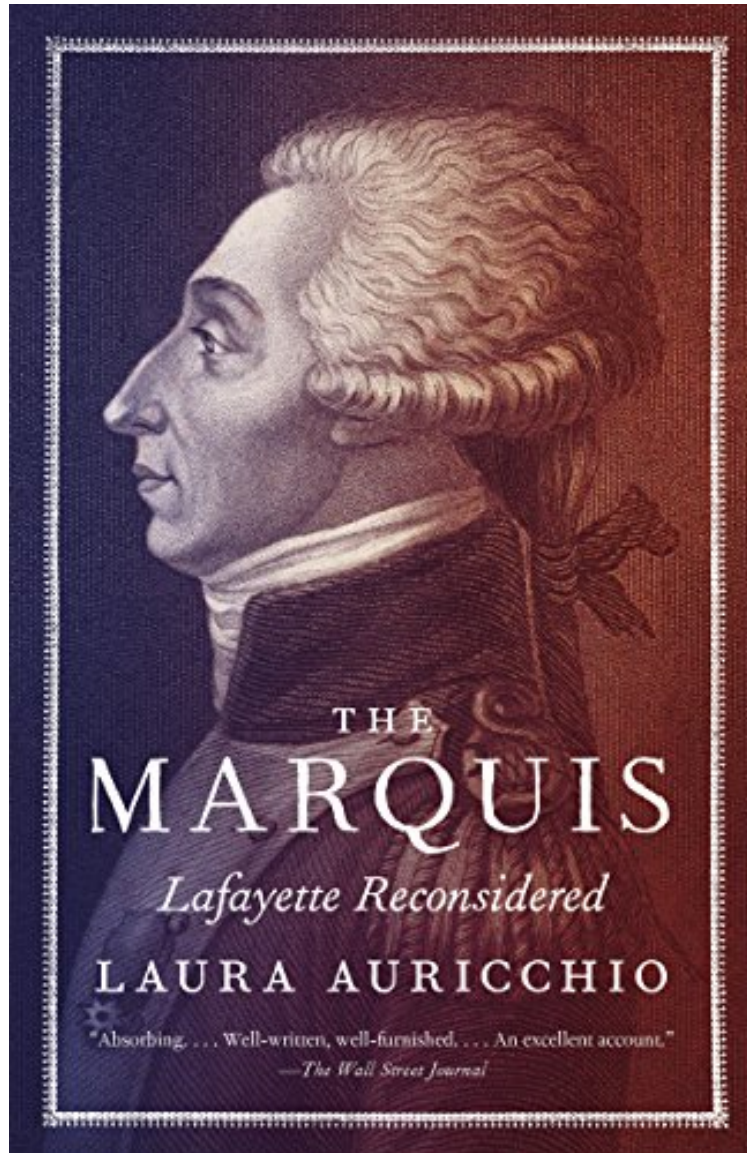


(Download pdf) The Marquis

The Marquis

Von Laura Auricchio

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Von Laura Auricchio : The Marquis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Marquis:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Two Nations, Two Revolutions, One HeroVon James GallenLafayette was the young French nobleman who aided Americas War of Independence and the aged hero who returned in triumph to tour the nation he helped establish, but is that the whole story? Of course it is not and The Marquis tells the rest of it. Author Laura Auricchio raises the

question of why Lafayette is so remembered in his adopted country of America and almost forgotten in his native France. Her work helps us form our own answer. Lafayette was a young and wealthy member of the minor nobility who had married into a place at the French court when he heard of the struggle for liberty in America that provided an outlet for his energy and a chance at the glory and military rank that was so sought after by men of his age and class. That and the quest to avenge Frances losses to Britain made the American cause a compelling one. He found his opportunity in a Paris entranced by Dr. Franklin and his new nation. As a 20 year old he received his letter of introduction and headed across the Atlantic. Lafayettes first American sojourn was a combination of glory and disappointed ambition. The relationship of the fatherless Lafayette and the childless Washington ensured him a place at the heart of the Revolution and, in time, in the heart of America. His goals to lead an invasion of Francophone Canada or to command the French Army in America were frustrated but he ended his service by trapping Cornwallis in Yorktown where Washingtons army and deGrassess fleet forced the British surrender. For many that is where Lafayettes story ends but he was still a young man and had much to do before he would return to America. He became an ardent abolitionist and a public nobleman in France. During the French Revolution he would, at times, be the most prominent figure as he tried to guide his native land to constitutional monarchy in the mold of Britain amidst the pulls of republicans and absolute monarchists. It was he who protected Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette from the mob and lobbied with the politicians in an unsuccessful attempt to pave a smooth road to a France where liberty and stability could coexist. When the structures he built crashed he was forced into exile in Belgium. Actually he was more fortunate than many who tried their hands at nation building in those turbulent days. After things settled down he retired to his original role of country gentleman and statesman, until the invitation of President Monroe to visit the United States again opened the door to glory and recognition. By then one of the few surviving members of the Revolutionary generation, his tour was, perhaps, the greatest fete of any person in our nations history. The Marquis is a biography of a man who was important in the development of both the country of his nativity and the one that adopted him. Lafayette emerges as a man who was, in the words of a later American hero, Theodore Roosevelt actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat. It is also history of two revolutions, the one that gave birth to America and the other that upended French society and set it on another course. As readers of my reviews are aware, I have read a lot of history, but I gained insights into the American War of Independence and learned much about the French Revolution, its build up and its aftermath. I am grateful to the French nun whose convent property includes the cemetery in which Lafayette rests for telling Laura Auricchio Write your book. And Tell Lafayettes story. She has done it very well.

Kurzbeschreibung A major biography of the Marquis de Lafayette, French hero of the American Revolution, who, at age nineteen, volunteered to fight under George Washington; a biography that looks past the storybook hero and selfless champion of righteous causes who cast aside family and fortune to advance the transcendent aims of liberty and justice commemorated in Americas towns, streets, parks, and schools named after the French nobleman. Laura Auricchio gives us a rich portrait of the man, fully revealed, a man driven by dreams of glory and felled by tragic, human weaknesses. In The Marquis, we come to understand the personal struggles, social quandaries, and idealistic visions that inspired an orphaned young man to cross an ocean and fight a war that was none of his concern; we see a guileless provincial whose unexpected inheritance allowed him to marry into the highest echelons of the French aristocracy, and become a self-consciously awkward presence at the palace of Versailles. Here is the young Lafayette, removed from the French army as a result of sweeping reforms, trapped in a gilded cage until American emissaries reached Paris seeking support for their revolution. In the American cause, Lafayette, whose only vision had been of martial glory, saw a way to reach his dreams, and seized it with gusto. Americans welcomed him with open arms, and he returned their affection fully. His American clat was so brilliant and his enthusiasm so great that he quickly became the symbol of the Franco-American alliance that ultimately defeated Great Britain. We see how Lafayettes reputation rose to great heights during the American Revolution but collapsed during the French; that when the Bastille fell on July 14, 1789, Parisians hailed Lafayette as the French Washington and appointed him commander of their National Guard, hoping that he would be able to restore order to a city wracked by starvation and violence. As revolutionaries hurtled in radical directions and staunch monarchists dug in their heels, Lafayette lost control, remaining steadfast in his belief that the French monarchy needed to be reformed but not abolished, and doing everything in his power to prevent an American-style republic from taking root in his native land. Formerly seen as Frances heroic figure, Lafayette was now viewed as opportunistic, a dreamer, and a traitor to his nation--and today remains a murky figure in French memory. In America, Lafayettes momentous departure from his homeland for the War of Independence has

long been hailed as the start of an extraordinary career to be celebrated for generations. In France, it is often seen as just one of his many misbegotten undertakings. Yet no one has managed to offer a satisfactory answer to the crucial question of why: Why did Americans shower Lafayette with so much acclaim in his own time that he remains a hero today, being named an honorary U.S. citizen in 2002 becoming only the seventh person ever granted this distinction? And why, in contrast, does his memory continue to be denigrated in his own land? Auricchio, drawing on substantial new research conducted in libraries, archives, museums, and private homes in France and the United States, gives us history on a grand scale as she answers these crucial questions, revealing the man and his complex life, and challenging and exploring the complicated myths that have surrounded his name for more than two centuries. From the Hardcover edition. *Pressestimmen* Excellent . . . abundantly detailed. Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post* Astute and often thrilling. *The New Yorker* A vivid raconteur and avid researcher, Laura Auricchio tells the story of Lafayettes precocious military feats and political maneuvering on an international stage with passionate interest. *Radcliffe Magazine* Absorbing . . . well-written, well-furnished. . . . An excellent account. Frederick Brown, *Wall Street Journal* Describes vividly and critically the roller coaster of Lafayettes successes and failures. *Public Books* A lively portrait. Peggy Carlson, *The Free Lance-Star* Admirably well-written, fresh. *Harvard Magazine* Robust, hugely satisfying . . . spirited and entirely accurate . . . [Laura Auricchios] book follows Lafayettes life and career with greater sympathy and in greater detail than any previous account in English that I know of, and the infectious zest of her character descriptions is by no means limited to her illustrious hero. . . . [Lafayette has] always been far more deserving of a first-rate popular biography than either the General he worshipped or the Tyrants he opposed, and now at last hes got one. Steve Donoghue, *Open Letters Monthly* Absorbing. Henrik Bering, *The Weekly Standard* Superb. . . . Auricchios portrait of Lafayette will appeal to lovers of biography and history alike. She artfully weaves Lafayettes story into a rich account of the interconnections between 18th-century France and America, recreating in vivid detail the worlds he occupied, from the salons of the Enlightenment to the battlefield and public squares of the New World. This is a book of remarkable historical depth, yet is very accessible to a general reader. *America Magazine* Engrossing. . . . Laura Auricchio is as adept at recounting the Marquiss first, awkward moments negotiating the subtleties of Versailles as she is bringing to life his seemingly father-son relationship with George Washington. Impeccably researched and compelling. Andrew Curran, Dean of the Arts and Humanities, Wesleyan University In a sharp and moving biography, Auricchio captures the essence of the French hero of the American Revolution the Hero of Two Worlds, the Apostle of Liberty. Kirkus (Starred) Laura Auricchio has managed to bring the Marquis de Lafayette back to life, replacing the rather wooden figure of legend with the real man, a hero of two great revolutions, the American and the French, and man of great complexity and unflinching courage. An immensely rewarding book. Michael Korda, author of *Clouds of Glory* [A] fine biography. . . . Lafayette still deserves more attention in France, but hes found just the right American biographer in Auricchio. *Publishers Weekly* *Kurzbeschreibung* A major biography of the Marquis de Lafayette, French hero of the American Revolution, who, at age nineteen, volunteered to fight under George Washington; a biography that looks past the storybook hero and selfless champion of righteous causes who cast aside family and fortune to advance the transcendent aims of liberty and justice commemorated in Americas towns, streets, parks, and schools named after the French nobleman. Laura Auricchio gives us a rich portrait of the man, fully revealed, a man driven by dreams of glory and felled by tragic, human weaknesses. 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