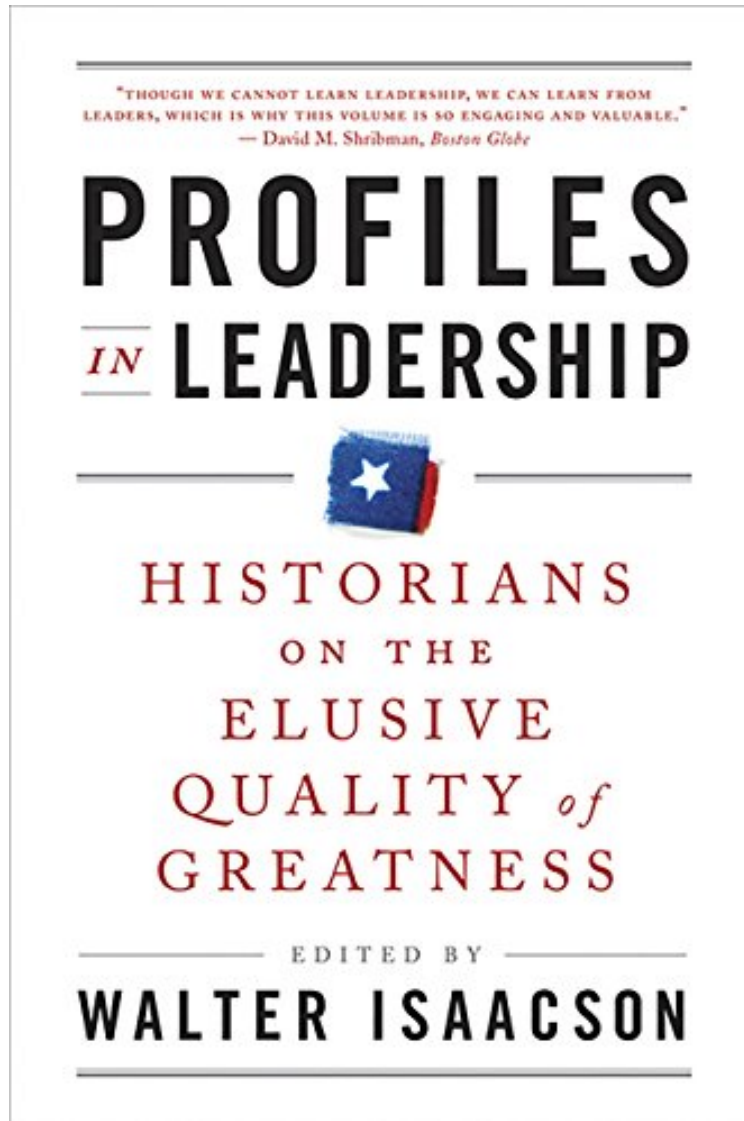


Profiles in Leadership: Historians on the Elusive Quality of Greatness

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Interesting book but he must have written it just to make a couple of extra bucks because his name sells books even if they are not great. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Isaacson is just the editor! By Lightin' Very good. Even with the naturally strong liberal bias he is noted for. 0 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Profiles in Leadership By raymond j. vercruysse, cfc I found this book to be a good read on the topic of leadership. It would be worth any ones read on the topic.

“Though we cannot learn leadership, we can learn from leaders, which is why this volume is so engaging and valuable.” — Boston Globe
What made FDR a more successful leader during the Depression crisis than Hoover? Why was Eisenhower more effective as supreme commander at war than he was as president? Who was Pauli Murray and why was she a pivotal figure in the civil rights movement? Find the answers to these questions and more in essays by great historians including Sean Wilentz, Alan Brinkley, Annette Gordon-Reed, Jean Strouse, Frances FitzGerald, and others. Entertaining and insightful individually, taken together the essays address the enduring ingredients of leadership, the focus of an introduction by Walter Isaacson.

From Publishers Weekly
In a thought-provoking book designed to reconsider the attributes of American leadership, Isaacson (Einstein and His Universe), former managing editor of Time and now president of the Aspen Institute, has assembled a group of distinguished historians to address some seminal figures in terms of their vision, principles, flexibility, and pragmatism. Many of the contributors have first-rate résumés in scholarship, letters, and research, including Frances FitzGerald, Sean Wilentz, Jean Strouse, and Robert Dallek. Quality writing, incisive analysis, and valuable revelations accompany each essay, whether it's Kevin Baker's take on the unpredictable baseball manager John Joseph McGraw, Evan Thomas's emotional deconstruction of Robert F. Kennedy, or Annette Gordon-Reed's perceptive measure of W.E.B. Du Bois. Three standout essays concern the moral and strategic strengths and weaknesses of Gen. George Washington; Joseph, chief of the Nez Perce Indians; and presidents Hoover and FDR. At a time when leadership is lacking, this memorable book culls examples from our past to reveal what makes a person stand above the rest. It's unfortunate that just one of the subjects—civil rights activist Pauli Murray—is a woman. 13 illus. (Oct.) (c) Copyright copy; PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
From Booklist
The qualities that define great leadership are almost as mercurial and indecipherable as those that identify great art: one notices more their absence than their presence, and sometimes a rearview mirror is necessary to determine if they ever existed at all. Isaacson has gathered preeminent writers to examine this slippery conundrum, each author portraying significant, and surprising, figures from America's history. From historian Thomas Fleming's penetrating review of George Washington's military prowess to professor Glenda Gilmore's robust depiction of civil rights activist Pauli Murray, the studies offer illuminating, insightful, and inspiring examples of valor and integrity. Likewise, biographer Robert Dallek's judicious examination of the failures that beset successive presidents, from Harry S. Truman to George W. Bush, puts forth a cautionary and controversial notion of establishing a mechanism whereby officials can be recalled when they prove themselves incapable of demonstrating these requisite qualities. Incisive, shrewd, and perhaps even prescient, this eclectic collection offers rich food for thought for students of history and management alike. —Carol Haggas
“Good bedside reading for history buffs.” — Kirkus
“Incisive and shrewd, this eclectic collection offers rich food for thought for students of history and management alike.” — Booklist
“At a time when leadership is lacking, this memorable book culls examples from our past to reveal what makes a person stand above the rest.” — Publishers Weekly