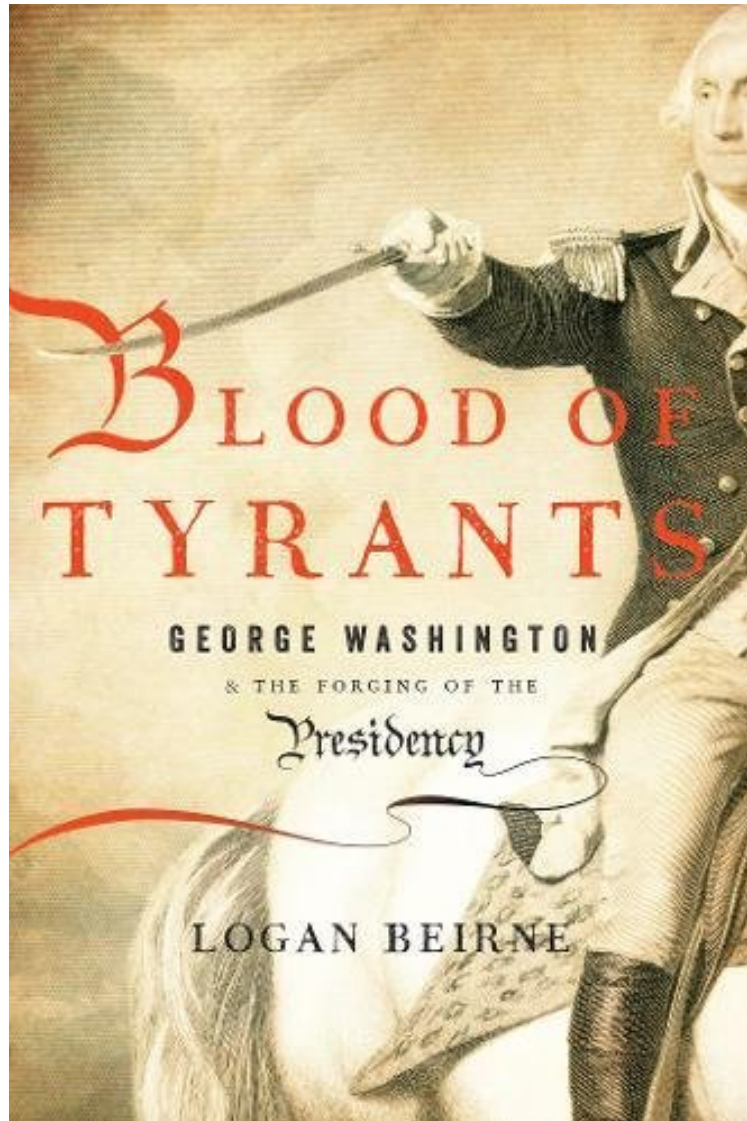


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## Blood of Tyrants: George Washington the Forging of the Presidency

*Logan Beirne*

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**Logan Beirne : Blood of Tyrants: George Washington the Forging of the Presidency** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood of Tyrants: George Washington the Forging of the Presidency:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Washington - You thought you knewBy CustomerWe always read these polite, professional, patriotic tellings of our presidents and historical figures. This book gives a totally realistic

perspective on the man, his methods and what kind of leader he really was. Knowing our forefathers faults as well as their accomplishments really helps to humanize our American Gods. Washington has a darker past than many Americans are willing to accept or understand. As with many things, we grow older and learn truths about things we thought so highly of. Although my opinions of Washington as a man have changed slightly, my pride in the man he was and the sacrifices he made to save our fledgling nation have been inflated. If you want to see history from a more realistic perspective, I highly recommend this book. 27 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Great Book on a Timely Subject By M. Fragoso "Bloody of Tyrants" is a fantastic and timely study of the first Commander in Chief, George Washington. While new and interesting books about the Founders seem to appear with some frequency, this is the first one I have read that focuses exclusively on Washington--not just the General, but--the Commander in Chief. Given the importance and, frankly, vagueness of that term in Article II of the Constitution, Beirne's study is invaluable for those who seek a fuller understanding what the Framers themselves meant by that term when included it in the Constitution, and how the American people at the Founding understood it when they voted to ratify it. What really makes "Blood of Tyrants" a great read, though, is the fact that it's actually a great read. Beirne doesn't just serve up a dry helping of originalist history: he tells a compelling story about the first President. Fascinating historical color is peppered throughout the book. In turn he revises and augments the historical legends we've come to know about Washington. This is the rare book that is both highly informative and a lot of fun. I highly recommend it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Intelligent and Captivating By Customer Intelligent without being pretentious, informative without being loquacious, and engaging without being bombastic -- this book delivers. At a time when the political forces sweeping the nation can feel entirely unprecedented, Mr. Beirne eloquently reminds us that many of the debates we have today have their roots in the very founding of our country. The book manages to do what so many others fail: to be both enjoyable and enlightening at the same time. A must read for any political or history buff -- or really just anyone looking for high-brow entertainment.

Blood of Tyrants reveals the surprising details of our Founding Fathers approach to government and this history's impact on today. Delving into the forgotten and often lurid facts of the Revolutionary War, Logan Beirne focuses on the nation's first commander in chief, George Washington, as he shaped the very meaning of the United States Constitution in the heat of battle. Key episodes illustrate how the Founders dealt with thorny wartime issues: Who decides war strategy? When should we use military tribunals over civilian trials? Should we inflict harsh treatment on enemy captives if it means saving American lives? How do we protect citizens rights when the nation is struggling to defend itself? Beirne finds evidence in previously-unexplored documents such as General Washington's letters debating torture, an eyewitness account of the military tribunal that executed a British prisoner, Founders letters warning against government debt, and communications pointing to a power struggle between Washington and the Continental Congress. Vivid stories from the Revolution frame Washington's pivotal role in the drafting of the Constitution. The Founders saw the first American commander in chief as the template for all future presidents: a leader who would fiercely defend Americans rights and liberties against all forms of aggression. Blood of Tyrants pulls the reader directly into the scenes, filling the void in our understanding of the presidency and our ingenious Founders pragmatic approach to issues we still face today.

"[T]here is almost no tale told of the Revolution that does not find its way into 'Blood of Tyrants,' provided it is juicy enough." Wall Street Journal Gripping. Relevant. Revolutionary. This page-turning historical thriller is packed with fresh factual narratives that draw the reader into the scenes to show how the United States earned its stripes. The wisdom of 1776 was never more crucial than today. Amy Chua, Yale Law School professor and best-selling author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, *Day of Empire*, and *World on Fire* "In this fast-paced narrative, Logan Beirne vividly explains something every American should know, but which few of us really understand. Blood of Tyrants is a lively account of how George Washington's service as wartime commander-in-chief of the Continental Army cemented our commitment to the principle of civilian supremacy, yet also laid the basis for the presidency that the Constitutional Convention created only a few years after Washington resigned his command. It is both a great read, and deeply informative." Jack N. Rakove, American historian, author, professor at Stanford University, and Pulitzer Prize winner. "[T]he important political lessons of the past are given a fresh new perspective. . . . Beirne's genealogical and personal interest in history, politics and the military makes for an enjoyable read." Washington Times What can we learn about America's proper comportment in today's dirty wars from a long-dead, white male, slave-owning aristocrat of the 18th century? A lot, it turns out. Logan Beirne's paean to Washington's wartime wisdom and belief in constitutional government is a timely, insightful, and much-needed reminder of why America does best at war when it honors rather than erodes its founding principles. Victor Davis Hanson, senior fellow in classics and military history at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, and author of *Carnage and Culture* and *A War Like No Other* What are the constitutional powers of the president in time of war? Do his war powers grant him authority to establish military tribunals, torture enemy prisoners, and override Congress in the determination of military strategy and operations? As Logan Beirne demonstrates in this fresh and stimulating history of the American Revolution, Commander-in-Chief

George Washington confronted these questions and established precedents that have continued to shape presidential war powers down to our own time. James McPherson, Princeton University professor emeritus, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and best-selling author of *Crossroads of Freedom* There was more to the founders than noble sentiments and fine words they were revolutionaries, who fought for and won America's freedom on bloody battlefields. *Blood of Tyrants* tells this gritty story smartly and compellingly and plumbs it for practical lessons for the toughest issues of our times. Adam Cohen, *Time Magazine* journalist and author of *Nothing to Fear: FDR's Inner Circle* *Blood of Tyrants* strips away the fantasy and lays bare the violence and political intrigue needed for the American Revolution to succeed. Lurid, horrifying, scandalous. I could not put it down. William Eskridge Jr., Yale Law School professor, author of *The Republic of Statutes*, and descendant of George Eskridge, the godfather of George Washington This myth-defying book tells how our first commander in chief dealt with the hard issues of war, including military commissions, the rights of Americans, and the interference of Congress. Those who want an unvarnished account of how a great leader handled nasty and messy problems of war: prepare to be shocked, amazed, and educated. Hon. Michael W. McConnell, Stanford Law School professor, director of the Stanford Constitutional Law Center, and former federal judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit