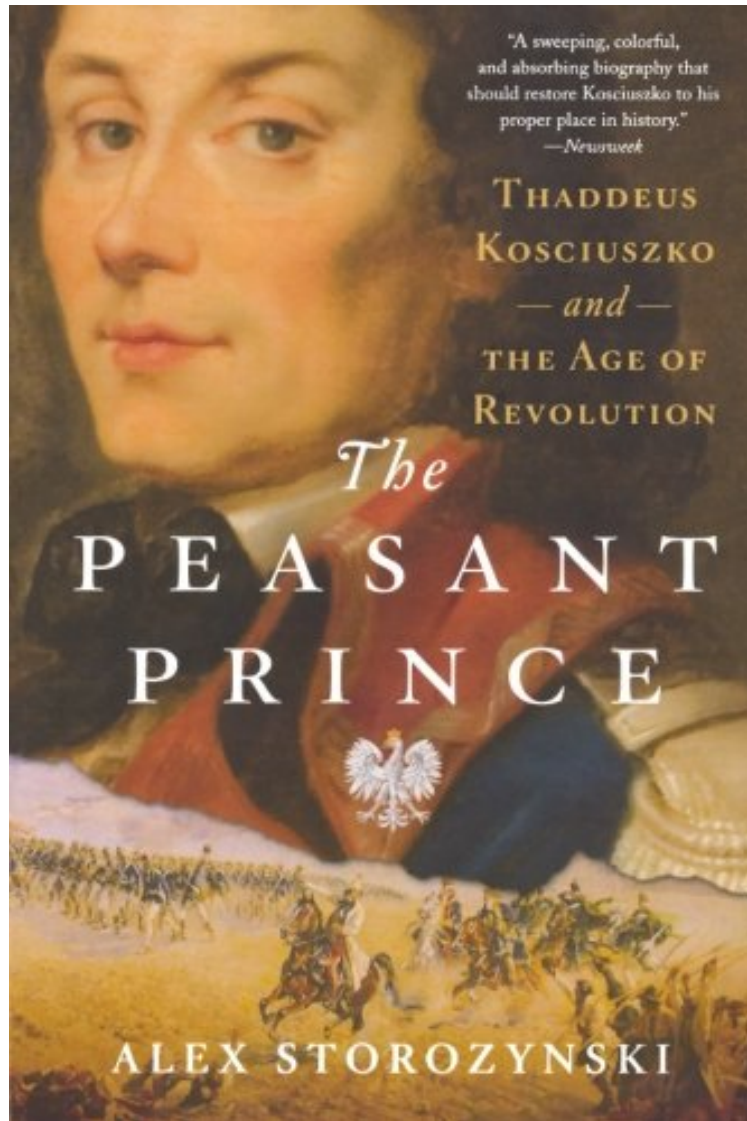


[Download ebook] The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution

The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution

Alex Storozyński

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#39923 in Books 2010-08-03 2010-08-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .3 x 5.50l, .78 #File Name: 0312625944400 pages | File size: 15.Mb

Alex Storozyński : The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution:

69 of 70 people found the following review helpful. Awesome "historical action book", superb biographyBy Pawel StefanskiAs the author, Alex Storozyński, points out in his tour speeches - this book is not about "Kosciuszko Bridge",

"Kosciuszko Mustard", "Kosciuszko County", or any other of several dozens of "Kosciuszko" names, scattered throughout America. It's about the real guy, who lived in one of the most dynamic periods in the modern history - and (before the age of jet travel, mind you!) shuttled back and forth between Europe and America, managing to substantially contribute to the success of the American Revolution, organize his own (ultimately - failed) uprising in Poland, spend some time in jail in Russia, emigrate to America, then go back to Europe to continue his lifelong struggle for Poland's independence. Far ahead of his time in his efforts to free slaves in America, and end the serfdom in Europe, this champion of "liberty for all" died in Switzerland in 1817. While his body was buried in the Wawel's castle in Krakow a few months after his death, his heart was returned to Poland in 1919, only after the country regained its independence in 1918. At mere 280 pages, with 50+ pages of extensive references and bibliography, this extremely well-written book is a fast paced read, which brings to life and to well deserved spot-light one of the greatest, yet so little known, freedom fighters of all ages! See also YouTube video ([...]) of Mr. Storozynski, discussing this book at the Polish Embassy in May, 2009.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Accolades for a neglected American hero. By Tralfamidorian Sixty years ago, American history books mentioned Kosciuszko, Pulaski, Lafayette and von Steuben in a single sentence as Europeans who came to the Americas to fight for our independence. As junior high school students we did not deliberate on their motives. But in this book Alex Storozynski brings to life the idealism, intelligence and courage of this true patriot, Thaddeus Kosciuszko. Impoverished nobleman, derailed lover, frustrated knight-errant, he came to America with a solid military background. He had the intelligence to remain above the bickering of his superiors and the persistence to see his recommendations carried out, especially in the defenses around West Point. Later in the Revolutionary War he assisted General Greene in wreaking attrition to the army of General Cornwallis. He had the mutual respect of Generals Washington, Gates and Greene. Again, in the 1950s our courses in Western Civ gave short shrift to the history of Central and Eastern Europe, especially Poland and Lithuania, so the events described in the second part of the book, where Kosciuszko returns to his native country, unfamiliar. Storozynski details the chaos of hammering out the world's second written constitution, only to be crushed by the perfidy of greedy Polish nobles and the fears of the autocrats ruling Russia, Prussia and Austria. Kosciuszko plays a secondary role in all this, defending his effete king in a vain attempt to slow the onslaught of the Russians. I think that the reader would benefit by reading a synopsis of eighteenth and early nineteenth century Poland before taking up this biography, but even so, it is a fascinating story about a remarkable man. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read about a great defender of freedom. By Chris Ball This was a great read about a great figure in the history of human freedom. While it should be mandatory reading for people with interests in Poland, I think it should also be mandatory for anyone interested in freedom. Kosciuszko was key to the American Revolution and a staunch supporter of liberty. Storozynski's writes with a liveliness that is engaging and takes you on a journey that's as enjoyable as it is enlightening. The world could use more leaders like Kosciuszko and more writers like Storozynski.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish-Lithuanian born in 1746, was one of the most important figures of the modern world. Fleeing his homeland after a death sentence was placed on his head (when he dared court a woman above his station), he came to America one month after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, literally showing up on Benjamin Franklin's doorstep in Philadelphia with little more than a revolutionary spirit and a genius for engineering. Entering the fray as a volunteer in the war effort, he quickly proved his capabilities and became the most talented engineer of the Continental Army. Kosciuszko went on to construct the fortifications for Philadelphia, devise battle plans that were integral to the American victory at the pivotal Battle of Saratoga, and designed the plans for Fortress West Point the same plans that were stolen by Benedict Arnold. Then, seeking new challenges, Kosciuszko asked for a transfer to the Southern Army, where he oversaw a ring of African-American spies. A lifelong champion of the common man and woman, he was ahead of his time in advocating tolerance and standing up for the rights of slaves, Native Americans, women, serfs, and Jews. Following the end of the war, Kosciuszko returned to Poland and was a leading figure in that nation's Constitutional movement. He became Commander in Chief of the Polish Army and valiantly led a defense against a Russian invasion, and in 1794 he led what was dubbed the Kosciuszko Uprising a revolt of Polish-Lithuanian forces against the Russian occupiers. Captured during the revolt, he was ultimately pardoned by Russia's Paul I and lived the remainder of his life as an international celebrity and a vocal proponent for human rights. Thomas Jefferson, with whom Kosciuszko had an ongoing correspondence on the immorality of slaveholding, called him "as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known." A lifelong bachelor with a knack for getting involved in doomed relationships, Kosciuszko navigated the tricky worlds of royal intrigue and romance while staying true to his ultimate passion the pursuit of freedom for all. This definitive and exhaustively researched biography fills a long-standing gap in historical literature with its account of a dashing and inspiring revolutionary figure.

From Publishers Weekly Prize-winning journalist Storozynski pulls military strategist and engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko (1746-1817) back from the brink of obscurity by including almost every documented detail to create the first comprehensive look at a man who once famously symbolized rebellion. His were the plans sold to the British by

Benedict Arnold. And Kosciuszko's years of devotion to the American cause framed his efforts to transform Poland into a self-governing republic freed from the oversight of Russia's interests. He antagonized Catherine the Great and, later, Napoleon. Kosciuszko rallied the first Jewish military force since biblical times to fight for Polish independence, and consistently supported equality and education for peasants, Jews, Muslim Tatars and American slaves which earned him the devotion of the masses and lectures by the upper classes. Readers of military and American history should take note: the minute details will enthrall devotees. Casual readers will benefit from Storozynski's expert crafting of a readable and fact-filled story that pulls readers into the immediacy of the revolutionary era's partisan and financial troubles. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Despite his heroic efforts, Kosciuszko's fatherland had to wait a century after his death before regaining independence from Russia. The world would have to wait even longer for an accessible, soundly researched, English-language biography. With "The Peasant Prince," Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Alex Storozynski has filled the void. And what a tale he has to tell. A melodramatic, foiled elopement deprived the young Kosciuszko of the love of his life and led him to cross the Atlantic and sign up with George Washington's ragtag rebel army. The Polish migr engineered the network of fortifications around West Point that Benedict Arnold unsuccessfully tried to betray to the British and that he lped keep the main British army bottled up in New York City. Kosciuszko also played a key role in the wilderness campaigns that ended in the crucial American victory at Saratoga. And he made a triumphal return to his native Poland in time to lead a doomed but heroic national struggle against Russia and overwhelming odds. All this and a supporting cast that amounts to a Who's Who of 18th-century American and European history. In America, those who knew Kosciuszko included Benjamin Franklin (who helped recruit him); George Washington (who had trouble getting Kosciuszko's name right but hailed him as a military "engineer of eminence"); Thomas Jefferson (who called him "as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known"); and Thomas Paine (who, like Kosciuszko, was granted honorary French citizenship by the revolutionary regime but spoke out against its brutal excesses). In Europe, Kosciuszko's acquaintances included Napoleon Bonaparte (who tried--and failed--to use him as a pawn in European power politics) and Catherine the Great (who, after ruthlessly suppressing the Polish insurrection, kept Kosciuszko a political prisoner in Russia until her death in 1796). Wall Street Journal Alex Storozynski has just published "The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Age of Revolution," a sweeping, colorful, and absorbing biography that should restore Kosciuszko to his proper place in history. President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, which promotes Polish-American educational exchanges, Storozynski is also a Pulitzer Prizewinning journalist who knows how to tell a good story. In his account, Kosciuszko--as soldier in America and then a revolutionary in his homeland-- exemplified some of the best ideals of his era. He also experienced some of its worst betrayals and disappointments. ... Emancipation was 'a controversial idea ahead of his time,' Storozynski writes--just, as this stirring biography makes clear, like the man himself. Newsweek.com The riveting story of an engineer whose military strategy led to the triumph at the pivotal Battle of Saratoga, and his forging of West Point as the impregnable fortress that Benedict Arnold tried to sell to the British. This engrossing biography offers new details on the roles of Africans, Jews, Native Americans, peasants and women during the revolutionary struggles of 18th-century America and Europe. . . . The praise for Kosciuszko during his lifetime was profuse. . . . Yet most New Yorkers have only heard the name Kosciuszko because of the bridge on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. With the publication of The Peasant Prince, that ought to change. Just as Obama's presidency has Americans rethinking the history of our nation, the new details Mr. Storozynski has unearthed about the American Revolution should change the way Americans look at the birth of our nation. The New York Observer A well-written tribute to an interesting and certainly admirable man. Booklist In The Peasant Prince Alex Storozynski fills a gap in our picture of the American Revolution, and relates it to the worldwide struggle for freedom. Thaddeus Kosciuszko was a noble soul with few options, a friend of liberty in an age of aggression and tyranny. Storozynski shows how he navigated a life of romance and realpolitik, keeping his principles intact. Richard Brookhiser, senior editor of the National , and author of What Would the Founders Do? Our Questions, Their Answers Prize-winning journalist Storozynski pulls military strategist and engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko (1746-1817) back from the brink of obscurity by including almost every documented detail to create the first comprehensive look at a man who once famously symbolized rebellion. His were the plans sold to the British by Benedict Arnold. And Kosciuszko's years of devotion to the American cause framed his efforts to transform Poland into a self-governing republic freed from the oversight of Russia's interests. He antagonized Catherine the Great and, later, Napoleon. Kosciuszko rallied the first Jewish military force since biblical times to fight for Polish independence, and consistently supported equality and education for peasants, Jews, Muslim Tatars and American slaves--which earned him the devotion of the masses and lectures by the upper classes. Readers of military and American history should take note: the minute details will enthrall devotees. Casual readers will benefit from Storozynski's expert crafting of a readable and fact-filled story that pulls readers into the immediacy of the revolutionary era's partisan and financial troubles. Publishers Weekly The Peasant Prince is an objective history that is needed in today's America and Poland. The hero of Alex's book is one of the fathers of modern democracy in the same mold as Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Lincoln. Adam Michnik, Solidarnosc activist and editor in chief of Gazeta Wyborcza In a meticulously researched work, Storozynski greatly enhances our understanding of Kosciuszko's personality and motivations by investigating the Pole's relationship and

feelings toward Africans, Jews, and peasants. His contribution advances our knowledge of this complex character whom Jefferson considered the purest son of liberty' he ever knew. James Pula, Purdue University Tapping new sources in archives in Poland and Switzerland, Alex Storozynski provides a fresh perspective on Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Polish engineer most responsible for the construction of Fortress West Point, General Washington's key of America.' Colonel James M. Johnson, U.S. Army (Ret.), military historian of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and former chief of Military History, U.S. Military Academy at West Point The Peasant Prince is a testament to a great man and an important addition to world history. Byron E. Price, Texas Southern University About the Author ALEX STOROZYNSKI is president and executive director of the Kosciuszko Foundation. Also a Pulitzer Prizewinning journalist, he was an editorial board member at the New York Daily News, the founding editor of amNew York, and a former city editor and contributing editor to the The New York Sun. He lives in West Orange, New Jersey.