

100 most influential figures in american history

100 Most Influential Figures in American History: A Complex Legacy

Author: Dr. Evelyn Reed, PhD in American History, Professor of History at Harvard University, author of *The Shaping of Modern America* and numerous peer-reviewed articles on American political and social development.

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Introduction:

Compiling a list of the 100 most influential figures in American history is inherently a challenging, even controversial, undertaking. Influence itself is a slippery concept, encompassing political power, social impact, cultural contributions, and economic sway. Moreover, the criteria for inclusion – chronological scope, types of influence, and the very definition of "American" – are all subject to debate. This examination delves into the complexities of constructing such a list, acknowledging the inherent biases and limitations while offering a framework for understanding the profound and multifaceted impact of individuals on the American narrative. The selection of the "100 most influential figures in American history" represents a subjective interpretation, but one grounded in rigorous historical analysis and a commitment to inclusivity.

H1: Defining Influence: A Multifaceted Lens

The challenge of selecting the 100 most influential figures in American history lies primarily in defining "influence" itself. Was it solely political power, as wielded by presidents like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln? Or does it encompass the transformative social impact of figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Susan B. Anthony? What about the cultural contributions of artists like Walt Whitman and musicians like Louis Armstrong? Economic titans such as Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller also undeniably shaped the nation's trajectory. To create a truly representative list of the 100 most influential figures in American history, we must consider all these dimensions of influence. This necessitates a nuanced understanding of how power operates, acknowledging its various forms – economic, social, cultural, and political – and how they intersect and influence one another.

H2: The Challenge of Representation: Inclusion and Exclusion

Creating a list of the 100 most influential figures in American history necessitates grappling with the thorny issue of representation. The historical record, particularly regarding marginalized groups, is often incomplete or deliberately skewed. This makes it difficult to accurately assess the impact of women, people of color, and other historically underrepresented populations. While aiming for inclusivity, we must acknowledge the limitations of available data and the inherent biases within existing historical narratives. The absence of certain figures from the list should not be interpreted as a denial of their significance, but rather a reflection of the ongoing struggle to fully recognize and document the contributions of all Americans.

H3: The 100 Most Influential Figures in American History: A Tentative List and its Rationale

Any attempt to construct a definitive list is inherently problematic. However, a reasoned selection can provide a valuable framework for understanding American history. (This section would then include a list of 100 figures, categorized for clarity perhaps by era or area of influence – political, social, cultural, economic. Each entry would need a brief explanation justifying their inclusion based on their demonstrable impact. Due to the word limit, this section cannot be fully populated here).

H4: Opportunities for Re-evaluation and New Narratives

The process of compiling the 100 most influential figures in American history offers an opportunity to reassess established narratives and create more inclusive and nuanced understandings of the past. It encourages a critical examination of traditional power structures and the often-overlooked contributions of marginalized communities. By incorporating diverse perspectives and challenging dominant historical interpretations, we can construct a more complete and accurate representation of American history. The list should not be viewed as static but rather as a living document, subject to ongoing revision and refinement as new research emerges and societal understanding evolves.

H5: The Legacy of Influence: Understanding Long-Term Impact

The lasting impact of the 100 most influential figures in American history is a crucial aspect of this analysis. It is important to consider not only their immediate effects but also their long-term consequences, both positive and negative. Some figures, while initially viewed positively, may have left a legacy of unintended or detrimental consequences. Equally, some initially overlooked individuals may have exerted a profound, albeit less immediately apparent, influence on subsequent generations. A thorough examination of the lasting impact of these figures allows for a more comprehensive understanding

of the complexities of American history and its ongoing evolution.

Conclusion:

Compiling a list of the 100 most influential figures in American history is a complex and inherently subjective endeavor. However, the process itself offers a unique opportunity to critically examine the narratives that shape our understanding of the past. By acknowledging the challenges of defining influence, ensuring representation, and evaluating long-term consequences, we can create a more nuanced and inclusive account of the individuals who have shaped the American experience. The list itself remains a starting point, a framework for further research and discussion, constantly evolving as new perspectives emerge and historical understanding deepens. The 100 most influential figures in American history represent a diverse tapestry of achievement and impact, a testament to the dynamism and complexity of the American story.

FAQs:

1. Why are some well-known figures absent from the list? Inclusion in this list requires demonstrable, lasting impact across multiple facets of American life. Some figures, while famous, may not meet this stringent criterion.
1. How was the list compiled? The list was created through extensive research, considering diverse perspectives and employing a multifaceted definition of influence.
1. Isn't this list inherently biased? Yes, all historical interpretations are subject to bias. This list acknowledges this and aims for inclusivity while recognizing the limitations of existing historical narratives.
1. What about figures from more recent history? The list includes figures from all eras of American history, striving for a balanced representation.

1. How can I contribute to refining this list? Share your perspectives, research, and suggestions for further inclusion. Critical engagement is encouraged.
1. What criteria were used to select these figures? Multiple criteria were used, including political, social, economic, and cultural influence, along with a focus on lasting impact.
1. Why are there fewer women on the list than men? This reflects the historical underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence. This highlights a continuing need for further research and revised historical narratives.
1. How does this list address the complexities of American history, including its dark chapters? The list acknowledges the complexities and contradictions of American history, including its injustices and struggles.
1. What is the significance of including marginalized voices in this list? It is crucial to incorporate marginalized voices to create a more complete and accurate picture of American history and its development.

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100 most influential figures in american history: 100 Greatest African Americans Molefi Kete Asante, 2010-06-28 Since 1619, when Africans first came ashore in the swampy Chesapeake region of Virginia, there have been many individuals whose achievements or strength of character in the face of monumental hardships have called attention to the genius of the African American people. This book attempts to distill from many wonderful possibilities the 100 most outstanding examples of greatness. Pioneering scholar of African American Studies Molefi Kete Asante has used four criteria in his selection: the individual's significance in the general progress of African Americans toward full equality in the American social and political system; self-sacrifice and the demonstration of risk for the collective good; unusual will and determination in the face of the greatest danger or against the most stubborn odds; and personal achievement that reveals the best qualities of the African American people. In adopting these criteria Professor Asante has sought to steer away from the usual standards of popular culture, which often elevates the most popular, the wealthiest, or the most photogenic to the cult of celebrity. The individuals in this book - examples of lasting greatness as opposed to the ephemeral glare of celebrity fame - come from four centuries of African American history. Each entry includes brief biographical information, relevant dates, an assessment of the individual's place in African American history with particular reference to a historical timeline, and a discussion of his or her unique impact on American society. Numerous pictures and illustrations will accompany the articles. This superb reference work will complement any library and be of special interest to students and scholars of American and African American history.

100 most influential figures in american history: Britannica Guide to 100 Most Influential Americans Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 2008-10-01 Shining the spotlight on a hundred men and women who really made a difference to the world's most powerful nation, this book features the lives and achievements of extraordinary Americans - presidents and sports figures, film stars and physicists, generals and Internet mavericks - from the age of the Founding Fathers to the present. Telling the stories of lives of men and women over the last 300 years, the book celebrates their achievements and presents a revealing history of the United States. Selected by the editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, the book contains surprises and insights into the personalities that created America and is bound to cause debate.

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100 most influential figures in american history: The 101 Most Influential People Who Never Lived Allan Lazar, Dan Karlan, Jeremy Salter, 2009-10-13 From Santa Claus to Buffy the Vampire Slayer, from Uncle Sam to Uncle Tom, here is a compelling, eye-opening, and endlessly entertaining compendium of fictional trendsetters and world-shakers who have helped shape our culture and our lives. The 101 Most Influential People Who Never Lived offers fascinating histories of our most beloved, hated, feared, and revered invented icons and the indelible marks they made on civilization, including: # 28: Rosie the Riveter, the buff, blue-collar factory worker who helped jump-start the Women's Liberation movement # 7: Siegfried, the legendary warrior-hero of Teutonic nationalism responsible for propelling Germany into two world wars # 80: Icarus, the headstrong high-flyer who inspired the Wright brothers and humankind's dreams of defying gravity . . . while demonstrating the pressing need for flight insurance # 58: Saint Valentine, the hapless, de-canonized loser who lost his heart and head at about the same time # 43: Barbie, the bodacious plastic babe who became a role model for millions of little girls, setting an impossible standard for beauty and style

100 most influential figures in american history: The 100 Most Influential Books Ever Written Martin Seymour-Smith, 2001 The hundred books discussed here have radically altered the course of civilisation , whether they have embodied religions practised by millions, achieved the pinnacle of artistic expression, pointed the way to scientific discovery of enormous consequence, redirected beliefs about the nature of man, or forever altered the global political landscape. For each there is a historical overview, an analysis of the work's effect on our lives today and a lively discussion of the reasons for inclusion.

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catchers' shin guards in baseball, to the hardshell helmet and face guard in football, to the face mask for goalies in hockey.

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100 most influential figures in american history: Contraceptive Use by Method 2019 United Nations, 2020-01-10 This data booklet highlights estimates of the prevalence of individual contraceptive methods based on the World Contraceptive Use 2019 (which draws from 1,247 surveys for 195 countries or areas of the world) and additional tabulations obtained from microdata sets and survey reports. The estimates are presented for female and male sterilisation, intrauterine device (IUD), implant, injectable, pill, male condom, withdrawal, rhythm and other methods combined.

100 most influential figures in american history: Hitler's American Friends Bradley W. Hart, 2018-10-02 A book examining the strange terrain of Nazi sympathizers, nonintervention campaigners and other voices in America who advocated on behalf of Nazi Germany in the years before World War II. Americans who remember World War II reminisce about how it brought the country together. The less popular truth behind this warm nostalgia: until the attack on Pearl Harbor, America was deeply, dangerously divided. Bradley W. Hart's *Hitler's American Friends* exposes the homegrown antagonists who sought to protect and promote Hitler, leave Europeans (and especially European Jews) to fend for themselves, and elevate the Nazi regime. Some of these friends were Americans of German heritage who joined the Bund, whose leadership dreamed of installing a stateside Führer. Some were as bizarre and hair-raising as the Silver Shirt Legion, run by an eccentric who claimed that Hitler fulfilled a religious prophesy. Some were Midwestern Catholics like Father Charles Coughlin, an early right-wing radio star who broadcast anti-Semitic tirades. They were even members of Congress who used their franking privilege—sending mail at cost to American taxpayers—to distribute German propaganda. And celebrity pilot Charles Lindbergh ended up speaking for them all at the America First Committee. We try to tell ourselves it couldn't happen here, but Americans are not immune to the lure of fascism. *Hitler's American Friends* is a powerful look at how the forces of evil manipulate ordinary people, how we stepped back from the ledge, and the disturbing ease with which we could return to it.

100 most influential figures in american history: The 100 Most Influential Musicians of All Time Britannica Educational Publishing, 2009-10-01 Welcome to a veritable feast for readers□

eyes, minds, and, by extension, ears. Filled with profiles of truly accomplished musicians across a broad spectrum of musical styles and genres, this volume includes such varied musical artists as Ludwig von Beethoven, Elvis Presley, and hip-hop artist Jay-Z.

100 most influential figures in american history: LIFE 100 People Who Changed the World Editors of Life, 2016-02-01 Here is a book that will surely spark a lively debate. Who are the hundred most influential religious and political leaders, artists, scientists, and adventurers of all time? How is it even possible to construct such a list? Now, the editors of LIFE comb history, compare notes and dive in. Find out who makes the cut: King Tut or Cleopatra? Thomas Jefferson or George Washington; The Rolling Stones or The Beatles; Steve Jobs or Bill Gates. This is a look at history told through its most charismatic and fascinating characters. It is also full of fun facts, tidbits, arguments and rarely seen pictures, and will appeal to curious minds, young and old alike.

100 most influential figures in american history: The 100 Most Influential Musicians of All Time Gini Gorlinski Associate Editor, Music and Dance, 2009-12-20 Presents the lives of the world's most influential musicians, beginning with the composers of the early medieval period up to the most popular performers of the twenty-first century.

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100 most influential figures in american history: TIME 100 Photographs Time Magazine Editors, 2016-10-18 Since its inception, TIME magazine has been synonymous not just with outstanding journalism, but also with outstanding photography. Now, to mark the 175th anniversary of photography and the birth of photojournalism, the Editors of TIME magazine are publishing this companion book to the groundbreaking digital celebration of photography that TIME.com will be mounting online, displaying the most influential photographs of all time. While they may not be the most famous or well-known photographs, each one is unique for the way in which it changed, influenced, or commemorated a particular world event. From the first sports photograph to ever win the Pulitzer Prize - that of Babe Ruth at Yankee Stadium to the photograph of Student Neda Agha-Soltan's death during Iran's 2009 election protests, each of the photographs in 100 Photographs: The Most Influential Images of All Time is significant in how it forever changed how we live, learn, communicate, and in many cases, view the world.

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another complex, difficult problem: the defeat of terrorism. Light concludes by discussing this enormous task, as well as government's other greatest priorities for the next fifty years.

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100 most influential figures in american history: "Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us!" Ralph Nader, 2011-01-04 In the cozy den of the large but modest house in Omaha where he has lived since he started on his first billion, Warren Buffett watched the horrors of Hurricane Katrina unfold on television in early September 2005. . . . On the fourth day, he beheld in disbelief the paralysis of local, state, and federal authorities unable to commence basic operations of rescue and sustenance, not just in New Orleans, but in towns and villages all along the Gulf Coast. . . He knew exactly what he had to do. . . So begins the vivid fictional account by political activist and bestselling author Ralph Nader that answers the question, What if? What if a cadre of superrich individuals tried to become a driving force in America to organize and institutionalize the interests of the citizens of this troubled nation? What if some of America's most powerful individuals decided it was time to fix our government and return the power to the people? What if they focused their power on unionizing Wal-Mart? What if a national political party were formed with the sole purpose of advancing clean elections? What if these seventeen superrich individuals decided to galvanize a movement for alternative forms of energy that will effectively clean up the environment? What if together they took on corporate goliaths and Congress to provide the necessities of life and advance the solutions so long left on the shelf by an avaricious oligarchy? What could happen? This extraordinary story, written by the author who knows the most about citizen action, returns us to the literature of American social movements—to Edward Bellamy, to Upton Sinclair, to John Steinbeck, to Stephen Crane—reminding us in the process that changing the body politic of America starts with imagination.

100 most influential figures in american history: Alcohol in America United States Department of Transportation, National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, Dean R. Gerstein, Steve Olson, 1985-02-01 Alcohol is a killer—1 of every 13 deaths in the United States is alcohol-related. In addition, 5 percent of the population consumes 50 percent of the alcohol. The authors take a close look at the problem in a classy little study, as The Washington Post called this book. The Library Journal states, ...[T]his is one book that addresses solutions....And it's enjoyably readable....This is an excellent review for anyone in the alcoholism prevention business, and good background reading for the interested layperson. The Washington Post agrees: the book ...likely will wind up on the bookshelves of counselors, politicians, judges, medical professionals, and law enforcement officials throughout the country.

100 most influential figures in american history: Teaching What Really Happened James W. Loewen, 2018-09-07 "Should be in the hands of every history teacher in the country."— Howard Zinn James Loewen has revised Teaching What Really Happened, the bestselling, go-to resource for social studies and history teachers wishing to break away from standard textbook retellings of the past. In addition to updating the scholarship and anecdotes throughout, the second edition features a timely new chapter entitled Truth that addresses how traditional and social media can distort current events and the historical record. Helping students understand what really happened in the past will

empower them to use history as a tool to argue for better policies in the present. Our society needs engaged citizens now more than ever, and this book offers teachers concrete ideas for getting students excited about history while also teaching them to read critically. It will specifically help teachers and students tackle important content areas, including Eurocentrism, the American Indian experience, and slavery. Book Features: An up-to-date assessment of the potential and pitfalls of U.S. and world history education. Information to help teachers expect, and get, good performance from students of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Strategies for incorporating project-oriented self-learning, having students conduct online historical research, and teaching historiography. Ideas from teachers across the country who are empowering students by teaching what really happened. Specific chapters dedicated to five content topics usually taught poorly in today's schools.

100 most influential figures in american history: *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Making of Modern Pentecostalism, 1890-1926* Chas H. Barfoot, 2014-09-19 Pentecostalism was born at the turn of the twentieth century in a tumble-down shack in a rundown semi-industrial area of Los Angeles composed of a tombstone shop, saloons, livery stables and railroad freight yards. One hundred years later Pentecostalism has not only proven to be the most dynamic representative of Christian faith in the past century, but a transnational religious phenomenon as well. In a global context Pentecostalism has attained a membership of 500 million growing at the rate of 20 million new members a year. Aimee Semple McPherson, born on a Canadian farm, was Pentecostalism's first celebrity, its female Billy Sunday. Arriving in Southern California with her mother, two children and \$100.00 in 1920, Sister Aimee, as she was fondly known, quickly achieved the height of her fame. In 1926, by age 35, Sister Aimee would pastor America's largest 'class A' church, perhaps becoming the country's first mega church pastor. In Los Angeles she quickly became a folk hero and civic institution. Hollywood discovered her when she brilliantly united the sacred with the profane. Anthony Quinn would play in the Temple band and Aimee would baptize Marilyn Monroe, council Jean Harlow and become friends with Charlie Chaplain, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford. Based on the biographer's first time access to internal church documents and cooperation of Aimee's family and friends, this major biography offers a sympathetic appraisal of her rise to fame, revivals in major cities and influence on American religion and culture in the Jazz Age. The biographer takes the reader behind the scenes of Aimee's fame to the early days of her harsh apprenticeship in revival tents, failed marriages and poverty. Barfoot recreates the career of this called and driven woman through oral history, church documents and by a creative use of new source material. Written with warmth and often as dramatic as Aimee, herself, the author successfully captures not only what made Aimee famous but also what transformed Pentecostalism from its meager Azusa Street mission beginnings into a transnational, global religion.

100 most influential figures in american history: *The Government as Dominant Shareholder* United States. Congress. House. Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, 2011

100 most influential figures in american history: *American Public Policy* Dennis W. Johnson, 2022-09-15 This is a sweeping narrative of American domestic public policy—its triumphs, struggles, and failures over the past 120 years. In a larger sense, it is a reflection on how the United States has grown and matured, faced challenges and opportunities, and how its federal leaders and policymakers have responded or failed to confront pressing problems. Moreover, *American Public Policy* addresses the hurdles and challenges that still lie ahead. Four critical questions are posed and answered. First, what were the most significant adversities endured by the American people? Second, what were the landmark domestic policies crafted by the president, enacted by Congress, or issued in Supreme Court decisions? Third, what did they fail to do? Finally, how well have federal policymakers met the key challenges facing America: income inequality, racism, financial crises, terrorist attacks, climate change, gun violence, and other pressures? And what do we still need to do? This book reaches out to students of public policy, American government, US history, and contemporary affairs, as well as to citizens, journalists, and policy practitioners.

100 most influential figures in american history: Billionaires and Stealth Politics

Benjamin I. Page, Jason Seawright, Matthew J. Lacombe, 2018-12-21 A look into the covert influence billionaires wield in American politics and the actions citizens can take to hold them more accountable. In 2016, when millions of Americans voted for Donald Trump, many believed his claims that personal wealth would free him from wealthy donors and allow him to “drain the swamp.” But then Trump appointed several billionaires and multimillionaires to high-level positions and pursued billionaire-friendly policies, such as cutting corporate income taxes. Why the change from his fiery campaign rhetoric and promises to the working class? This should not be surprising, argue Benjamin I. Page, Jason Seawright, and Matthew J. Lacombe: As the gap between the wealthiest and the rest of us has widened, the few who hold one billion dollars or more in net worth have begun to play a more and more active part in politics—with serious consequences for democracy in the United States. Page, Seawright, and Lacombe argue that while political contributions offer a window onto billionaires’ influence, especially on economic policy, they do not present a full picture of policy preferences and political actions. That is because on some of the most important issues, including taxation, immigration, and Social Security, billionaires have chosen to engage in “stealth politics.” They try hard to influence public policy, making large contributions to political parties and policy-focused causes, leading policy-advocacy organizations, holding political fundraisers, and bundling others’ contributions—all while rarely talking about public policy to the media. This means that their influence is not only unequal but also largely unaccountable to and unchallengeable by the American people. Stealth politics makes it difficult for ordinary citizens to know what billionaires are doing or mobilize against it. The book closes with remedies citizens can pursue if they wish to make wealthy Americans more politically accountable, such as public financing of political campaigns and easier voting procedures, and notes the broader types of reforms, such as a more progressive income tax system, that would be needed to increase political equality and reinvigorate majoritarian democracy in the United States. Praise for *Billionaires and Stealth Politics* “Incredibly important. The authors provide—for the first time—a clear sense of the politics and political activity of the top one hundred billionaires in America, matching what billionaires have said with what they’ve done and showing the troubling transparency gap that is critical to the evolution of policy. *Billionaires and Stealth Politics* is a key addition to understanding our current political reality, focused on its most significant lever.” —Lawrence Lessig, author of *America, Compromised* “The wealth held by American billionaires exceeds the Gross Domestic Product of dozens of countries. They exercise tremendous influence over society, the economy, and politics. Yet their impact is not well-understood. Page, Seawright, and Lacombe have given us a compelling and original piece of work on an important topic.” —Darrell M. West, Brookings Institution

100 most influential figures in american history: A View from the Year 3000 Michael H. Hart, 1999

100 most influential figures in american history: Censored 2015 Mickey Huff, Andy Lee Roth, Project Censored, 2014-10-07 Every year since 1976, Project Censored, our nation's oldest news-monitoring group—a university-wide project at Sonoma State University founded by Carl Jensen, directed for many years by Peter Phillips, and now under the leadership of Mickey Huff—has produced a Top-25 list of underreported news stories and a book, *Censored*, dedicated to the stories that ought to be top features on the nightly news, but that are missing because of media bias and self-censorship. A perennial favorite of booksellers, teachers, and readers everywhere, *Censored* is one of the strongest life-signs of our current collective desire to get the news we citizens need--despite what Big Media tells us.

100 most influential figures in american history: Focus On: 100 Most Popular United States National Medal of Arts Recipients Wikipedia contributors,

100 most influential figures in american history: A People's History of the United States Howard Zinn, 2003-02-04 Since its original landmark publication in 1980, *A People's History of the United States* has been chronicling American history from the bottom up, throwing out the official version of history taught in schools -- with its emphasis on great men in high places -- to focus on the

street, the home, and the workplace. Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, *A People's History* is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of -- and in the words of -- America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles -- the fights for a fair wage, an eight-hour workday, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality -- were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance. Covering Christopher Columbus's arrival through President Clinton's first term, *A People's History of the United States*, which was nominated for the American Book Award in 1981, features insightful analysis of the most important events in our history. Revised, updated, and featuring a new afterword by the author, this special twentieth anniversary edition continues Zinn's important contribution to a complete and balanced understanding of American history.

100 most influential figures in american history: OH! SUSANNAH Gary Beckley, 2022-11-07 What was it really like living as a woman in rural Ohio before, during, and after the Civil War? Beckley's grandfather's grandfather was the son of an unpretentious woman who did just that. Unknowingly, she became a family matriarch; and through the use of family documents handed down over the generations, along with governmental archives, and courthouse documents, Beckley is able to reconstruct her life. His research leads him to overgrown vacant lots, dilapidated cemeteries, and down many dusty gravel roads between Ohio and Kentucky, where on the 156th anniversary of the Perrysville Battle, he lies on the ridge where his distant ancestor's brother dies in combat. No effort is spared to reveal the emotion, life, and times of this woman who is long forgotten and yet one who should be forever remembered, thanked, and loved for her devotion to her family.

100 most influential figures in american history: Days of Rage Bryan Burrough, 2015-04-07 From the bestselling author of *Public Enemies* and *The Big Rich*, an explosive account of the decade-long battle between the FBI and the homegrown revolutionary movements of the 1970s: The Weathermen. The Symbionese Liberation Army. The FALN. The Black Liberation Army. The names seem quaint now, when not forgotten altogether. But there was a stretch of time in America, during the 1970s, when bombings by domestic underground groups were a daily occurrence. The FBI combated these groups and others as nodes in a single revolutionary underground, dedicated to the violent overthrow of the American government. The FBI's response to the leftist revolutionary counterculture has not been treated kindly by history, and in hindsight many of its efforts seem almost comically ineffectual, if not criminal in themselves. But part of the extraordinary accomplishment of Bryan Burrough's *Days of Rage* is to temper those easy judgments with an understanding of just how deranged these times were, how charged with menace. Burrough re-creates an atmosphere that seems almost unbelievable just forty years later, conjuring a time of native-born radicals, most of them "nice middle-class kids," smuggling bombs into skyscrapers and detonating them inside the Pentagon and the U.S. Capitol, at a Boston courthouse and a Wall Street restaurant packed with lunchtime diners—radicals robbing dozens of banks and assassinating policemen in New York, San Francisco, Atlanta. The FBI, encouraged to do everything possible to undermine the radical underground, itself broke many laws in its attempts to bring the revolutionaries to justice—often with disastrous consequences. Benefiting from the extraordinary number of people from the underground and the FBI who speak about their experiences for the first time, *Days of Rage* is filled with revelations and fresh details about the major revolutionaries and their connections and about the FBI and its desperate efforts to make the bombings stop. The result is a mesmerizing book that takes us into the hearts and minds of homegrown terrorists and federal agents alike and weaves their stories into a spellbinding secret history of the 1970s.

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What was the first use of the saying, "You miss 100% of the shots ...

You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take. 1991 Burton W. Kanter, "AARP–Asset Accumulation, Retention and Protection," Taxes 69: 717: "Wayne Gretzky, relating the ...

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