

(Download free ebook) Tom Paine: A Political Life

Tom Paine: A Political Life

John Keane

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John Keane : Tom Paine: A Political Life before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tom Paine: A Political Life:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Scholarly and learned, yet readable and enjoyable - the definitive biography of Thomas Paine By Igor Faynshteyn This biography of the great political writer and philosopher during the American revolutionary era is an erudite and definitive masterpiece. Although highly detailed, and at times feeling needlessly so, it remains readable and enjoyable throughout its 536 pages. The biography focuses more on Paine's political life than on his day to day mundane affairs. The book is divided roughly into 4 sections: Paine's early years in England; his years in America during the American Revolution; his years back in England and in France during the French Revolution, including the Reign of Terror; and his final years spent in America. What makes this biography fascinating, in more ways than one, is that it is as much about Paine's political life as it is about history itself. There is something about the American Revolution, French Revolution, British monarchical regime during George III years, and post-Constitutional America. Thus, Paine's political life is placed into a broader historical and contemporary political context - which makes this splendid book a hybrid between a biography and history. Finally, the author doesn't attempt to psychoanalyze Paine's character, or in any way interfere into the reader's own opinion of him. He simply retells Paine's life story, as part of the historical context, and allows the reader to formulate his/her own opinions as he/she may. Highly recommended for any fan of Thomas Paine, or any student of history. Great book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tom Paine - A Leader for Democracy and Social Justice By Kathy Barrett A

gripping, in-depth biography of one of the most interesting and influential political writers since the Revolutionary War. Follow Tom Paine from a young man making women's corsets in England, through his pivotal years in America publishing *Common Sense*, and *The Crisis*, which inspired Washington's starving soldiers, and helped raise funds for the war. Paine's journey continues back to England where he wrote *The Rights of Man* and was forced to flee to France, where he wrote *The Age of Reason*, and landed on death row during the Reign of Terror. Paine was much maligned and threatened during his life, and the British crown hired biographers to smear his character. Maybe that's why we learn so little in our schools about this amazing philosopher and man of action. Why hasn't anyone made a movie about this self-made hero? If he were alive today, Paine would jump right into the current struggle for the rights of all people. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book poorly published. By Roseberry A great text but sadly a poor publication. All the illustrations are missing which I am sure is an integrated part of the enjoyment of the book. My advice is to buy a different publisher's book. The book reads well but if you were to compare it to the European version you would feel cheated of the full experience.

A definitive biography portrays the life of one of democracy's greatest champions--a soldier, diplomat, and pamphleteer of the American Revolution who helped draft the French Constitution--and reveals tensions, discoveries, and dramatic surprises. 15,000 first printing.

From Publishers Weekly English-born radical journalist Thomas Paine, who in 1774 immigrated to America, where his pamphlets helped spark the Revolution, was a world citizen who preached the abolition of despotic regimes. A staunch opponent of slavery, Paine (1737-1809) also spoke of Native Americans as his "brothers." This flesh-and-blood portrait charts a life pulsating with drama, surprises and narrow escapes, while also situating Paine's intellectual development in the context of his time. Keane, a professor of politics in London, gives us a generous, farsighted foe of hypocrisy and injustice who could also be conceited and dogmatic. In Paris, serving as a member of the National Convention, Paine was imprisoned (1793-94) and nearly guillotined during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror. Upon his inglorious return to the U.S. in 1802, he was vilified as an atheist and monster. Paine slipped into depression, poverty and obscurity, but this gripping biography restores his luster and contemporary relevance. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal We are doubly blessed. On the heels of Jack Fruchtman Jr.'s solid *Thomas Paine: Apostle of Freedom* (LJ 11/15/94) comes this richly detailed, more disciplined labor of scholarship and love, an exemplar of the rewards of a gargantuan effort at historical research. As Keane corrects all prior Paine biographers, Keane's bibliographic notes prove how thoroughly he has scoured every scrap of Paine scholarship from the beginning to now. It all enriches the already overloaded life of democracy's greatest propagandist with intriguing contextual detail that ranges from the simple conditions of life to data on the readership of Paine's writings. Keane warns against biographies that "tell us more about the biographer," but his "techniques of modest writing" commit few such excesses and make for entertaining edification. In short, buy it; it's definitive. John Berry, "Library Journal" Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Keane commences in a bracing way by dryly noting a macabre landmark in the English neighborhood of Paine's birth, a place named Gallows Hill. As symbol for Paine's antipathy to autocracy, Keane could not have chosen a more potent object than that scaffold. For much of his life, accused as a rebel in America, accused as a seditious libeler in England (for writing *The Rights of Man*), and accused as a counterrevolutionary by the French Committee of Public Safety, Paine stood liable to capital punishment, an end he barely evaded in 1794. Keane concentrates on covering Paine's involvement with the practical political issues in the three countries of which he was successively a citizen. This activity peaked with his vote against condemning Louis XVI. By distinguishing his biography with the political emphasis--without neglecting the essentials of Paine's pamphleteering--Keane reveals an infrequently inspected side of the famous polemicist, a man who for all his gifts, as Keane often interjects, was hampered by vain self-importance. He died a pauper; however, libraries that stock this superb account of an extraordinary life will be rich. Gilbert Taylor