

benjamin franklin an american life

Benjamin Franklin: An American Life

benjamin franklin an american life is a story that intertwines invention, diplomacy, and the spirit of a burgeoning nation. Franklin's journey from a modest printer's apprentice to one of the most influential Founding Fathers of the United States is nothing short of remarkable. His legacy stretches beyond politics, embracing science, literature, and civic activism, making him a quintessential symbol of American ingenuity and perseverance.

The Early Years: Humble Beginnings and Self-Education

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston in 1706, into a large family of modest means. The son of a candle and soap maker, Franklin's formal education ended when he was just ten years old. However, this did not deter his insatiable curiosity and thirst for knowledge. Instead, Franklin became largely self-taught, devouring books and experimenting with ideas long before he became a household name.

From Printer's Apprentice to Publisher

At the age of 12, Franklin was apprenticed to his brother James, who owned a printing shop. This early exposure to the world of printing and publishing would shape his career and influence. Franklin's keen eye for detail and his ability to write engaging content quickly set him apart. His anonymous letters, published under the pseudonym "Silence Dogood," showcased his wit and social commentary, garnering attention and respect.

Benjamin Franklin the Inventor and Scientist

One of the most fascinating aspects of Benjamin Franklin's American life is his role as an inventor and scientist. Franklin's curiosity extended well beyond the written word; he was deeply invested in understanding the natural world and harnessing its forces for practical use.

Electricity and the Famous Kite Experiment

Franklin's experiments with electricity are legendary. The iconic kite experiment, where he flew a kite during a thunderstorm to prove that lightning was a form of electricity, marked a turning point in scientific study. This experiment not only demonstrated his boldness and ingenuity but also contributed significantly to the field of electrical science.

Useful Inventions That Shaped Daily Life

Beyond electricity, Franklin invented several practical devices that improved everyday life, including:

- The Franklin stove, which provided more efficient heating with less smoke.
- Bifocal glasses, designed to help people see both near and far without switching between different pairs.
- The lightning rod, a device that protected buildings from lightning strikes and fires.

These inventions reveal Franklin's pragmatic approach to problem-solving and his desire to enhance the well-being of his community.

Benjamin Franklin's Role in American Politics and Diplomacy

While many remember Franklin as an inventor and writer, his political career was equally impressive and crucial to the founding of the United States. His diplomatic skills and visionary thinking were instrumental in shaping the new nation.

A Voice for Independence

Franklin was a staunch advocate for American independence from British rule. His writings and speeches galvanized public opinion, and he played a key role in drafting foundational documents. Notably, he was a member of the Continental Congress and contributed to the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Master Diplomat in France

Perhaps one of the most critical chapters in Benjamin Franklin's American life was his tenure as the United States' ambassador to France. Franklin's charm, wit, and intellect won over the French court, securing vital military and financial support for the American revolutionaries. Without his diplomatic efforts, the outcome of the Revolutionary War might have been very different.

The Legacy of Benjamin Franklin: More than a Founding Father

Franklin's influence extends far beyond the 18th century. His multifaceted contributions have left an indelible mark on American culture and institutions.

Champion of Education and Civic Responsibility

Franklin believed deeply in the power of education and community involvement. He helped establish the University of Pennsylvania and was a founding member of the American Philosophical Society. Franklin's commitment to civic projects, such as libraries, hospitals, and fire departments, laid the groundwork for many modern public services.

Prolific Writer and Social Commentator

His writings, including the famous "Poor Richard's Almanack," combined humor, wisdom, and practical advice. These works not only entertained but also provided valuable life lessons on thrift, industry, and morality. Franklin's style was accessible and engaging, making complex ideas available to a broad audience.

Lessons from Benjamin Franklin's Life for Today

Reflecting on Benjamin Franklin's American life offers timeless lessons that remain relevant in our fast-paced world.

- **The Power of Lifelong Learning:** Franklin's self-education journey reminds us that curiosity and the pursuit of knowledge can open doors, regardless of one's starting point.
- **Innovation with Purpose:** His inventions were not merely for show but aimed at solving real problems—a principle that continues to inspire entrepreneurs and inventors.
- **Diplomacy and Communication:** Franklin's success as a negotiator illustrates the importance of empathy, wit, and understanding in bridging divides.

- **Civic Engagement:** His dedication to public good encourages us to contribute actively to our communities, fostering progress through collective effort.

Embracing these principles can help individuals and societies navigate challenges with resilience and creativity.

Benjamin Franklin's life is a vivid example of how one person's curiosity, intellect, and commitment to service can shape history. His story is a testament to the American spirit—a blend of innovation, independence, and community-mindedness that continues to inspire generations. Exploring Benjamin Franklin's American life is not just a journey into the past but a guide for building a better future.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of 'Benjamin Franklin: An American Life'?

The author of 'Benjamin Franklin: An American Life' is Walter Isaacson.

What aspects of Benjamin Franklin's life does the book cover?

The book covers Benjamin Franklin's life as a founding father, inventor, diplomat, writer, and scientist, highlighting his contributions to American history and his multifaceted personality.

Why is Benjamin Franklin considered a key figure in American history according to the book?

Benjamin Franklin is considered a key figure because of his influential role in drafting the Declaration of Independence, his diplomatic efforts in securing French support during the American Revolution, and his numerous inventions and civic contributions.

How does Walter Isaacson portray Benjamin Franklin's personality in 'An American Life'?

Isaacson portrays Franklin as a complex, curious, and pragmatic individual with a strong commitment to self-improvement, innovation, and public service.

What makes 'Benjamin Franklin: An American Life' a popular read today?

The book's engaging narrative, thorough research, and insightful exploration of Franklin's relevance to modern themes such as innovation, democracy, and personal development make it a popular read.

Additional Resources

Benjamin Franklin: An American Life Explored

benjamin franklin an american life stands as a compelling narrative of one of the most influential figures in American history. Franklin's multifaceted career as a statesman, inventor, writer, and philosopher not only shaped the early United States but also left an indelible mark on the development of modern society. This article delves into the layers of his life, exploring the complexities of his contributions and the enduring legacy that continues to resonate in contemporary culture.

The Formative Years and Early Influences

Benjamin Franklin's early life in colonial Boston set the stage for his remarkable trajectory. Born in 1706, Franklin was the fifteenth of seventeen children in a modest family. His limited formal education—only two years in school—contrasted sharply with his insatiable appetite for learning and self-improvement. This juxtaposition is crucial to understanding how Franklin cultivated his intellectual independence and resourcefulness.

Relocating to Philadelphia as a young man, Franklin quickly established himself as a printer and publisher. His work with the **Pennsylvania Gazette** and the creation of **Poor Richard's Almanack** showcased his wit, wisdom, and entrepreneurial spirit. These early ventures highlight not only his literary skills but also his ability to influence public opinion and foster a sense of community, laying the groundwork for his later political engagement.

Benjamin Franklin as a Founding Father and Diplomatic Pioneer

Franklin's role in the American Revolution and the founding of the United States represents a cornerstone of his legacy. As a member of the Continental Congress and a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, he was instrumental in articulating the philosophical foundations of the new nation. His diplomatic efforts in France, where he secured crucial military and financial support, underscore his strategic acumen and international vision.

The Diplomatic Breakthrough in France

Franklin's tenure as ambassador to France between 1776 and 1785 is often cited as a masterclass in diplomacy. Utilizing charm and intellectual prowess, he navigated the complex political landscape of the French court, forging alliances that proved decisive in the American victory. This period also exemplifies how Franklin's reputation as a scientist and inventor enhanced his credibility abroad, blending personal charisma with professional expertise.

Innovations and Contributions to Science and Society

Beyond politics, Benjamin Franklin's inventive genius and scientific inquiries significantly impacted

American life and technological progress. His experiments with electricity, particularly the famous kite experiment, advanced the understanding of electrical phenomena and led to practical applications like the lightning rod.

Franklin's innovations extended to practical inventions that improved daily life:

- **Franklin stove:** An efficient heating device that conserved fuel and reduced smoke.
- **Bifocal glasses:** Designed to aid individuals with both near and farsightedness.
- **Glass armonica:** A musical instrument that influenced composers such as Mozart.

These inventions illustrate Franklin's commitment to pragmatic solutions and his belief that science should serve the public good.

Philosophy and Social Reform

Franklin's writings reveal a philosophy rooted in pragmatism, self-discipline, and civic responsibility. His famous virtues—such as temperance, industry, and humility—reflect Enlightenment ideals adapted to the American context. Moreover, his advocacy for education, abolition of slavery, and the establishment of institutions like the University of Pennsylvania demonstrate his forward-thinking approach to social reform.

Benjamin Franklin's Legacy in Modern America

The enduring relevance of Benjamin Franklin in American life is evident in how contemporary America

continues to celebrate his contributions. Franklin's image adorns the \$100 bill, symbolizing his association with wisdom, innovation, and financial acumen. Educational curricula and public discourse frequently invoke his example to emphasize values such as ingenuity and civic engagement.

However, Franklin's legacy is not without complexity. Modern historians critically examine his early ownership of slaves and evolving views on race, revealing the tensions and contradictions inherent in many historical figures. This nuanced perspective enriches the understanding of Franklin as a product of his time and a figure whose ideas evolved alongside the nation.

Comparative Analysis: Franklin and His Contemporaries

When compared to other founding fathers like Thomas Jefferson or John Adams, Franklin's versatility stands out. While Jefferson is often lauded for his political philosophy and Adams for his legal mind, Franklin combined a broad array of talents across science, diplomacy, and media. This polymathic quality arguably made him uniquely effective in bridging diverse spheres of influence.

- **Jefferson:** Focused on political theory and agrarian ideals.
- **Adams:** Emphasized legal frameworks and governance.
- **Franklin:** Integrated science, literature, and diplomacy with politics.

This comparison reinforces why Benjamin Franklin's American life remains a subject of enduring fascination and study.

Conclusion: An Ongoing Dialogue with History

Exploring Benjamin Franklin's American life reveals a tapestry of achievements and contradictions that reflect the broader American experience. His story is not merely one of historical fact but an ongoing dialogue about innovation, leadership, and human complexity. As scholarship continues to evolve, Franklin's multidimensional legacy offers rich material for understanding both the foundations of the United States and the challenges of interpreting history with a critical yet appreciative lens.

Benjamin Franklin An American Life

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benjamin franklin an american life: Benjamin Franklin Walter Isaacson, 2003-07 Rescuing Benjamin Franklin from the cliché of genial codger, this book celebrates the most interesting, advanced, and earthy of the founding fathers. 16-page four-color insert.

benjamin franklin an american life: Benjamin Franklin Walter Isaacson, 2004-05-04 During his 84-year life Benjamin Franklin was America's best scientist, inventor, publisher, business strategist, diplomat, and writer. He was also one of its most practical political thinkers. America's first great publicist, he carefully crafted his own persona, portrayed it in public and polished it for posterity. In this riveting new biography Walter Isaacson provides readers with a full portrait of Franklin's public and private life - his loyal but neglected wife, his bastard son with whom he broke over going to war with England, his endless replacement families and his many amorous, but probably unconsummated, liaisons. But this is not just a biography of Benjamin Franklin but rather a fascinating look at American and European political history at that time. Isaacson examines the run up to the Revolutionary War, the intimate relations between Britain, France and the colonies and the decisive events that led to America's independence. Just as David McCullough brought life to the historic figure of John Adams, Isaacson portrays Franklin in the flesh, showing readers how this radical man helped define America's national character and personality.

benjamin franklin an american life: Benjamin Franklin Walter Isaacson, 2004-06-01 Presents a portrait of Benjamin Franklin as a scientist, inventor, diplomat, writer, business strategist, and statesman while tracing his life as one of America's Founding Fathers.

benjamin franklin an american life: Quicklet on Walter Isaacson's Benjamin Franklin: An American Life Steven John, 2012-03-14 ABOUT THE BOOK In the study of Benjamin Franklin's life, one travels through a historical period in which the prosperous colonies of a mighty empire grow in anger from discontent to empowerment, finally rising in arms. Then from the ashes of war, there rose our nation. So surely, an equally acceptable title for this authoritative biography could have replaced An, with The. To attempt to tell the tale of America's beginnings without speaking at length

of Ben Franklin would be as great a folly as to attempt to tell Franklin's life story without mentioning America: both are simply intertwined. In this biography of Franklin not the first, but perhaps the finest Walter Isaacson comes tantalizingly close to laying out the whole tapestry of the man's life, all while laying it down atop the tableau of the times. This is no easy feat. At just shy of 500 pages, Isaacson's book is no mere primer but that shouldn't scare off the more casual reader. MEET THE AUTHOR Steven John is a writer living and working in Los Angeles, by way of Washington DC, originally. His first novel will hit shelves on 3/27/12 and when not working on books, he fills his time with various freelance writing work, hiking, mumbling at his pets and thinking up more interesting activities he can tell his wife he has been involved with. EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK As this is, of course, a biography of a man's life, it follows that Walter Isaacson has chosen to tell that life's story chronologically. Fortunately for his reader, though, he opens the book with a few intriguing insights into Benjamin Franklin's character: He was, during his eighty-four-year-long life, America's best scientist, inventor, diplomat, writer, and business strategist and he was also one of its most practical, though not most profound political thinkers....the most interesting thing that Franklin invented, and continued to reinvent, was himself. And just then, when we want to know more--to know it all--Isaacson takes us back; takes us away to a land across the ocean. In so doing he lays down the framework upon which B. Franklin would live his life and offers us a much greater understanding of our subject. Isaacson takes us to the 16th Century, the earliest point in time when a direct ancestor of Benjamin Franklin can be found (largely due to the fact that before such time, the surname Franklin did not even exist). The author explains, in a quick primer, the changing nature of the populace in Western Europe in this Renaissance-cum-Elizabethan era, as commoners and peasants began to emerge from the veil of feudalism in England, as the merchant class arose and as, slowly, merit began to surpass bloodline in dictating one's future. This change would not come into fruition until the founding of the American state, and is arguably a line of thinking that strongly informs much of the American identity to this day. CHAPTER OUTLINE Quicklet on Walter Isaacson's Benjamin Franklin: An American Life Walter Isaacson's Benjamin Franklin: An American Life + About the Book + About the Author + A Summary, in Brief + The Junto, Poor Richard, Meanwhile & The Fire Department + ...and much more

benjamin franklin an american life: The First American H. W. Brands, 2002-03-12
 PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • Benjamin Franklin, perhaps the pivotal figure in colonial and revolutionary America, comes vividly to life in this “thorough biography of ... America’s first Renaissance man” (The Washington Post) by the two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, bestselling historian, and author of *Our First Civil War*. The authoritative Franklin biography for our time.” —Joseph J. Ellis, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Founding Brothers* Wit, diplomat, scientist, philosopher, businessman, inventor, and bon vivant, Benjamin Franklin's life is one every American should know well, and it has not been told better than by Mr. Brands (The Dallas Morning News). From penniless runaway to highly successful printer, from ardently loyal subject of Britain to architect of an alliance with France that ensured America’s independence, Franklin went from obscurity to become one of the world’s most admired figures, whose circle included the likes of Voltaire, Hume, Burke, and Kant. Drawing on previously unpublished letters and a host of other sources, acclaimed historian H. W. Brands has written a thoroughly engaging biography of the eighteenth-century genius. A much needed reminder of Franklin’s greatness and humanity, *The First American* is a work of meticulous scholarship that provides a magnificent tour of a legendary historical figure, a vital era in American life, and the countless arenas in which the protean Franklin left his legacy. Look for H.W. Brands's other biographies: *ANDREW JACKSON, THE MAN WHO SAVED THE UNION* (Ulysses S. Grant), *TRAITOR TO HIS CLASS* (Franklin Roosevelt) and *REAGAN*.

benjamin franklin an american life: A Benjamin Franklin Reader Walter Isaacson, 2005-06-15 A selection of Benjamin Franklin’s writings, with an introduction and commentary by renowned author Walter Isaacson. Selected and annotated by the author of the acclaimed *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, this collection of Franklin’s writings shows why he was the bestselling author of his day and remains America’s favorite founder and wit. Includes an introductory essay

exploring Franklin's life and impact as a writer, and each piece is accompanied by a preface and notes that provide background, context, and analysis.

benjamin franklin an american life: Benjamin Franklin Hugh Newmont, 2025-04-18 This comprehensive biography delves into the extraordinary life of Benjamin Franklin, exploring his multifaceted roles as printer, writer, inventor, scientist, civic leader, diplomat, and statesman. From his humble beginnings in Boston to his rise as a prominent figure in Philadelphia, London, and Paris, the book traces Franklin's relentless pursuit of self-improvement and his profound impact on the birth and character of a nation. It examines his scientific breakthroughs, including his groundbreaking work with electricity, alongside his tireless civic activism, which transformed Philadelphia into a model of urban progress. More than just a chronological account, this biography illuminates Franklin's complex character, acknowledging his ambition, pragmatism, and the personal compromises that shaped his life, offering a complete and human portrait of the First American. The book delves into Franklin's pivotal role in the American Revolution, from his early advocacy for colonial union to his masterful diplomacy in securing the crucial French alliance. It details his contributions to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, highlighting his wisdom, humor, and commitment to compromise. Furthermore, the biography explores Franklin's lasting legacy, focusing on his tireless promotion of education and abolition, even in his final years. By drawing upon his voluminous writings, including letters, essays, and his iconic Autobiography, the book vividly portrays Franklin's journey from printer's apprentice to world-renowned figure, revealing his motivations, triumphs, failures, and the contradictions that make him such a compelling and enduring figure in American history. Through meticulous research and engaging prose, this biography offers a nuanced understanding of Benjamin Franklin's life and times, exploring his impact on science, politics, and society. It examines the evolution of his thinking on key issues like slavery and self-governance, and highlights the enduring relevance of his ideas on individual ambition, community responsibility, and the pursuit of a more perfect union. This is not just a story of the past; it's a timeless exploration of American identity and the ongoing experiment in democracy that Franklin helped to shape.

benjamin franklin an american life: The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin Gordon S. Wood, 2005-05-31 "I cannot remember ever reading a work of history and biography that is quite so fluent, so perfectly composed and balanced . . ." —The New York Sun "Exceptionally rich perspective on one of the most accomplished, complex, and unpredictable Americans of his own time or any other." —The Washington Post Book World From the most respected chronicler of the early days of the Republic—and winner of both the Pulitzer and Bancroft prizes—comes a landmark work that rescues Benjamin Franklin from a mythology that has blinded generations of Americans to the man he really was and makes sense of aspects of his life and career that would have otherwise remained mysterious. In place of the genial polymath, self-improver, and quintessential American, Gordon S. Wood reveals a figure much more ambiguous and complex—and much more interesting. Charting the passage of Franklin's life and reputation from relative popular indifference (his death, while the occasion for mass mourning in France, was widely ignored in America) to posthumous glory, *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin* sheds invaluable light on the emergence of our country's idea of itself.

benjamin franklin an american life: Ben Franklin: America's Original Entrepreneur Blaine McCormick, 2008-07-08 Inventor, Writer, Statesman, Military Leader...Businessman You are holding the only modern adaptation of Benjamin Franklin's 18th century autobiography. It is at its heart one of the greatest business stories ever told. "Franklin's autobiography is America's first great self-help book. It teaches in a delightful way how to win friends, influence people and succeed in business. Professor McCormick makes this great work more accessible and adds his own insights." -Walter Isaacson, author, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* "Anyone who's got the bug and drive to become a great leader and innovator can only be inspired by the life of Benjamin Franklin, who quite literally wrote the book for getting the most out of himself and brining out the best in others. His genius - scientific, entrepreneurial, diplomatic, and literary - was sui generis. His

Autobiography is a classic of American letters, and he emerges from the pages of Professor McCormick's version not only as our contemporary, but also as a 21st century visionary, not to mention a wise companion." -Dr. Judith Rodin, President Emerita, The University of Pennsylvania, President, The Rockefeller Foundation "Statesman and inventor are the first images that come to mind when we think of Benjamin Franklin, but as his autobiography will remind us, he was also a very successful entrepreneur and a most fascinating individual. Dr. McCormick brings the story of Franklin's entrepreneurial spirit alive for today's audience in his adaptation of Franklin's autobiography." -United States Congressman Michael N. Castle (Delaware) Fifth Generation Franklin Descendant

benjamin franklin an american life: Benjamin Franklin Hal Marcovitz, 2009 Presents a biography of the eighteenth-century printer, inventor, and statesman who played an influential role in the early history of the United States.

benjamin franklin an american life: Summary and Analysis of Benjamin Franklin Worth Books, 2017-02-28 So much to read, so little time? This brief overview of Benjamin Franklin tells you what you need to know—before or after you read Walter Isaacson's book. Crafted and edited with care, Worth Books set the standard for quality and give you the tools you need to be a well-informed reader. This short summary and analysis of Benjamin Franklin by Walter Isaacson includes: Historical context Chapter-by-chapter overviews Character profiles Detailed timeline of events Important quotes Fascinating trivia Glossary of terms Supporting material to enhance your understanding of the original work About Benjamin Franklin: An American Life by Walter Isaacson: In his thorough examination of one of America's Founding Fathers, biographer Walter Isaacson explores the life and times of Benjamin Franklin and his legacy as a scientist, writer, diplomat, printing mogul, and voice for the common man. Isaacson follows Franklin from young runaway teenager in Philadelphia, to the savvy statesman coordinating the Franco-American alliance during the Revolutionary War, to the wise, 80-year-old politician at the Constitutional Convention. In between, we learn about Franklin the person—his complicated relationships, his scientific curiosity and brilliant discoveries, and the civic-mindedness that caused him to found a library, a fire department, a university, and a hospital. Franklin's principles of democracy and admiration for the middle class continue to be at the foundation of American society. The summary and analysis in this ebook are intended to complement your reading experience and bring you closer to a great work of nonfiction.

benjamin franklin an american life: Benjamin Franklin Kay Melchisedech Olson, 2006 In graphic novel format, tells the life story of American statesman and inventor Benjamin Franklin--Provided by publisher.

benjamin franklin an american life: The Political Philosophy of Benjamin Franklin Lorraine Smith Pangle, 2007-09-28 Franklin's political writings are full of fascinating reflections on human nature, on the character of good leadership, and on why government is such a messy and problematic business. Drawing together threads in Franklin's writings, Lorraine Smith Pangle illuminates his thoughts on citizenship, federalism, constitutional government, the role of civil associations, and religious freedom.

benjamin franklin an american life: Ben Franklin's Philadelphia Tom Huntington, 2006 Visitor information on Franklin sites Convenient walking tour Helpful maps In celebration of Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday, this unique, user-friendly guide follows the Founding Father's footsteps through Philadelphia. The author takes a chronological journey through surviving landmarks from Franklin's time and the sites that preserve his legacy today. On his way, he speaks to curators, park rangers, and even Franklin impersonators to tell the story of this fascinating American icon.

benjamin franklin an american life: Benjamin Franklin: The Inventive Founding Father L.L. Owens, 2007-08-01 Discusses the life and accomplishments of the eighteenth-century American printer, scientist, statesman, and inventor.

benjamin franklin an american life: Ben Franklin's Big Splash Barb Rosenstock, 2021-07-28

Here is the story of Ben Franklin's first invention, his journey through the scientific method, and the surprising successes that result when you're willing to make mistakes. Every inventor has to start somewhere, and one of the greatest innovators in our history was no exception. Ben Franklin developed his first invention while doing what he loved best: swimming! Barb Rosenstock's rhythmic, whimsical style is the perfect complement to S. D. Schindler's pen and ink and watercolor illustrations. Together they recreate history in an engaging and unique way. Both author and illustrator worked closely with Franklin experts, and the book includes Franklin quotes, an extensive author's note, timeline, and bibliography.

benjamin franklin an american life: Benjamin Franklin in American Thought and Culture, 1790-1990 Nian-Sheng Huang, 1994 An exploration of Benjamin Franklin's diverse legacies in American life from 1790, the year of his death, to 1990. This book also focuses on the intricate relations between the functions of images and perceptions in society on the one hand and the changing social and cultural conditions that have constantly affected the alterations of those images and perceptions on the other. Includes a Selected Bibliography. Illustrations.

benjamin franklin an american life: Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History Andrew Whitmore Robertson, 2010 Annotation st1\ : {behavior:url(#ieooui) } Unparalleled coverage of U.S. political development through a unique chronological framework Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History explores the events, policies, activities, institutions, groups, people, and movements that have created and shaped political life in the United States. With contributions from scholars in the fields of history and political science, this seven-volume set provides students, researchers, and scholars the opportunity to examine the political evolution of the United States from the 1500s to the present day. With greater coverage than any other resource, the Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History identifies and illuminates patterns and interrelations that will expand the reader & BAD:rsquo;s understanding of American political institutions, culture, behavior, and change. Focusing on both government and history, the Encyclopedia brings exceptional breadth and depth to the topic with more than 100 essays for each of the critical time periods covered. With each volume covering one of seven time periods that correspond to key eras in American history, the essays and articles in this authoritative encyclopedia focus on the following themes of political history: The three branches of government Elections and political parties Legal and constitutional histories Political movements and philosophies, and key political figures Economics Military politics International relations, treaties, and alliances Regional histories Key Features Organized chronologically by political eras Reader & BAD:rsquo;s guide for easy-topic searching across volumes Maps, photographs, and tables enhance the text Signed entries by a stellar group of contributors VOLUME 1 Colonial Beginnings through Revolution 1500 & BAD:ndash; 1783 Volume Editor: Andrew Robertson, Herbert H. Lehman College The colonial period witnessed the transformation of thirteen distinct colonies into an independent federated republic. This volume discusses the diversity of the colonial political experience & BAD:mdash; a diversity that modern scholars have found defies easy synthesis & BAD:mdash; as well as the long-term conflicts, policies, and events that led to revolution, and the ideas underlying independence. VOLUME 2 The Early Republic 1784 & BAD:ndash; 1840 Volume Editor: Michael A. Morrison, Purdue University No period in the history of the United States was more critical to the foundation and shaping of American politics than the early American republic. This volume discusses the era of Confederation, the shaping of the U.S. Constitution, and the development of the party system.

benjamin franklin an american life: Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History Andrew Robertson, Michael A. Morrison, William G. Shade, Robert Johnston, Robert Zieger, Thomas Langston, Richard Valelly, 2010-04-01 Unparalleled coverage of U.S. political development through a unique chronological framework Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History explores the events, policies, activities, institutions, groups, people, and movements that have created and shaped political life in the United States. With contributions from scholars in the fields of history and political science, this seven-volume set provides students, researchers, and scholars the opportunity to examine the political evolution of the United States from the 1500s to the present day. With greater coverage

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VOLUME 2 ?The Early Republic ?1784-1840
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VOLUME 4 ?From the Gilded Age through the Age of Reform ?1878-1920
?Volume Editor: Robert Johnston, University of Illinois at Chicago With the withdrawal of federal soldiers from Southern states the previous year, 1878 marked a new focus in American politics, and it became recognizably modern within the next 40 years. This volume focuses on race and politics; economics, labor, and capitalism; agrarian politics and populism; national politics; progressivism; foreign affairs; World War I; and the end of the progressive era.

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of the change in superpower international competition associated with the end of the Cold War. Stateless terrorism (symbolized by the 9/11 attacks), the continuing American tradition of civil liberties, and the broad change in social diversity wrought by immigration and the impact in this period of the rights revolutions are also covered.

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