



A Powerful Mind: The Self-Education of George Washington

By Adrienne Harrison

Potomac Books. Hardcover. Condition: New. 328 pages. His formal schooling abruptly cut off at age eleven, George Washington saw his boyhood dream of joining the British army evaporate and recognized that even his aspiration to rise in colonial Virginian agricultural society would be difficult. Throughout his life he faced challenges for which he lacked the academic foundations shared by his more highly educated contemporaries. Yet Washingtons legacy is clearly not one of failure. Breaking new ground in Washington scholarship and American revolutionary history, Adrienne Harrisons intellectual biography, A Powerful Mind: The Self-Education of George Washington, investigates the first presidents dedicated process of self-directed learning through reading, a facet of his character and leadership long neglected by historians and biographers. Through comprehensive research, Harrison demonstrates that Washington rose to meet these trials in large part through a committed campaign of highly focused reading, educating himself on exactly what he needed to do and how best to do it. In contrast to other famous figures of the revolutionJefferson, Adams, FranklinWashington did not learn multiple languages or relish learning for its own sake. Rather, self-education was a tool to shape himself into the person he wanted to be. His two highest-profile and highest-risk...



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