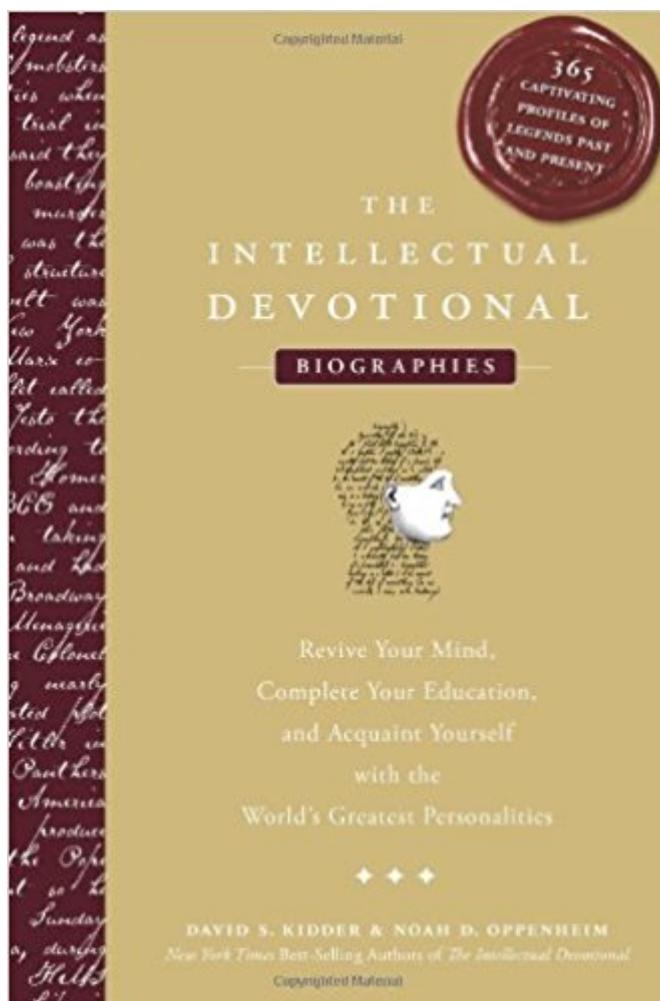


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# The Intellectual Devotional Biographies: Revive Your Mind, Complete Your Education, And Acquaint Yourself With The World's Greatest Personalities





## Synopsis

The fifth installment of this best-selling series features 365 captivating entries about the most celebrated personalities in history. Like its compulsively readable predecessors, *The Intellectual Devotional Biographies* is organized into seven categories, one for each day of the week. With their trademark wit and style, authors David Kidder and Noah Oppenheim offer an array of fascinating facts about major figures from Atilla the Hun to Desmond Tutu. In this daily devotional, learn about: authors and artists, from Homer and Ovid to Oscar Wilde and Virginia Woolf; leaders, such as Queen Elizabeth I, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, and Napoleon Bonaparte; innovators, from Johannes Gutenberg to Isaac Newton to Werner Heisenberg; philosophers, including Socrates, Epicurus, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Jean-Paul Sartre; rebels and reformers, from Joan of Arc and Spartacus to Galileo and Che Guevara; preachers and prophets, including Lao-tzu, John the Baptist, Martin Luther, and Gandhi; villains, such as Benedict Arnold, Genghis Khan, Ivan the Terrible, and Jack the Ripper. This volume shares the personal histories, accomplishments, and troubles of 365 people who have left an indelible mark on the world.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Rodale Books (May 11, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1605299502

ISBN-13: 978-1605299501

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.3 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #102,773 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Reference & Collections #82 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > History #97 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Reference

## Customer Reviews

David Kidder is an entrepreneur with a wide range of technology and marketing expertise. He is the cofounder and CEO of Clickable, an online advertising Web software service. He lives in Westchester, NY. Noah Oppenheim, a writer and Emmy-winning television producer, is currently

vice president, creative affairs of Reveille, where he oversees all unscripted development. He lives in Los Angeles.

There were not as many reviews of this volume of the Intellectual Devotional series but I got it because I liked the Culture and American History volumes so much. I read one a morning and am now approaching the Middles Ages of famous people from around the world. I think I like this volume best since there are so many biographies of people I knew nothing or very little about. I would not say I now know everything about these people but it is fun to look for more information about them. Unless you know everything about every region of the world's history, you can find new areas to explore reading these pages. There are a number of bios of Asian and Middle Eastern philosophers, scientists, mathematicians, writers, etc and a good number of female bios. As I said, I am up to the Middle Ages and enjoyed reading about the people from many countries and careers (scientific and religious) who preserved learning during the Dark Ages and early Middle Ages.

The final volume in the Intellectual Devotional series offers 365 capsule biographies--one for each day, except Leap Day--of "the world's most celebrated, brilliant, despicable, and memorable characters." There are leaders, philosophers, innovators, villains, authors and artists, rebels and reformers, preachers and prophets, beginning with the Pharaoh Khufu (aka Cheops) and going on to Benazir Bhutto. The bios are arranged in roughly chronological order (if it had been me, I'd have sorted by birthdate), and each includes the subject's dates and major accomplishments (although I noticed a couple of omissions in that of Theodore Roosevelt, hardly surprising in a man who wore such an assortment of hats in his busy life), plus two or three "additional facts" at the bottom of the page. Of the 365, only eight were still living at the time of publication: Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, the Unabomber, Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, Radovan Karadzic, Gunter Grass, and Vaclav Havel. Of course, as in all such lists, your mileage may vary; personally I'd have ignored these and included instead Christopher Columbus, Beethoven, Robert E. Lee, Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy (for getting a man on the moon, facing down Russia in the Cuban Missile Crisis, and establishing the Peace Corps), Lyndon B. Johnson (for Vietnam and the Great Society, though the latter was something of a bust), Hitler (who almost singlehandedly caused World War II), and Jawaharlal Nehru. The print is a bit small, which may cause problems for some readers, and the index would have been improved by bolding the page number on which each bio actually appears. But it's still an interesting assemblage of influential people, and longer than many.

This collection of brief biographies is educational but also fun to read. There are 365 entries and they include the great, the good, and the fascinating. There is a mixture of scientists, musicians, soldiers, religious leaders, philosophers, politicians, writers, and notorious evildoers. Included are Churchill, Sartre, Lenin, Paul of Tarsus, Hannibal, Vlad the Impaler, John Lennon and the Unabomber. Each biography is a page long, but the print is on the small side. The book is well written, lively, and accessible. It provides you with just enough information to sound knowledgeable. I thoroughly enjoyed the book.

I love to read one article each day during breakfast. I am at the beginning of the book which is full of Egyptian and Greek personalities, the ones who have shaped the thought of Western Civilization. A delightful way to enrich my knowledge of the history that really matters - not so much kings and wars, but individuals who made a difference. Makes me want to go back to school and learn ancient Greek. I recommend this book to all ages.

I read the American History and the Cultured Class versions of this book first. I think I bought the American history one for my husband and he didn't read it and I picked it up and was hooked. They are written in weekly format, where each day of the week for a year you read about a person, place or topic. This one is biographies. It starts from Ancient times and works it's way up to present day. It also runs the gamut of all religions and places in the world. It just really a cool way to learn something new or to learn more about something you do know. I find that even if someone I am familiar with the book brings about a new fact or something more than I already knew. I totally suggest this book for any fact lover in your life.

This is a book of short biographies meant to be read one each day of the year, though I am reading it straight through. It seems, once I pick up the Kindle to read it I can't stop at just one. It includes some people I had heard of and many I have not, which is surprising since I read a lot of history. It goes chronologically and each biography is about a page long. At the end of each page are three additional facts that have to do with the person. Each day of the week covers seven topics: leaders, philosophers, innovators, villains, authors and artists, rebels and reformers, and preachers and prophets. This book is well written and enjoyable to read. I don't have anything bad to say about it except I wish it wouldn't end.

This series of books is great for the individual who wants to be a student of the world. There is

enough information for one to get a good idea of the subject. Often I was led to seek more information because my interest was so thoroughly sparked by what I read.

I read one page/one brief biography a night and I am enjoying it quite thoroughly. The bios are in chronological sequence, so I am immersed in ancient cultures and civilizations, some of them familiar but others I had never heard of. All are fascinating. This is a very simple course in learning about multiple civilizations through the men and women who shaped them.

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