benjamin Franklin An American Life | File size: 47.Mb

**Walter Isaacson : Benjamin Franklin: An American Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Benjamin Franklin: An American Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. That Casual Guy on the \$100 BillBy ClusterBookerThere are only two non-presidents on circulated United States currency: Alexander Hamilton on the \$10 bill and Benjamin Franklin on the \$100. I haven't read the Alexander Hamilton biography by Ron Chernow but can clearly see why Franklin made it on the coveted \$100 bill. Isaacson takes us all throughout Franklin's long, adventurous, migratory, industrious,

scientific, social, eventful and interesting career. Pretty much any adjective can be used to describe it. I can only imagine that Isaacson spent a lot more time researching than he originally thought and I am really glad that he didn't give up. Franklin lived by his idleness maxim and always seemed to be doing something that was fun. He was always constantly trying to improve everything around him. That's just one little aspect of his life they don't teach you when you were learning about Franklin in elementary school and it turns out there are a whole lot more. The tome Isaacson wrote provides a lot more of that substance and fully encompasses that aura of greatness around Franklin's life. If Franklin were to print and publish this I am sure there would be some parts Franklin would choose to omit, but that aspect is also what makes this book a page-turner. You will be surprised to learn that Franklin did more than just sign a few important government documents and discover electricity. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Benjamin Franklin by Walter Isaacson By Customer A very well researched book as you would expect. This book offers the reader insights into the human condition; the fears that inhibits our development as individuals, the value of an inquisitive mind, advantages of networking, our self improvement. About Philosophies / Religion and Science, of thinking of how our talents can be pooled and be of benefit to others. This is not a book to be read as a story, but a thought provoking self development, that comes with education and provides understanding of the future we wish for ourselves. I commend this book too all and in-particular to young people. Damien P1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Loved it! By jrbouf Isaacson books are wonderful. First I read Einstein and was fascinated with the detail of the story. Because of that, I had to read Franklin. The detail is even more amazing. Read it. You'll be happy you did.

In this authoritative and engrossing full-scale biography, Walter Isaacson, bestselling author of *Einstein* and *Steve Jobs*, shows how the most fascinating of America's founders helped define our national character. Benjamin Franklin is the founding father who winks at us, the one who seems made of flesh rather than marble. In a sweeping narrative that follows Franklin's life from Boston to Philadelphia to London and Paris and back, Walter Isaacson chronicles the adventures of the runaway apprentice who became, over the course of his eighty-four-year life, America's best writer, inventor, media baron, scientist, diplomat, and business strategist, as well as one of its most practical and ingenious political leaders. He explores the wit behind *Poor Richard's Almanac* and the wisdom behind the Declaration of Independence, the new nation's alliance with France, the treaty that ended the Revolution, and the compromises that created a near-perfect Constitution. In this colorful and intimate narrative, Isaacson provides the full sweep of Franklin's amazing life, showing how he helped to forge the American national identity and why he has a particular resonance in the twenty-first century.

.com Benjamin Franklin, writes journalist and biographer Walter Isaacson, was that rare Founding Father who would sooner wink at a passer-by than sit still for a formal portrait. What's more, Isaacson relates in this fluent and entertaining biography, the revolutionary leader represents a political tradition that has been all but forgotten today, one that prizes pragmatism over moralism, religious tolerance over fundamentalist rigidity, and social mobility over class privilege. That broadly democratic sensibility allowed Franklin his contradictions, as Isaacson shows. Though a man of lofty principles, Franklin wasn't shy of using sex to sell the newspapers he edited and published; though far from frivolous, he liked his toys and his mortal pleasures; and though he sometimes gave off a simpleton image, he was a shrewd and even crafty politician. Isaacson doesn't shy from enumerating Franklin's occasional peccadilloes and shortcomings, in keeping with the iconoclastic nature of our time--none of which, however, stops him from considering Benjamin Franklin "the most accomplished American of his age," and one of the most admirable of any era. And here's one bit of proof: as a young man, Ben Franklin regularly went without food in order to buy books. His example, as always, is a good one--and this is just the book to buy with the proceeds from the grocery budget. -- Gregory McNamee From Publishers Weekly Following closely on the heels of Edmund Morgan's justly acclaimed *Benjamin Franklin*, Isaacson's longer biography easily holds its own. How do the two books differ? Isaacson's is more detailed; it lingers over such matters as the nature of Franklin's complex family circumstances and his relations with others, and it pays closer attention to each of his extraordinary achievements. Morgan's is more subtle and reflective. Each in its different way is superb. Isaacson (now president of the Aspen Institute, he is the former chairman of CNN and a Henry Kissinger biographer) has a keen eye for the genius of a man whose fingerprints lie everywhere in our history. The oldest, most distinctive and multifaceted of the founders, Franklin remains as mysterious as Jefferson. After examining the large body of existing Franklin scholarship as skillfully and critically as any scholar, Isaacson admits that his subject always "winks at us" to keep us at bay--which of course is one reason why he's so fascinating. Unlike, say, David McCullough's *John Adams*, which seeks to restore Adams to public affection, this book has no overriding agenda except to present the story of Franklin's life. Unfortunately, for all its length, it's a book of connected short segments without artful, easy transitions. So whether this fresh and lively work will replace Carl Van Doren's beloved 1938 *Benjamin Franklin* in readers' esteem remains to be seen. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, and even Adams stare down at you from Mt. Olympus. But Benjamin Franklin has always seemed the most accessible of our Founding Fathers. He looks out

benignly from our \$100 bill. He dispenses grandfatherly wisdom spiced with humor from Poor Richard's Almanac. Of course, Franklin was a complicated and interesting personality, as this book illustrates. Isaacson, formerly the CEO of CNN and managing editor of Time magazine, is currently president of the Aspen Institute. He has written a chronological biography that pays due tribute to Franklin's genius while revealing his harder edges. Franklin was clearly driven and supremely ambitious. In serving his ambition, he could be manipulative and a shameless self-promoter. His personal and political loyalties often shifted, yet he never forgave the "betrayal" when his illegitimate son remained loyal to Britain. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved