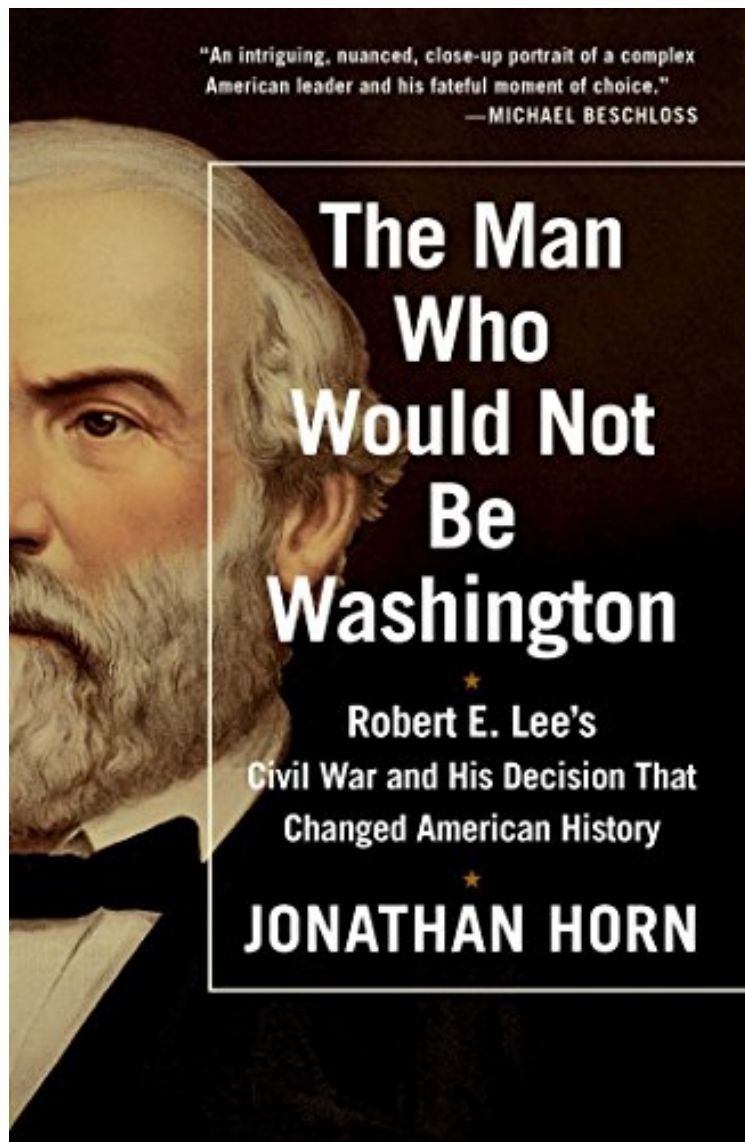


[Free pdf] The Man Who Would Not Be Washington: Robert E. Lee's Civil War and His Decision That Changed American History

The Man Who Would Not Be Washington: Robert E. Lee's Civil War and His Decision That Changed American History

Jonathan Horn

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Jonathan Horn : The Man Who Would Not Be Washington: Robert E. Lee's Civil War and His Decision That Changed American History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Man Who Would Not Be Washington: Robert E. Lee's Civil War and His Decision That Changed

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The “compelling...modern and readable perspective” (USA TODAY) of Robert E. Lee, the brilliant soldier bound by marriage to George Washington’s family but turned by war against Washington’s crowning achievement, the Union. On the eve of the Civil War, one soldier embodied the legacy of George Washington and the hopes of leaders across a divided land. Both North and South knew Robert E. Lee as the son of Washington’s most famous eulogist and the son-in-law of Washington’s adopted child. Each side sought his service for high command. Lee could choose only one. In *The Man Who Would Not Be Washington*, former White House speechwriter Jonathan Horn reveals how the officer most associated with Washington went to war against the union that Washington had forged. This extensively researched and gracefully written biography follows Lee through married life, military glory, and misfortune. The story that emerges is more complicated, more tragic, and more illuminating than the familiar tale. More complicated because the unresolved question of slavery—the driver of disunion—was among the personal legacies that Lee inherited from Washington. More tragic because the Civil War destroyed the people and places connecting Lee to Washington in agonizing and astonishing ways. More illuminating because the battle for Washington’s legacy shaped the nation that America is today. As Washington was the man who would not be king, Lee was the man who would not be Washington. The choice was Lee’s. The story is America’s. A must-read for those passionate about history, *The Man Who Would Not Be Washington* introduces Jonathan Horn as a masterly voice in the field.

“Compelling....a modern and readable perspective on Lee’s enigmatic character.” (USA Today) “Jonathan Horn’s fascinating book looks at Lee through the prism of yet another famous man, George Washington. His subtle and sympathetic examination of the Washington-Lee connection helps us understand the Lee question....textured....splendid....Horn’s story is fascinating, thought-provoking, and deeply sad.” (National) “Very apt...well-written, fair-minded.” (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette) “[An] interesting study....Jonathan Horn writes well and makes responsible, often vivid, use of his sources.” (Weekly Standard) “Thoughtful....Horn carefully draws the connections between the two titular subjects....simply fascinating. Horn is a graceful writer, and when the occasion warrants, has a suitable flair for the dramatic. The pages blaze by....Horn’s excellent book drives home the tragic magnitude of [Lee’s] decision.” (City Journal) “[Horn] provides an outstanding book that will be enjoyed by all readers interested in Lee....Horn’s book is a thought-provoking, illuminating look at Lee written from a fresh perspective....extremely well written and recommended to all.” (Civil War News) “The complexity and multifaceted nuances of most political decisions are masterfully revealed...An excellent addition to the library of Civil War books. Horn presents not only the historical record, but also the pathos, irony and tension involved in Lee’s decision and how it reflected issues in his personal life. The author’s work reads very much like a novel and is suitable for both serious historians and lovers of engaging stories.” (The Missourian) “Captures the many facets of Robert E. Lee’s crowded life.... A seminal contribution of significant historiographical value.” (Library Journal, STARRED review) “Stirring and elegant....[Horn] chronicles Lee’s life with a vitality that captivates our imagination and keeps us glued to Lee’s story. With graceful vigor, he traces Lee from his childhood to his days at West Point...and ultimately to his decision to resign his commission in the U.S. Army....Horn’s illuminating study offers a fascinating comparison between two figures who shaped American history.” (BookPage) “Horn’s work is unique and appealing in that it gives a more human side to the story.” (Rocky Mount Telegram) About the Author Jonathan Horn is a former White House presidential speechwriter. He has appeared as a commentator on MSNBC and BBC radio and written for *The New York Times* Disunion series, *The Weekly Standard*, and other outlets. A graduate of Yale University, he lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with his wife, Caroline.