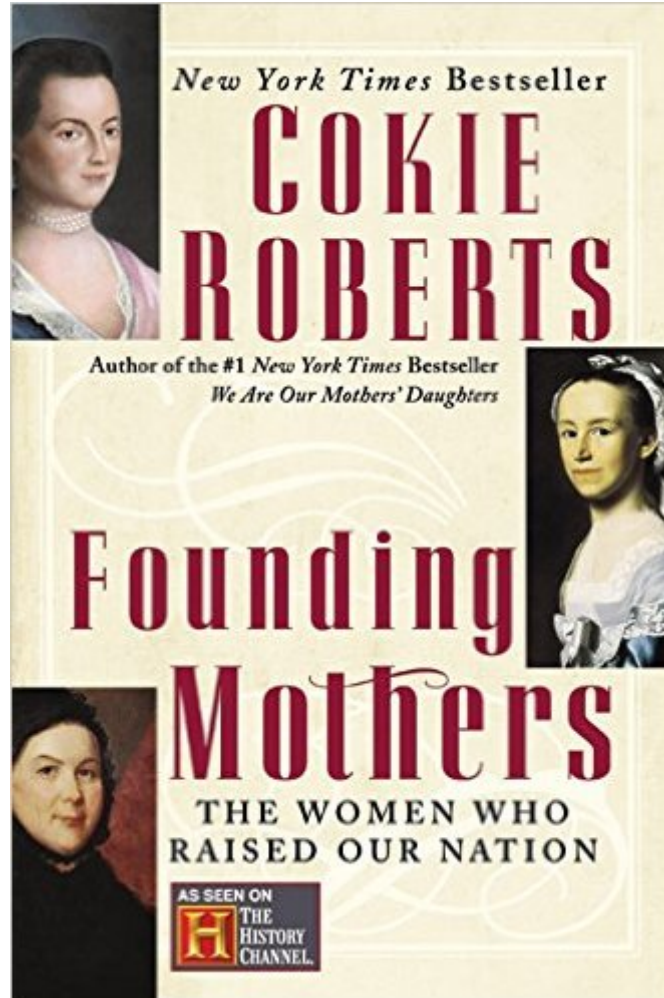


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Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation



Synopsis

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Cokie Roberts comes New York Times bestseller *Founding Mothers*, an intimate and illuminating look at the fervently patriotic and passionate women whose tireless pursuits on behalf of their families “and their country” proved just as crucial to the forging of a new nation as the rebellion that established it. While much has been written about the men who signed the Declaration of Independence, battled the British, and framed the Constitution, the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters they left behind have been little noticed by history. #1 New York Times bestselling author Cokie Roberts brings us women who fought the Revolution as valiantly as the men, often defending their very doorsteps. Drawing upon personal correspondence, private journals, and even favoured recipes, Roberts reveals the often surprising stories of these fascinating women, bringing to life the everyday trials and extraordinary triumphs of individuals like Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Deborah Read Franklin, Eliza Pinckney, Catherine Littlefield Green, Esther DeBerdt Reed and Martha Washington “proving that without our exemplary women, the new country might have never survived.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cokie Roberts thoroughly enjoyed writing this tribute to the wives of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and other prominent women of the era. The book begins in the early 1700's. It ends when the presidency of George Washington ends and John Adams is elected, in 1797. I appreciated the notes and the cast of characters including names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the signers of the Constitution, the players in the new

government, women writers of the period, and famous soldiers and statesmen during the revolutionary war, which are included in the back of the book. Excerpts from many letters are included and are so beautifully written. Let your imagination wander as you read vivid accounts of the sacrifices made by families who wanted independence from England - the yellow fever and smallpox epidemics, the building of a military, the contributions made by exceptional women such as Abigail Adams and Martha Washington, as well as Phillis Wheatley, Mercy Otis Warren, Sarah Livingston Jay, and many others portrayed here. Cokie writes as if she is having fun telling us so many interesting facts about the "founding families", and I had fun learning more about them and relearning early American history. The true story of Benedict Arnold and his wife was enlightening as well as the character of Alexander Hamilton. You will enjoy learning about influential women in this book. Cokie has inserted some of her own remarks to lighten up the picture, and she carefully recounts the contributions of each state as they represented the new government at that time; the conflicts with the British, the alliance with the French, as well as inevitable partisan politics.

I rather enjoyed this low-keyed take on history. The reading was easy and it was fun and I did indeed learn some facts I was unaware of. This by no means is "hard core history" and I doubt if it was meant to be. The book of course takes a look at the wives of some of our founding fathers and the role they played at the time. The book appears to be reasonably researched, as any book of the nature can be, and the author uses an easy and informative style. On the other hand, I doubt if this work will satisfy the hard core reader of history any more than it will satisfy the reader who is wanting a cozy sort of read...it sort of falls in the middle somewhere. I read it for pleasure and did receive that from it. Recommend this one.

This was our book club's selection for June, and we all had been excited by the topic and the author. I was disappointed reading it. The first chapter was the only fairly coherent one because Roberts stayed pretty much on-topic when describing Eliza Pinckney. After that, Roberts seemed to lose her way. The book is crying out for a good editor. Surely the editor should have cleaned up the ridiculously long paragraphs - one was over a page and went from person to person, back and forth through time, and I never could figure out the point. The book was so hard to read that it took me two weeks to slough through the 278 pages of the main text. At book club meetings, we usually have a wide range of opinions on books, but this time, the vote was unanimous: It was dreadful. A few of the comments from members were: Fascinating premise; terrible rendering; what a waste of a good topic; expected better from Roberts; got published just because it was by Roberts; jumbled;

rambling; jumps around with no rhyme or reason; stream-of-consciousness; flighty; poorly-written; hard-to-read; hard-to-follow; inappropriate personal comments throughout, with almost no serious analysis of the data presented. I like buying books, but this is the first book club book that I've wished I took out of the library instead of buying.

The concept of this book is what interested me. I was quite inspired by the women depicted here. Unfortunately I found the work to be poorly written. I certainly could have done without the personal commentary Cokie threaded through the book. It was as if I was being directed what to think. I "get it" I wanted to scream. The content wasn't all that bad but the book is written for the reader young reader, perhaps of high school age. I would consider it for paperback if at all.

Cokie Roberts did an outstanding job in this book showing the courage, strength, passion, and patriotism exemplified by the extraordinary women of our nation's history, and how they made the jobs of the men who formed our nation possible. The women had a voice that was spoken behind-the-scenes. They took care of keeping their homes safe, even defending them against attack during volatile times. The extraordinary women are role models of just how much a woman can accomplish while working in harmony with the men in their lives, which made it possible for much reform, change, and revitalization of America. This book is an outstanding read for all who are interested in the authentic power of how much influence a woman can bring while backing, supporting, and working in harmony with the men in their lives. A great example of a win/win for all. This book deserves 10 Stars! Highly Recommended! Barbara Rose, author of "Stop Being the String Along: A Relationship Guide to Being THE ONE" and 'If God Was Like Man' Editor of inspire! magazine

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