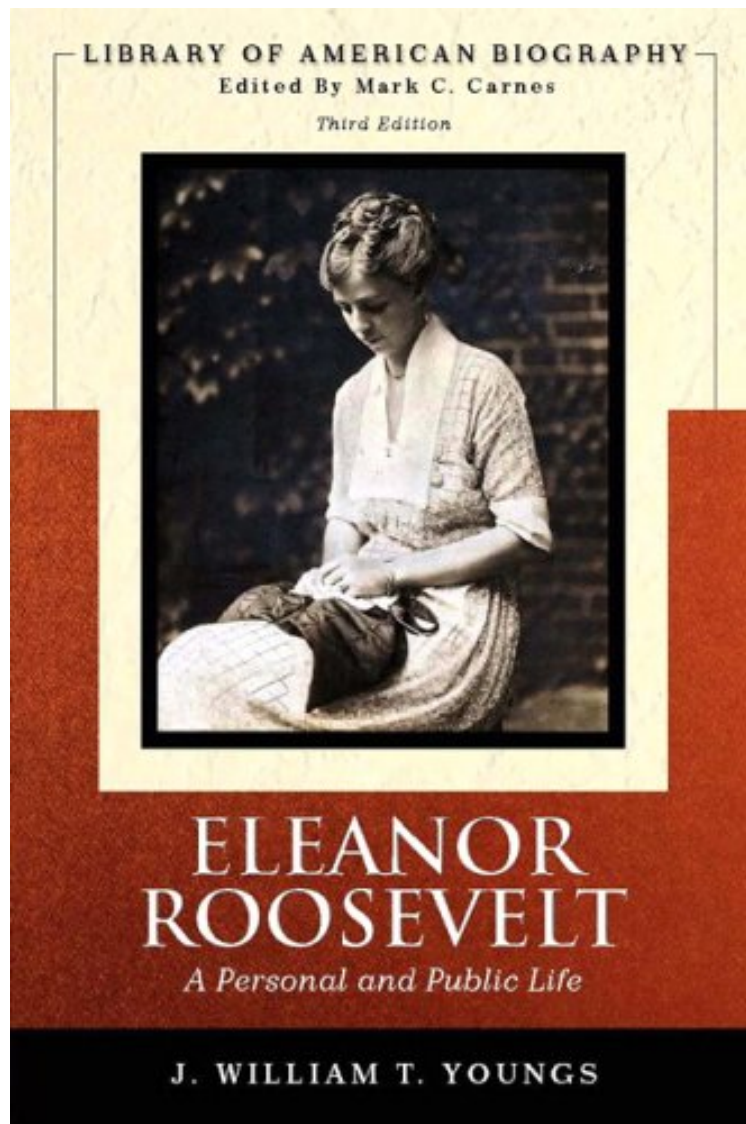


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Eleanor Roosevelt: A Personal and Public Life (Library of American Biography Series) (3rd Edition)

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From the Back CoverThis biography offers a clear, concise and moving portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt. Her wisdom, kindness, trials and tribulations serve as wonderful examples of the power of human dignity, and of the ability of extraordinary people to captivate America. The titles in the "Library of American Biography Series" make ideal supplements for American History Survey courses or other courses in American history where figures in history are explored. Paperback, brief, and inexpensive, each interpretative biography in this series focuses on a figure whose actions and ideas significantly influenced the course of American history and national life. At the same time, each biography relates the life of its subject to the broader themes and developments of the times.About the AuthorJ. William T. Youngs, award-winning historian and editor of Pacific Northwest Forum, has been teaching American history at Eastern Washington University since 1972. He has also written many book reviews for the Seattle Times.Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Editor's Preface To those who met them casually, American women seemed a favored species. Again and again European travelers commented on the elevated status of the ladies they encountered in their voyages in the United States. Held in respect, relieved of contact with brutal necessities, allowed to expand their minds, independent guardians of the culture—these were the conventional descriptions. True, a surprisingly large percentage of them labored for a livelihood, and female wage earners were no better off than their male counterparts. As the nineteenth century drew to a close, the number who worked at home or in factories steadily increased. But women of the middle classes were the pampered darlings of the society—elevated on pedestals away from the cares of the workaday world and guarded against all unpleasantness. One of them was Eleanor Roosevelt, daughter of a well-to-do family, bearer of a distinguished name, favored by fortune in every respect.