

On This Date: From The Pilgrims To Today, Discovering America One Day At A Time



Synopsis

Forget what you were taught in seventh grade-this riveting book takes readers down American history's back alleys and side streets.From the arrival of the Mayflower through the 2016 election, ON THIS DATE explores five hundred years of American history, revealing a compelling tale for each day in the calendar year.Drawing from Carl M. Cannon's popular RealClearPolitics' "Morning Note," ON THIS DATE is focused on fascinating -- and sometimes unknown -- stories behind specific dates in U.S. history: What inspired Abraham Lincoln to grow his famous beard, what Dwight Eisenhower really thought about playing football against the great Jim Thorpe, the legal grounds for the first American divorce, who wrote "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" -- and who profited from it.Colorful yet authoritative, ON THIS DATE debunks some popular myths and celebrates America's forgotten heroes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[ON THIS DATE] is rich in forgotten facts about celebrated patriots and unearthed tales of the daring and genius of ordinary Americans. Popular history at its very best, as entertaining as it is instructive, and a moving appreciation of the restless upstarts who carved a nation from the wilderness and made it the most successful enterprise in human history." — Senator John McCain "ON THIS DATE shows the country as it really has been. It is also a love letter to America. [It] will give those who have been deprived of the experience the opportunity to fall in love with their country. For those who have been more fortunate, it will provide a chance to fall in love all over again." — RealClearPolitics.com

Carl M. Cannon is the Washington Bureau Chief of RealClearPolitics and a past recipient of the Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting and the Aldo Beckman Award, the two most prestigious awards for White House coverage. Previous positions include Executive Editor of Politics Daily, Washington Bureau Chief for Reader's Digest, White House correspondent for both the Baltimore Sun and National Journal, a fellow-in-residence at Harvard University's Institute of Politics, and a past president of the White House Correspondents' Association. He is the author of *The Pursuit of Happiness in Times of War*, co-author of *Reagan's Disciple: George W. Bush's Troubled Quest for a Presidential Legacy* with Lou Cannon, and *Circle of Greed* with Patrick Dillon. Carl was also a member of the San Jose Mercury-News staff awarded a Pulitzer Prize for the paper's coverage of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Very interesting and educational. Thanks for offering this book

From the title you might assume that Carl M. Cannon's *On This Date* is the literary equivalent of one of those "Today in History" internet sites which list, in chronological order, the major events, including the births and deaths of persons of note, which happened on that day. Happily Cannon's book is something more than an undifferentiated register of occurrences for historical trainspotters. Instead it somewhat resembles Denis Judd's *Empire* which rather than seeking to provide a comprehensive narrative account of the British imperial experience takes a number of key events (such as the 1800 Act of Union, the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897) and then, by placing these events in context, provides an impressionistic history of the British Empire. What Cannon offers is a mosaic of American history from the Pilgrim Fathers to the present day comprising 366 pen portraits ranging from between roughly 400 to 1,000 words apiece which are pegged to historical events on each day of a leap year, from the appearance of New York's first female taxicab driver, Miss Wilma K. Russey, on 1 January 1915, to 31 December 1988, when Peggy Noonan was labouring on the text of Ronald Reagan's farewell address (which was actually delivered on 11 January 1989). In the wrong hands this format would be a recipe for dry as dust cut-and-paste history which would add up to nothing and whilst it is the case that the format is sometimes artificially constraining the fact that it is informed by Cannon's wide frame of reference and his ambition to

present a positive image of America means that it coheres more than one has any right to expect. The book's full subtitle is "From the Pilgrims to Today, Discovering America One Day At A Time" and this is indeed a book best dipped into or read one entry per day. At the end of that process the reader will have been entertained and picked up some interesting information but whether their faith in the American dream will have been revived depends, I fear, on forces far removed from Cannon's vignettes.

Get this book! You will laugh and cry over the cleverly crafted daily stories of American history, baseball, brave Americans, interesting people, and events.

What a terrific book! Carl Cannon has a knack for finding the exact moment - the event, the incident, the detail, the spark that illuminates a larger point about America. Reading each entry day by day, we take part in the solemn, the serendipitous, the sublime pageant of our nation's history.

Smart, digestible, often times uplifting stories about the American Experience.

What a great premise...sounded interesting. Instead it is a liberal grandstanding of all things that liberals have done...July 27 is called 'rookie of the year' and is a testament to the 'greatness' of Obama...??? The rest of the book twists everything liberal....you've been warned...wish I hadn't fallen for this junk!

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