

The Life Of Thomas Mckean - America's First Power Broker

Thomas McKean, often overshadowed by the more prominent figures of the American Revolution, was an influential political figure who played a crucial role in shaping the early years of the United States. As a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a delegate to the Continental Congress, and a Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, McKean's impact on American politics and law cannot be underestimated.

Early Life and Education

McKean was born on March 19, 1734, in Chester County, Pennsylvania. His parents were Irish immigrants, and McKean's childhood was marked by the struggles of frontier life. Despite the hardships, he managed to receive an education at the New London Academy, where he excelled in his studies. McKean's intelligence and dedication were evident from a young age, setting the stage for his future success.

Legal Career and Political Rise

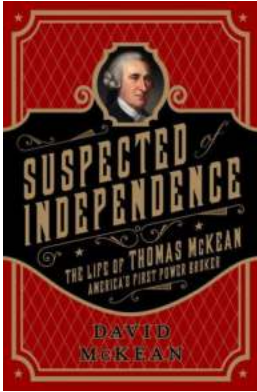
After completing his education, McKean studied law and was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1757. He quickly gained a reputation as a skilled lawyer, known for his sharp wit and persuasive arguments. This reputation helped him secure his entrance into politics, where he would leave an indelible mark.

Suspected of Independence: The Life of Thomas McKean, America's First Power Broker

by Lee Eggstein (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English



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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 322 pages



McKean first served as a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1762, and his political career took off from there. He became heavily involved in the revolutionary movement and was elected to the Continental Congress in 1774. McKean's unwavering commitment to American independence led to his crucial role in the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Continental Congress and Founding Fathers

While some of the Founding Fathers are household names, such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, McKean's contributions are often overlooked. As a member of the Continental Congress, he played a key role in debates and discussions that shaped the future of the nation. His legal expertise and persuasive skills made him a respected voice among his peers.

During his time in Congress, McKean formed important alliances and friendships with other prominent figures of the era. He worked closely with Benjamin Franklin and played a significant role in the ratification of the United States Constitution. McKean's influence extended beyond the walls of Congress, and he became known as a power broker who could effectively navigate political landscapes.

Chief Justice of Pennsylvania

After leaving Congress, McKean was appointed Chief Justice of Pennsylvania in 1777. This position allowed him to continue shaping the nation's legal system and cement his place in American history. McKean's tenure as Chief Justice was marked by his commitment to fairness and justice for all citizens, regardless of their social standing.

Throughout his career, McKean showed a deep dedication to the principles of American democracy and fought tirelessly for equality under the law. His legal decisions demonstrated his belief in the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary, making him a respected figure in the legal community.

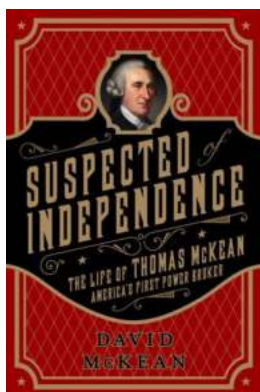
Legacy and Impact

Thomas McKean's impact on American history cannot be overstated. While his name may not be as widely recognized as some of his contemporaries, his contributions were instrumental in shaping the nation. From signing the Declaration of Independence to his influential role in the Continental Congress, McKean's commitment to American independence and his understanding of the law were fundamental in establishing the United States as a democratic nation.

McKean's legacy extends beyond his political and legal achievements. He serves as a reminder that individuals can make a significant impact on the course of history, even if their names are not widely known. His story is a testament to the power of determination, conviction, and the willingness to stand up for what is right.

Thomas McKean's life and career exemplify the spirit of the American Revolution. His dedication to the cause of independence, his legal acumen, and his ability to navigate the complexities of politics made him a force to be reckoned with. Though often overlooked, McKean's contributions were vital to the success of the

United States. He was America's first power broker and a true champion of democracy.



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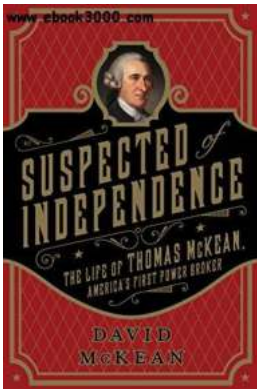
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The last signatory to the Declaration of Independence was one of the earliest to sign up for the Revolution: Thomas McKean lived a radical, boisterous, politically intriguing life and was one of the most influential and enduring of America's Founding Fathers.

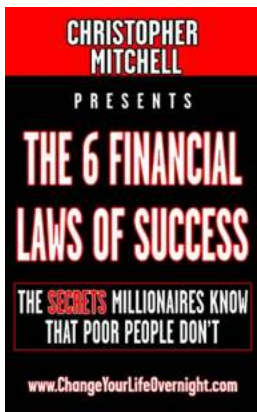
Present at almost all of the signature moments on the road to American nationhood, from the first Continental Congress onward, Thomas McKean was a colonel in the Continental Army; president of the Continental Congress; governor of Pennsylvania; and, perhaps most importantly, chief justice of the new country's most influential state, Pennsylvania, a foundational influence on American law. His life uniquely intersected with the many centers of power in the still-formative country during its most vulnerable years, and shows the degree of uncertainty that characterized newly independent America, unsure of its future or its identity.

Thomas McKean knew intimately not only the heroic figures of the Revolutionary era -- George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin -- but also the fascinating characters who fought over the political identity of the new country, such as Caesar Rodney, Francis Hopkinson, and Alexander Dallas. His life reminds us that America's creation was fraught with dangers and strife, backstabbing and bar-brawling, courage and stubbornness. McKean's was an epic ride during utterly momentous times.



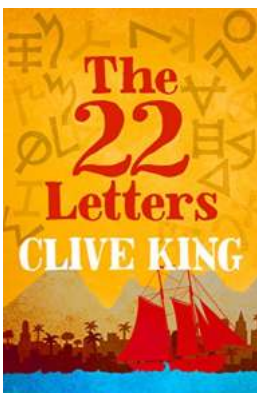
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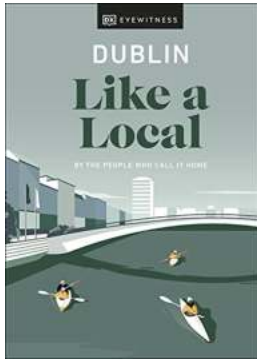
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