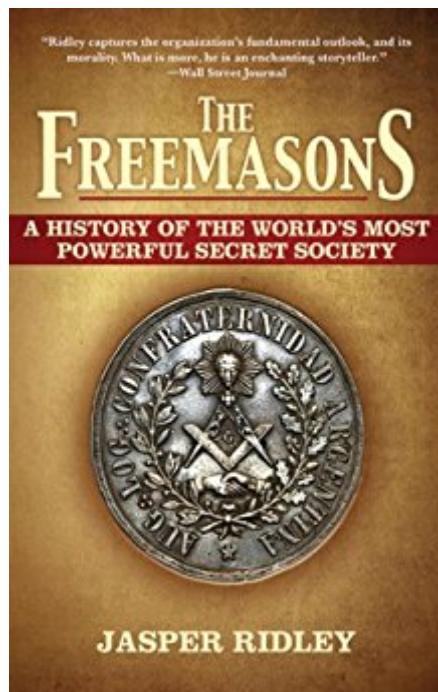


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The Freemasons: A History Of The World's Most Powerful Secret Society



Synopsis

What did Mozart and Bach, Oscar Wilde and Anthony Trollope, George Washington and Frederick the Great, Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt have in common? They were all Freemasons, a subject of endless fascination. To the layman, they are a mysterious brotherhood of profound if uncertain influence, a secret society purported in some popular histories to have its roots in the fabled order of the Knights Templar, or in the mysteries of the Egyptian pyramids. They evoke fears of world domination by a select few who enjoy privileged access to wealth and the levers of power. The secrecy of their rites suggests the taint of sacrilege, and their hidden loyalties are sometimes accused of undermining the workings of justice and the integrity of nations. Though not a mason himself, Jasper Ridley nonetheless refutes many of the outrageous allegations made against Freemasonry, while at the same time acknowledging the masons' shortcomings: their clannishness, misogyny, obsession with secrecy, and devotion to arcane ritual. In this much-needed reassessment, he offers a substantial work of history that sifts the truth from the myth as it traces Freemasonry from its origins to the present day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are a history person and interested in Freemasonry, you'll enjoy this. There are no secrets, as such; just little facts and tidbits that aren't commonly known. Good read if you want to delve further into Freemasonry history.

Our Book Club read this.. Very historical, but had study most of the history when in college.. Would not read again

I'd write more about the secret society and their secret signs, but then I'd have to kill you wouldn't I :)

Not finished yet but was always intrigued with how the Masons came about. Very interesting book.

Very interesting, and difficult to find information. Well written.

Glad that I bought this one! It shows so much that no one else knows about the Freemasons!

Good historical summary of Masonic happenings. As a book it covers a lot of territory

Very interesting reading. Explains a great many things.

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