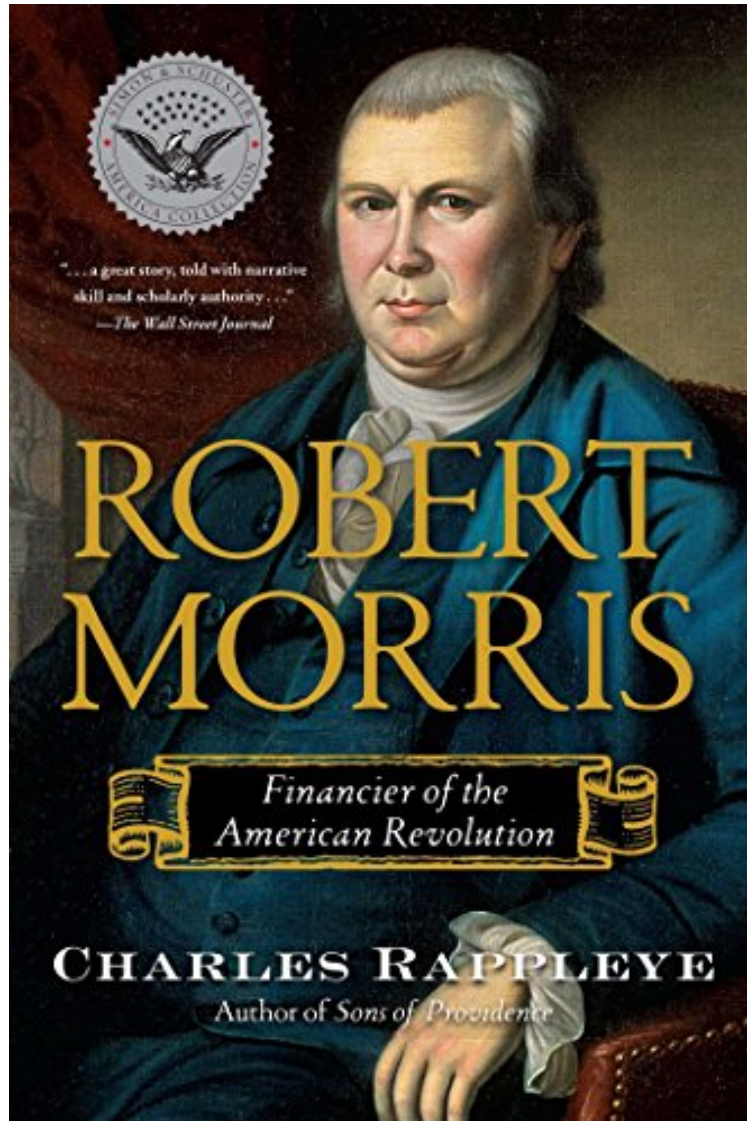


(Mobile ebook) Robert Morris: Financier of the American Revolution

Robert Morris: Financier of the American Revolution

Charles Rappleye

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#927361 in Books Charles Rappleye 2011-11-01 2011-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.90 x 6.12l, 1.45 #File Name: 1416570926640 pages Robert Morris Financier of the American Revolution | File size: 79.Mb

Charles Rappleye : Robert Morris: Financier of the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Robert Morris: Financier of the American Revolution:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Hidden Financial Side of the Revolution By Daniel Putman Its safe to say that without Robert Morris the American Revolution would, at a minimum, have been very different and quite possibly never have succeeded. It also remains clear that Morris, who was rich before the Revolution, got richer

because of it. But it is much less clear, as Charles Rappleye shows, how much Morris profited when he should not have. Rappleye comes down at the end with the claim that Morris did not abuse his power in his work on the Secret Committee during the Revolution or as chief financier for the country immediately after the Revolution. Morris was largely responsible during certain critical years for keeping Washington's army supplied and, in the immediate aftermath of Yorktown, keeping a very unstable new government afloat. Rappleye does not shy away from Morris's flaws, e.g., his intense love of luxury, even in difficult times. Morris was a close friend of Washington and a highly congenial man who cared deeply for his family but above all he was the ultimate American deal-maker in the last half of the 18th century. As Rappleye points out, many historians as well as many of Morris's contemporaries did not approve of his methods but it was Morris's incredible financial skill that gave the shaky new United States an economic future. Evidence clearly shows that he was ten years ahead of Hamilton in proposing debt relief, the structure of a national bank, and the role of a more centralized federal government. As he approached his 60th birthday, Morris seemed to lose his incisive skills when it came to large investments. His land schemes, along with international factors beyond his control, landed Morris in debtors' prison and he died not in prison but bankrupt. Rappleye has a fascinating last chapter about how Morris's reputation fluctuated after his death from Morris the financial genius to Morris the corrupt politician who ended up where he belonged. This biography is a dramatic and well-told story of a critically important Founder whom few know about. When Morris is mentioned today, it is often in a few paragraphs or as a footnote. This is the full story of the most important figure in the early finances of America. I highly recommend the book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Extraordinary character - Highly Recommended...By R. S. Perez
It's hard to imagine that more Americans are not familiar with Robert Morris. He was an important and significant participant in the founding of this country. This is really great history. Start by googling Robert Morris founding father and follow a few links. That should be enough to get you interested in wanting to know more about Mr. Morris. The book helps to put all of this in an historical perspective, particularly regarding the interactions and politics of all of the important players involved in our nation's founding. It's obvious that the author, Mr. Rappleye, did a lot of research and worked quite hard to provide this important detail in order to immerse the reader in the tone and texture of early America and colonial life. I had issues with the author's writing style, a bit too much repetition regarding Mr. Morris' standup reputation, and particularly with his handling of sequencing and time lines. The interesting character and depth of Mr. Morris easily overcomes these shortcomings and pulls you back in. I'm now reading Brand's book on Franklin. Another extraordinary character.

Bob P
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent biography of one of three founding fathers
By DrGregMaguire
Excellent biography of one of three founding fathers, including Washington and Hamilton, without whom this country probably wouldn't exist. He signed the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution. At times during the early days of our country, Robert Morris singly financed the government, as well as ran the government. He was also a pioneer of free trade and capitalism, and believed in a unified, strong national government. With Hamilton, he created the first national bank in the US, The Bank of North America in Philadelphia. Unlike Thomas Jefferson, who would run at the sight of a redcoat, Morris stayed in the evacuated city of Philadelphia to run the US as the British were encamped on its river bank, while Jefferson and Hamilton were in the thick of a land battle against the world's largest military. I also highly recommend Washington and Hamilton by Knott and Williams.

In this biography, the acclaimed author of *Sons of Providence*, winner of the 2007 George Washington Book Prize, recovers an immensely important part of the founding drama of the country in the story of Robert Morris, the man who financed Washington's armies and the American Revolution. Morris started life in the colonies as an apprentice in a counting house. By the time of the Revolution he was a rich man, a commercial and social leader in Philadelphia. He organized a clandestine trading network to arm the American rebels, joined the Second Continental Congress, and financed George Washington's two crucial victories at Valley Forge and the culminating battle at Yorktown that defeated Cornwallis and ended the war. The leader of a faction that included Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Washington, Morris ran the executive branches of the revolutionary government for years. He was a man of prodigious energy and adroit management skills and was the most successful businessman on the continent. He laid the foundation for public credit and free capital markets that helped make America a global economic leader. But he incurred powerful enemies who considered his wealth and influence a danger to public "virtue" in a democratic society. After public service, he gambled on land speculations that went bad, and landed in debtors' prison, where George Washington, his loyal friend, visited him. This once wealthy and powerful man ended his life in modest circumstances, but Rappleye restores his place as a patriot and an immensely important founding father.

From Publishers Weekly
The first full-length modern biography of an extraordinary, forgotten founder of the American republic, Rappleye's book, the best ever about its subject, is an effective work of rehabilitation. Morris (1734-1806)--a gifted, enterprising, and skilled merchant, banker, and political figure in Philadelphia--was key to the financing of the American Revolution and American government into the 1790s. But because he had many political and business enemies, was a rich Federalist elitist, and ended in debtors' prison for overspeculation in land, he has always remained

in the shadows. So has the fact that while deeply committed to the American cause, like many others of his time, he mixed public service with an eye on gain. Rappleye (*Sons of Providence*) brings Morris and his world brightly alive. Nothing of the financier's full life (his privateering for the war effort; his pioneering trade with China; the "overconfidence" that brought his downfall) escapes Rappleye, and his judgments are balanced and astute. Unfortunately, the work is overstuffed. But perhaps that's necessary to gain Morris the standing he so much deserves among the great figures of the founding era. (Nov.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

From Booklist: Important in the American Revolution but obscure in popular history, Robert Morris is here introduced to a general readership and also defended from aspersions from preceding academic biographers. The authors first intent is well met in a fluid narrative of Morris mercantile acumen, which made him the choice of the Continental Congress to find the money for the War of Independence. When the American government morphed into the Articles of Confederation in 1781, Morris filled the same financial shoes and devised a debt-service plan that prefigured Hamiltons under the succeeding Constitution. As he shows how well connected the genial Morris was, Rappleye develops Morris participation in factional politics, which naturally earned him enemies whose accusations supplied source material for criticisms of Morris by twentieth-century historians. Accused of embezzlement, Morris survived all investigations into his financial management. Shoehorned as a capitalist into economic interpretations of the American Revolution, Morris, this author counters, was essentially a pragmatist. Within a well-structured, readable account of Morris eventful life, Rappleye ably brings forth the financial substrate of the American Revolution. --Gilbert Taylor an illuminating account of the Revolutions improvised and even dodgy finances. *The New Yorker* This book, the first full-length modern biography of Morris, restores him to his rightful place among the Founders pantheon and tells the story of a man now known to most Americans only from basketball scores. *Pittsburgh Times* The first full-length modern biography of an extraordinary, forgotten founder of the American republic the best ever about its subject. Rappleye (*Sons of Providence*) brings Morris and his world brightly alive. Nothing of the financier's full life escapes Rappleye, and his judgments are balanced and astute. *Publishers Weekly* The world needs to know more about Morris, and this highly readable book will surely foster more research and writing. *Concord Monitor (New Hampshire)* Charles Rappleye's biography of [Robert Morris is] a welcome addition to the recent spate of books on the remarkable men who created this country. For it was Morris who, over and over again at critical moments, found ways to ensure that the rebels had the money and matriel they needed. Mr. Rappleye's Robert Morris is a great story, told with narrative skill and scholarly authority . . . Rappleye has done a marvelous job of explaining why this mostly forgotten Founder deserves our gratitude. (*The Wall Street Journal*) Passionate biography of a Founding Father. . . In fluid prose, Rappleye ably resurrects an underrated contributor to the early American republic. Provides thorough coverage of a deserving subject. (Kirkus s) [Robert Morris] offers . . . pages to savor, packed with new research and an overall new look at our founding history that is long overdue. What Mr. Rappleye reveals to us is a historical truth that is as important today as it was during our perilous struggle for independence. (*Washington Times*) This book deserves to be in the historic reading section of high school and university libraries. (*Pennsylvania Magazine*) There is a lot to be learned from the story Rappleye tells of Robert Morris. And the tale is eerily familiar today. (*Boston Business Journal.com*) Insofar as demonstrating Morris's importance to the American cause, Rappleye succeeds brilliantly. (*American Thinker*) Robert Morris was a Founding Father who was ahead of his time. He was a believer in global capitalism, and he helped to create a financial system that would make America a leader in such a world. In this valuable biography, Charles Rappleye chronicles Morriss under appreciated contributions to the creation of a new nation and defends his controversial commercial career. In doing so, he highlights the pragmatism that was a key element in shaping our early republic. (Walter Isaacson, author of *Benjamin Franklin*) Robert Morris does not merely return a great man to his proper place at the center of the nations founding it gives readers a new understanding of how the American Revolution happened. Anyone even faintly interested in how this country began should read this extraordinary book. (Thomas Fleming, author of *The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers*) Revolutions are about battles and ideas, politics and diplomacy. But they must also be about dollars and cents, or they fail. Charles Rappleyes engrossing book puts Robert Morris, the money man of our revolution, back where he belongs, at the center of things. (Richard Brookhiser, author of *George Washington on Leadership*) A merchant prince of Philadelphia whose ships ranged from London to China, Robert Morris was the indispensable when the success of the American Revolution hung in the balance. Our armies completely relied on the financial wizardry of Morris. Rappleye skillfully tells the compelling story of the man who kept the American experiment in self-government alive through its darkest days. (David Stewart, author of *Summer of 1787* and *Impeached*)