

BIOGRAPHIES

The Chief: The Life of William Randolph Hearst by David Nasaw. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000. A thoroughly researched, elegant, and fairly written account of the life of the media mogul and extraordinary art collector.

The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out Of Darkness by Karen Armstrong. New York, NY: Anchor Books, 2004. A powerful memoir from an important theological voice.

Farley - the Life of Farley Mowat by James King. An uneven though frequently excellent biography of Canada's favorite son.

Alexander Hamilton. by Ron Chernow. Very informative if an overly long and somewhat sycophantic description of Hamilton's remarkable contributions to founding the federal government and economy.

James Madison and the Creation of the American Republic by Jack N. Rakove. A description of Madison's impressive professional and political accomplishments, thus not truly a biography. Nonetheless highly informative even if pretty dry.

His Excellency: George Washington by Joseph Ellis. A readable book that demythologizes the first president and presents him with all of his warts as well as his strengths.

Thomas Jefferson: A Life by Willard Sterne Randall. A lengthy but engrossing and gracefully crafted biography of one of America's most influential people.

Benjamin Franklin: An American Life by Walter Isaacson. Fascinating biography of a shrewd, crafty, and phenomenally influential politician.

Stalin: Breaker of Nations by Robert Conquest. A chilling portrait drawing on recently released archives.

A Brush With Darkness: Learning to Paint After Losing My Sight by Lisa Fittipaldi. Intriguing and sometimes harrowing story of how, after being blinded at the age of 47, Lisa became a renowned painter.

Patrick O'Brian: A Life by Dean King. Interesting reading for fans of the 20 Jack Aubrey/Stephen Maturin novels.

Lincoln's Virtues--An Ethical Biography by William Lee Miller. Good insight into the moral development of a great politician.

Blue Latitudes--Boldly Going Where Captain Cook Has Gone Before by Tony Horwitz. A

great read about Captain Cook and the places he went.

Cocaine--An Unauthorized Biography by Dominic Streatfield. Informative history of the drug and its human impact in all its facets.

Noam Chomsky--A Life of Dissent by Robert F. Barsky. Interesting biography of one of this century's most profound thinkers.

Churchill by Roy Jenkins. Outstanding work of history and a masterpiece biography.

Captain James Cook, A Biography by Richard Hough. Well done.

In The Name of Justice: The Television Reporting of John Pilger by Anthony Hayward. Good description of Pilger's work and its impact.

The Arrogance of Power--the Secret World of Richard Nixon by Anthony Summers. Gripping and informative biography.

Stephen Hawking's Universe: The Man and his Theories by John Boslough. Brief glimpse of an amazing scientist and his ideas.