

Richard Hofstadter: An Intellectual Biography of the Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian

Richard Hofstadter (1916-1970) was an American historian who won the Pulitzer Prize for History twice, in 1956 and 1964. He is best known for his work on American political and intellectual history, and his books have been widely read and influential.

Hofstadter was born in Buffalo, New York, and grew up in New York City. He attended Columbia University, where he studied history and political science. After graduating, he worked as a journalist and editor before joining the faculty of the University of Chicago in 1942. He taught at Chicago for the rest of his career, and he became one of the most respected historians in the United States.



Richard Hofstadter: An Intellectual Biography

by David S. Brown

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Hofstadter's work is characterized by its wit, insight, and originality. He was a master of the art of historical narrative, and he was able to bring to life the people and events of the past. He was also a keen observer of the

American character, and he wrote extensively about the ways in which Americans have shaped their own history.

Hofstadter's books have been praised for their originality, their insights into the American character, and their literary merit. He is considered one of the most important historians of the 20th century, and his work continues to be read and debated today.

Hofstadter's Early Life and Education

Richard Hofstadter was born on August 6, 1916, in Buffalo, New York. His father, Samuel Hofstadter, was a Russian immigrant who worked as a tailor. His mother, Irma Engel Hofstadter, was a German immigrant who worked as a seamstress. Hofstadter had one younger brother, Robert.

Hofstadter's family was poor, but they were ambitious for their children. Hofstadter attended the public schools in Buffalo, and he excelled in his studies. He graduated from high school in 1933, and he enrolled at Columbia University in New York City.

At Columbia, Hofstadter studied history and political science. He was a brilliant student, and he quickly gained the attention of his professors. In 1937, he graduated from Columbia with a bachelor's degree summa cum laude.

Hofstadter's Career as a Journalist and Editor

After graduating from Columbia, Hofstadter worked as a journalist and editor. He worked for the New York Times, the New Republic, and the American Scholar. In 1942, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago as an assistant professor of history.

At Chicago, Hofstadter quickly established himself as a rising star in the field of history. He published his first book, *Social Darwinism in American Thought*, in 1944. The book was a critical and commercial success, and it established Hofstadter as one of the leading historians of American intellectual history.

In the years that followed, Hofstadter published a number of other influential books, including *The Age of Reform* (1955), *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life* (1963), and *America as a Mass Society* (1966). These books explored a wide range of topics in American history, from the Progressive Era to the rise of mass culture.

Hofstadter's books were praised for their originality, their insights into the American character, and their literary merit. He was considered one of the most important historians of the 20th century, and his work continues to be read and debated today.

Hofstadter's Personal Life

Hofstadter married Beatrice Lavine in 1942. They had two children, a son, Daniel, and a daughter, Nancy. Hofstadter was a devoted husband and father, and he enjoyed spending time with his family.

Hofstadter was also a passionate baseball fan. He was a lifelong fan of the New York Yankees, and he attended many games at Yankee Stadium. He also wrote several articles about baseball, and he even published a book about the sport, *The American Game* (1963).

Hofstadter died of a heart attack on October 24, 1970, in New York City. He was 54 years old. He is buried in the Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, New

York.

Hofstadter's Legacy

Richard Hofstadter was one of the most important historians of the 20th century. His work has had a profound impact on our understanding of American history, and his books continue to be read and debated today.

Hofstadter was a gifted writer and a keen observer of the American character. He was able to bring to life the people and events of the past, and he wrote in a clear and engaging style. His books are not only informative but also entertaining, and they have helped to make history accessible to a wide audience.

Hofstadter's work has been praised for its originality, its insights into the American character, and its literary merit. He is considered one of the most important historians of the 20th century, and his work continues to be read and debated today.

Richard Hofstadter was a brilliant historian who made significant contributions to our understanding of American history. His work is characterized by its wit, insight, and originality, and he is considered one of the most important historians of the 20th century. Hofstadter's books continue to be read and debated today, and they offer valuable insights into the American character and the course of American history.

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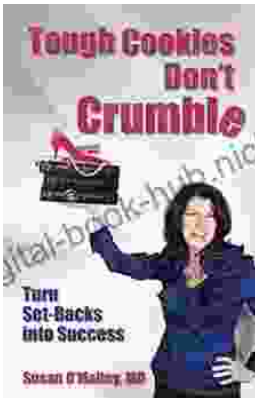
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