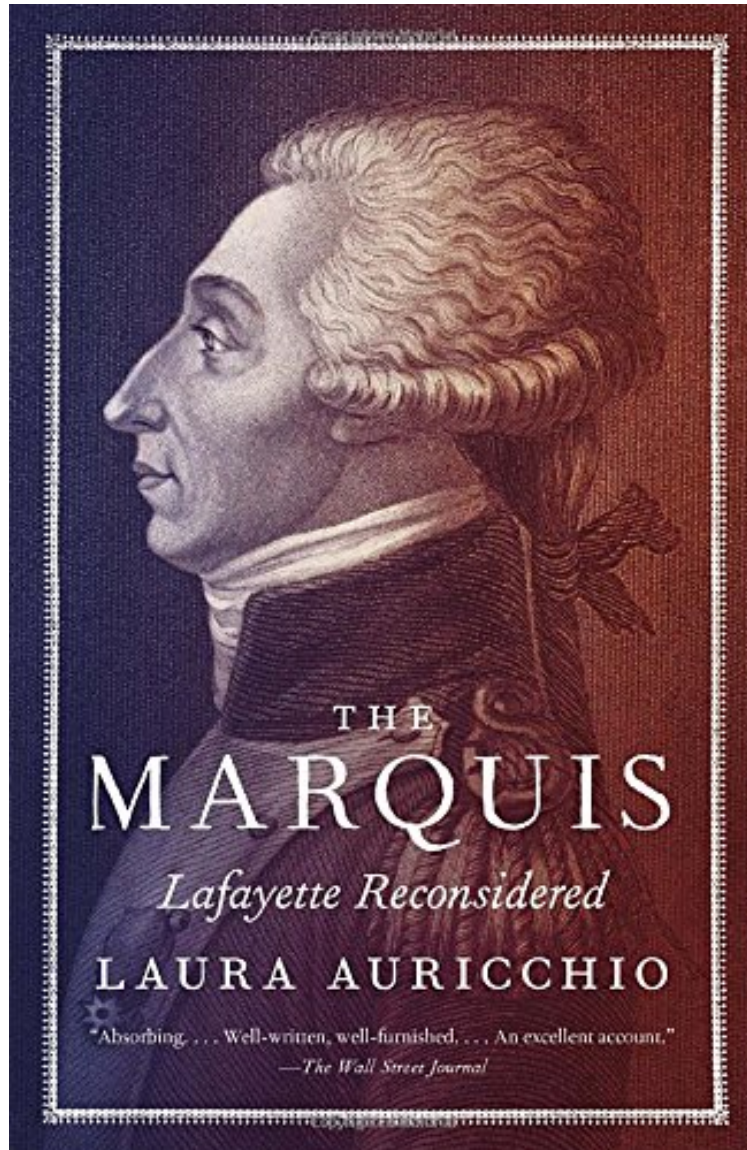


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The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered

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Winner of the 2015 American Library in Paris Book Award
The Marquis de Lafayette at age nineteen volunteered to fight under George Washington and became the French hero of the American Revolution. In this major biography Laura Auricchio 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 fully reveals a man driven by dreams of glory only to be felled by tragic, human weaknesses. Drawing on substantial new research conducted in libraries, archives, museums, and private homes in France and the United States, Auricchio, gives us history on a grand scale revealing the man and his complex life, while challenging and exploring the complicated myths that have surrounded his name for more than two centuries

From Booklist
One hundred and eighty years after his death, Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, remains a fascinating but elusive figure. He was hailed and idealized by Americans as a stalwart champion of liberty for his role in both the American and French revolutions, and his legacy and achievements are far less celebrated in his native France. Auricchio admirably separates the man from the myth while examining some of the elements used to build the myth, at the same time often sympathetic and attracted to her subjects laudable qualities. Lafayette, the scion of one of the oldest French aristocratic families, arrived in America as a 19-year-old youth imbued with Enlightenment ideals concerning political liberty and a thirst for glory. He quickly established an enduring father-son relationship with George Washington and served him and the American cause with distinction. Returning to France, he was caught up in revolutionary politics but often seemed befuddled by Frances fast turn to radicalism and violence, and he eventually ran afoul of the Jacobins and, later, Napoleon. This is a fine reexamination of both the character and career of a compelling, but in some ways a sad, historical figure. --Jay Freeman 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*
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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 unfailing 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*
About the Author
Laura Auricchio is a specialist in eighteenth-century French history and art who received her undergraduate degree from Harvard and her PhD from Columbia University. Auricchio has been the recipient of major fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the Whiting Foundation, and Columbia University. She is currently the Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies at The New School. She lives in New York with her husband.