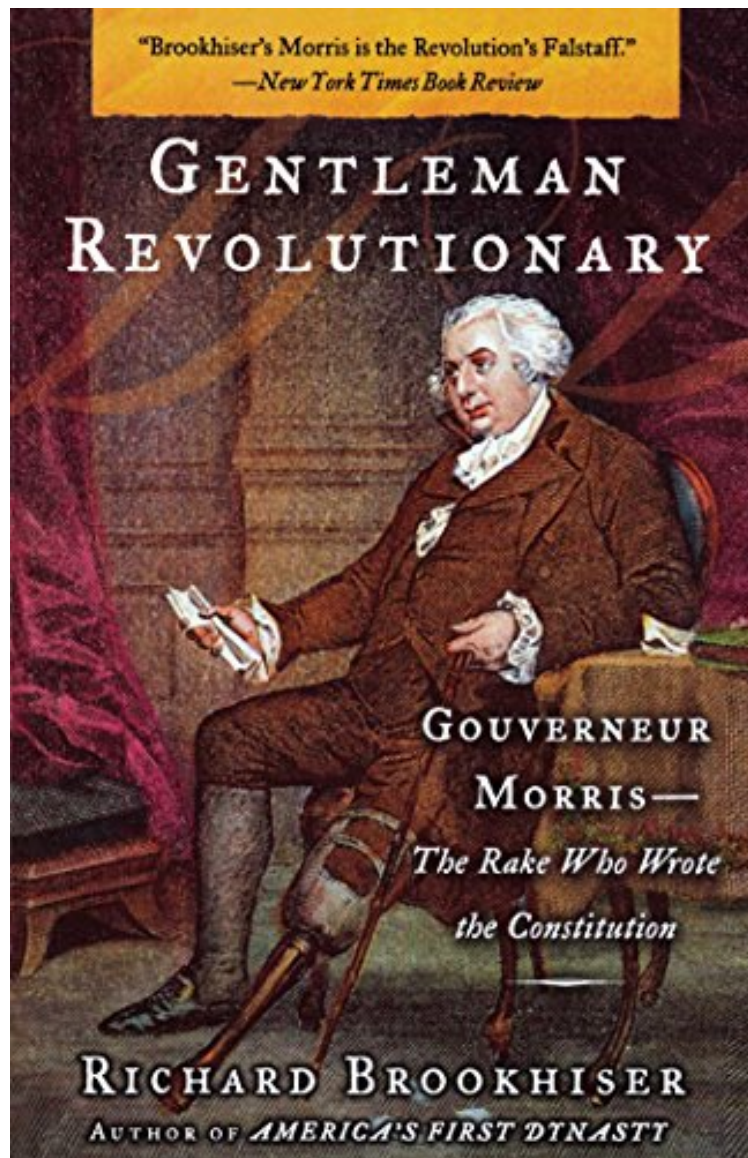


(Mobile pdf) Gentleman Revolutionary: Gouverneur Morris, the Rake Who Wrote the Constitution (English Edition)

Gentleman Revolutionary: Gouverneur Morris, the Rake Who Wrote the Constitution (English Edition)

Von Richard Brookhiser

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2008-06-17 Erscheinungsdatum: 2003-05-06 File Name: B001D1SR00
| File size: 40.Mb

Von Richard Brookhiser : Gentleman Revolutionary: Gouverneur Morris, the Rake Who Wrote the Constitution (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gentleman Revolutionary: Gouverneur Morris, the Rake Who Wrote the Constitution (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Superficial Look at Gouverneur MorrisVon Donald MitchellMost people know a little something about George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr. But how many can tell you about the public life of Gouverneur Morris?Whenever you quote golden words from the U.S. Constitution, chances are that you are quoting parts written by Gouverneur Morris. After many votes, the Constitutional Convention gave the task of turning the various resolutions into a cohesive, easy-to-read document. Gouverneur Morris bore the burden of doing this writing. Mr. Brookhiser did a nice job of showing the changes that Gouverneur Morris made . . . and I'm sure you will agree that they are improvements. The preamble, for example, was his: "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility . . ."The American Revolution succeeded in large part because of the support provided by France's Louis XVI. As the French Revolution loomed, Gouverneur Morris found himself in the delicate position of being Ambassador to France. To whom was he supposed to pay attention? To whom was the United States to repay its bonds? What role could he play in trying to help friends of the American Revolution? In the process, Morris played a double role of trying to make friends with the ever-changing regimes during the French Revolution and helping America's friends avoid the guillotine. In his spare time, he courted his mistress who also played that role with the pivotal French political figure, Talleyrand.Upon his return to the United States, he found useful roles in important public projects like the Erie Canal and laying out the grid structure for New York City's streets and avenues.Morris suffered from two major physical disabilities, a withered arm as the result of being scalded as a youth and an amputated foot from a carriage accident. Despite these physical infirmities, he was able to play a continuing role in politics when he chose and to attract the wives of other men.In addition, he suffered a major mental disability, a love to hear his own voice . . . whether his ideas made sense or not. He was the most frequent orator at the Constitutional Convention, but his ideas sometimes made no sense. However, all admired his ability to turn a phrase.Although he played a role in putting the Constitution together to replace the Articles of Confederation, he also flirted with the New England secession movement during the French crisis.I would have preferred a book about Morris that went into more detail than this one did about his public life. For example, where did the language he wrote in the Constitution turn out to be important in later Supreme Court cases? What views that he expressed in all of those speeches seemed to have influenced others in close votes that occurred later? The material on his influence on the Erie Canal also seemed sketchy rather than comprehensive.There was also too much about his various private affairs compared to the public material.Having just read Ron Chernow's brilliant biography of Alexander Hamilton, it was hard to compare the two books to the detriment of this one.But if you know next to nothing about Gouverneur Morris, I'm not aware of a better book on the subject, so you should start your learning with this one.

KurzbeschreibungSince 1996, Richard Brookhiser has devoted himself to recovering the Founding for modern Americans. The creators of our democracy had both the temptations and the shortcomings of all men, combined with the talents and idealism of the truly great. Among them, no Founding Father demonstrates the combination of temptations and talents quite so vividly as the least known of the greats, Gouverneur Morris. His story is one that should be known by every American -- after all, he drafted the Constitution, and his hand lies behind many of its most important phrases. Yet he has been lost in the shadows of the Founders who became presidents and faces on our currency. As Brookhiser shows in this sparkling narrative, Morris's story is not only crucial to the Founding, it is also one of the most entertaining and instructive of all. Gouverneur Morris, more than Washington, Jefferson, or even Franklin, is the Founding Father whose story can most readily touch our hearts, and whose character is most sorely needed today. He was a witty, peg-legged ladies' man. He was an eyewitness to two revolutions (American and French) who joked with George Washington, shared a mistress with Talleyrand, and lost friends to the guillotine. In his spare time he gave New York City its street grid and New York State the Erie Canal. His keen mind and his light, sure touch helped make our Constitution the most enduring fundamental set of laws in the world. In his private life, he suited himself; pleased the ladies until, at age fifty-seven, he settled down with one lady (and pleased her); and lived the life of a gentleman, for whom grace and humanity were as important as birth. He kept his good humor through war, mobs, arson, death, and two accidents that burned the flesh from one of his arms and cut off one of his legs below the knee. Above all, he had the gift of a sunny disposition that allowed him to keep his head in any troubles. We have much to learn from him, and much pleasure to take in his company.From Publishers WeeklyThis biography ought to rehabilitate an appealing, major if second-ranking figure of the early nation. Gouverneur Morris has been overlooked, surmises Brookhiser (*America's First Dynasty: The Adamses, 1735-1918*), because he was among "the solid rather than the glittering." If so, Morris had a more penetrating mind, a more buoyant disposition and a more lusty character than most of his contemporaries. He may have been a rake, but he appears to have been a lovable and admirable one-a thoughtful lover (greatly loved in return by women, including Talleyrand's mistress, whom he shared with the Frenchman), a keen observer of history, an early opponent of slavery, and an optimistic and unembittered man despite

grievous bodily injuries. More important, he played key roles in the nation's first years. We owe the Constitution's great preamble, as well as many of the document's key phrases and all of its style, to Morris's pen. Observing the French Revolution up close in Paris and serving as ambassador to France at the height of the Terror, he recorded what he saw in a classic diary. The author's characteristic strengths are on display here, no doubt because he's writing of another of the founding generation's conservative figures, his longtime subjects. Sometimes letting facts suffice for interpretation, Brookhiser, a senior editor for the National and a columnist for the New York Observer, leaves a reader unsure of where to place Morris, how to understand his significance. But no one will fail to be charmed by this man of fortitude and achievement who "savored life." Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist

Acclaimed historian Brookhiser provides an absolutely delightful biography of America's least renowned Founding Father. Revisiting the life and times of Gouverneur Morris, he has also added a new chapter to the history of the Constitution. Born to an aristocratic New York family, Morris was exposed to the politics of both the loyalists and the revolutionaries at an early age. Opting to throw his weight behind the cause of liberty, he became a member of the Constitutional Convention, reshaped and reworded the proposed Constitution, and penned the celebrated Preamble. Equally as interesting as his political contributions was his colorful private life. An inveterate womanizer, the witty, fashionably attired, one-legged Mr. Morris entertained a string of mistresses across two continents. The third installment in Brookhiser's series of tributes to the Founding Fathers (Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington, 1996; Alexander Hamilton, American, 1999) offers another fascinating portrait of a man at the crossroads of American history. Margaret Flanagan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved