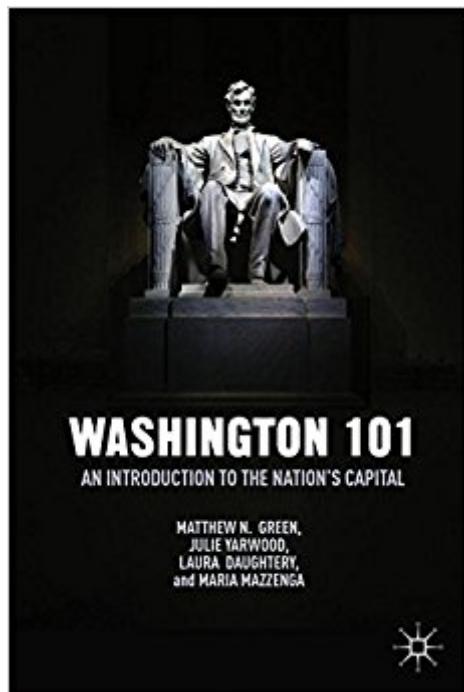


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Washington 101: An Introduction To The Nation's Capital



Synopsis

Washington 101 offers a layman's introduction to the richness and diversity of the nation's capital. An exploration of the history, politics, architecture, and people of the city and region, Washington 101 is a must-read for anyone curious to learn more about Washington.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A lot of people could benefit from taking the class, every member of Congress, for starters. They might better appreciate the strange political limbo in which the city and its citizens exist....The book isn't all wonkish politics. To use an educational buzzword, it's multidisciplinary." -- John Kelly, Washington Post

"This book provides a sprightly, informative, and often illuminating portrait of Washington, D.C." -- Choice

"Admittedly written as the text for a course on the nation's capital, this book provides a sprightly, informative, and often illuminating portrait of Washington, D.C. Although aimed at D.C. college students, it could also act as a travel guide...the audience could be wide...the book's ten chapters eloquently and adroitly explore such subjects as Washington's heritage of design (the L'Enfant Plan and the McMillan Commission), its memorials and monumentality, its host of museums, its politics, its economy, and its society, rich and poor. The authors especially focus on the city's unique and constraining geographic and political boundaries and Washington's long, rich, but troubled racial history. Unlike a travel guide, all of these discussions are finely nuanced." - J. F. Bauman, University of Southern Maine, Choice January 2015 52:52-2735

"Washington 101 delivers a synthesis of previous historical research on Washington that is written and organized in an accessible manner...The book is a reliable work of popular history, and a set of well-chosen topical essays." — Carl Abbott, Portland State University

A readable and very interesting book about D.C. This is not a tour book, but helps one understand the history, culture and politics of Washington. It would be helpful reading for anyone going to live, work, or study in the area.

This wonderfully written book is a sweeping overview of what makes the nation's capital tick. The authors are to be commended for their entertaining and analytical blend of social, economic, political, and historical commentary that is honest but not provocative, careful but not cowardly. They are particularly adept in addressing the issues of race and home rule. Also, the section on memorials and monuments excellent. However, sports is strangely underplayed (no pun intended), with barely a mention of professional baseball (Senators, Nationals) and football (Redskins). Otherwise, no academic or public library worth its salt will be without this book in some format, though the prohibitive cost may hinder hardcover sales, especially to the general public.

If you're looking for a book that tells you more about D.C. than what the tourist guides say, this study is definitely the place to start. The generic title does not do this book justice! The authors cover a wide range of topics, including facts about the city that non-Washingtonians (like me) probably aren't aware of. For instance, the government doesn't employ nearly as many people in D.C. as you might think, and the city was not, in fact, designed to prevent riots. (Though the authors do note that political protests in the city, while very common today, were once seen as dangerous and un-American.) It's an enlightening study, comprehensive yet not too dense, and surprisingly easy to read.

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