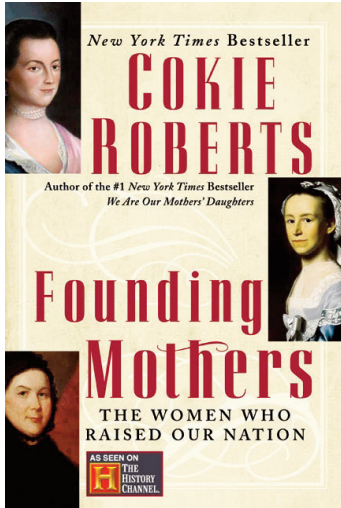


January 2015



Reading Guide: *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts (2004)

1. Which woman in the book would you say had the single greatest impact during the Revolution? How about during the first years of the new government?
2. Which “mothers” were new to you? Who was the most intriguing, and why?
3. By telling the stories of founding mothers, this book also sheds light on the men of the time. Did you learn anything new about these men, seeing them from the perspective of their female contemporaries?
4. For those who read *Book of Ages*, some of the same historical characters and incidents appear here. How do the two accounts differ? What parallels did you see?
5. Cokie Roberts intersperses her thoughts and commentary throughout the book. Does this enhance the narrative? In what ways?
6. Were you glad you read this book? Would you recommend it to a friend? Why do you say so?
7. Are there related books, museum exhibitions, websites, or other resources that you would like to share with fellow readers of this book?

About Cokie Roberts

Cokie Roberts is a political commentator for ABC News. From 1996–2002 she and Sam Donaldson coanchored the weekly ABC interview program “This Week.” Roberts also contributes political analysis for National Public Radio. In her more than forty years in broadcasting, she has won countless awards, including three Emmys. Roberts’s books include the number one bestseller, *We Are Our Mothers’ Daughters*, an account of women’s roles and relationships throughout American history. Roberts’s histories of women in America’s founding era—*Founding Mothers* (2004) and *Ladies of Liberty* (2008)—also became instant bestsellers. In 2008 the Library of Congress named Roberts a “Living Legend,” one of the very few Americans to have attained that honor. (Excerpted from ABC.com)

Related Texts

If you liked *Founding Mothers*, you may enjoy these other books (descriptions courtesy of Amazon.com):

- *Ladies of Liberty: Women Who Shaped Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts (2008)
In this companion volume to her history *Founding Mothers*, Cokie Roberts brings to life the extraordinary accomplishments of women who laid the groundwork for a better society. Featuring an exceptional group of women—including Abigail Adams, Dolley Madison, Rebecca Gratz, Louise Livingston, Sacagawea, and others—*Ladies of Liberty* sheds new light on the generation of heroines, reformers, and visionaries who helped shape our nation.

- *Masquerade: The Life and Times of Deborah Sampson, Continental Soldier* by Alfred F. Young (2005)
In *Masquerade*, Alfred F. Young scrapes through layers of fiction and myth to uncover the story of Deborah Sampson, a Massachusetts woman who passed as a man and fought as a soldier for seventeen months toward the end of the American Revolution. Her story was buried underneath exaggeration and myth (some of which she may have created herself), becoming another sort of masquerade. Young takes the reader with him through his painstaking efforts to reveal the real Deborah Sampson in a work of history that is as spellbinding as the best detective fiction.
- *Martha Washington: An American Life* by Patricia Brady (2006)
Historian Brady re-creates the 18th-century world of wealthy Virginia planters into which the elegant Martha, née Dandridge, was born and her marriage to George Washington. Devoted to George, Martha accompanied him on his sojourns during the Revolutionary War, and her considerable social skills were crucial in helping her husband navigate the difficult political waters of the presidency. Brady's biography offers a compelling new portrait of this passionate, committed founding mother.
- *A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation* by Catherine Allgor (2007)
Dolley Madison became a celebrity of the founding generation—popular but polarizing. Her enemies circulated rumors and attacked her as “Queen Dolley” for her aristocratic pretensions. Allgor's sympathetic biography argues that, as the architect of Washington's social scene, Dolley gave the new republic the forum it needed for the development of an indigenous political culture.

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