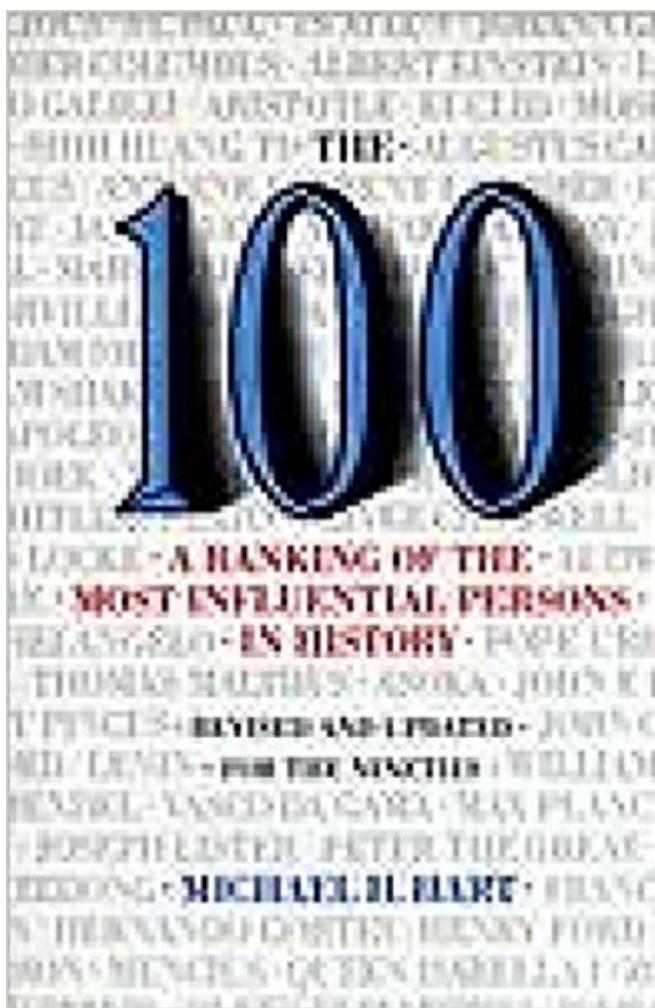


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The 100: A Ranking Of The Most Influential Persons In History



Synopsis

A list of the one hundred most influential people in history features descriptions of the careers, contributions, and accomplishments of the political and religious leaders, inventors, writers, artists, and others who changed the course of history.

Book Information

Paperback: 556 pages

Publisher: Citadel; Revised edition (June 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0806513500

ISBN-13: 978-0806513508

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 1.7 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 148 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #239,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Reference & Collections #232 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Reference #232 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > History

Customer Reviews

In 1978, when Michael Hart's controversial book The 100 was first published, critics objected that Hart had the nerve not only to select who he thought were the most influential people in history, but also to rank them according to their importance. Needless to say, the critics were wrong, and to date over 60,000 copies of the book have sold. Hart believed that in the intervening years the influence of some of his original selections had grown or lessened and that new names loomed large on the world stage. Thus, the publication of this revised and updated edition of The 100. As before, Hart's yardstick is influence: not the greatest people, but the most influential, the people who swayed the destinies of millions of human beings, determined the rise and fall of civilizations, changed the course of history. With incisive biographies, Hart describes their careers and contributions.

Explaining his ratings, he presents a new perspective on history, gathering together the vital facts about the world's greatest religious and political leaders, inventors, writers, philosophers, explorers, artists, and innovators - from Asoka to Zoroaster. Most of the biographies are accompanied by photographs or sketches. Hart's selections may be surprising to some. Neither Jesus nor Marx, but Muhammad, is designated as the most influential person in human history. The writer's arguments

may challenge and perhaps convince readers, but whether or not they agree with him, his manner of ranking is both informative and entertaining. The 100, revised and updated, is truly a monumental work. It promises to be just as controversial, just as thought-provoking, and just as successful as its predecessor - a perfect addition to any history or philosophy reference section.

In Summary: Intelligent analysis by well informed authors. This book should be read by all humans, regardless of their race, religion, geographic location, culture, etc. It should be required reading for all students, because it will teach them what many people don't know or never learn. These authors looked at people with honesty, and without prejudice. They looked at how these people affected all aspects of human development; including law and order, finance, history, philosophy, war, social behavior, society, justice, equality, welfare, ethics, and many other areas. They documented how the selected people affected the lives of others not only in their life time, but for all times to come. Their analysis also included scientific achievements, but it was not the ONLY factor, as many others writers have done in their books. Great Job! You should have received a Nobel Prize for this!!! You have my vote!!!

This is an excellent book if you want to deepen your knowledge of history, if you want to refresh what you already learned in school or wish to get acquainted with lesser known but still highly important people in the history of mankind. And so, the book is in fact a collection of short bios of the author's list of the most influential persons in history. Michael Hart made historical Giants like Confucius, Aristotle or Alexander the Great seem more vivid and genuine to me. Some people really stand out in terms of achievements such as Louis Pasteur, and you'll wonder why men like Abraham Lincoln or Winston Churchill have been left out. The fun really is to mentally argue with the author, which I must admit is what makes the effort of going through the book valuable. I'm not giving 5 stars to the book mainly because some bios are rather stark or too technical for me, even if Hart made a nice effort to render it all in comprehensible form.

This book had a great influence on me and I bought it for my daughter 35 years later. It's still in print. It is a survey of history made personal, covering all fields of human endeavor and all periods. It deals with people and events that one might never encounter in school or the press, but which are, nevertheless, vital to understanding civilization.

As the author states, "not everyone will agree" but he provides his reasoning, and you can agree or

disagree.. doesn't really matter. I think the main benefit of the book is to get the REAL historical information about these historical figures rather than relying on what he/she said or I heard this or that. I think the author puts forth good solid reasoning behind his choices. I do think it would have been a good idea to dedicate more of the book and provide more detail for the Top 10 figures.

I love this book. It provides a short narrative about the most important people in history. It is an excellent book and great reference. Some names I hadn't even heard of which is very interesting.

A totally enjoyable read. Mr. Hart includes many interesting details in each biography, and in doing so, makes them come alive. I didn't agree with all his assessments, but the book as a whole was an inspiring lesson in history. It was fun to read his viewpoint and then to consider how it differed from mine. I highly recommend this book.

thank you for this well written book, it showed a shift in thinking.

I have owned three copies of this book. One was the old edition, one was lost in a fire, and one I recently purchased to replace my last one. This is one of the few books I ~really~ have a soft-spot for. The rankings are ridiculous any-which-way you cut it. Its almost hopeless to 'rank' people in such a fashion. There are few metrics which can be applied, there are no championships, no rings. And history is a funny thing. The 'thing' about this book is the collective group of people and the perspective Hart presents. Hart doesn't cut people out if they are controversial (Adolf Hitler for example), nor does he give them more 'influence' than they deserve. Each account is as complete as necessary and well thought out. Some interesting misses and some possible mistakes but a great book to have long conversations over. -Ali

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