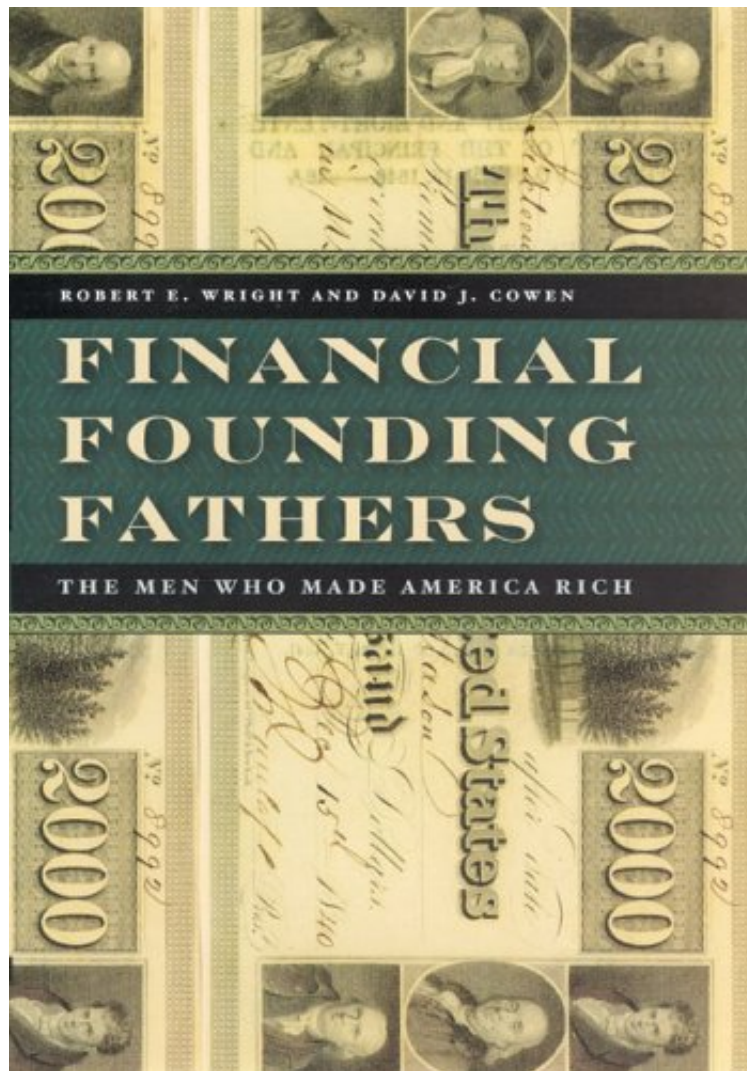


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Financial Founding Fathers: The Men Who Made America Rich

Robert E. Wright, David J. Cowen

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man in America. This book should be required reading for finance majors in American companies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Vincent Franco Important work on the financial infancy of our nation.

When you think of the founding fathers, you think of men like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin exceptional minds and matchless statesmen who led the colonies to a seemingly impossible victory over the British and established the constitutional and legal framework for our democratic government. But the American Revolution was about far more than freedom and liberty. It was about economics as well. Robert E. Wright and David J. Cowen here chronicle how a different group of founding fathers forged the wealth and institutions necessary to transform the American colonies from a diffuse alliance of contending business interests into one cohesive economic superpower. From Alexander Hamilton to Andrew Jackson, the authors focus on the lives of nine Americans in particular some famous, some unknown, others misunderstood, but all among our nation's financial founding fathers. Such men were instrumental in creating and nurturing a financial system that drove economic growth in the nascent United States because they were quick to realize that wealth was as crucial as the Constitution in securing the blessings of liberty and promoting the general welfare. The astonishing economic development made possible by our financial founding fathers was indispensable to the preservation of national unity and of support for a government that was then still a profoundly radical and delicate political experiment. Grand in scope and vision, *Financial Founding Fathers* is an entertaining and inspiring history of the men who made America rich and steered her toward greatness.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . In this spry, smart history, Alexander Hamilton, Albert Gallatin, Stephen Girard, Nicholas Biddle and Andrew Jackson emerge as fully human characters—rather than a set of financial theories or beliefs—struggling to set the economic machine of America in motion. Wright and Cowen use biography to address financial history, showing, say, how Alexander Hamilton's life influenced his theory of finance, and how Hamilton's theory of finance influenced the United States. Readers will find that financial markets and instruments at the time were surprisingly sophisticated, and fully relevant to the discussion of finance today. Hamilton's genius lay in his Bank of the United States, established to allow America one day to compete with the foremost powers of Europe, and the story of his successors—Gallatin, Girard, and Biddle, who wisely navigated Hamilton's Bank—take readers through crises brought on by such familiar factors as speculative booms and busts, war debts, political opposition and special interests. If there is any flaw to this compelling account of the nation's early finances it is that the authors seem to lack faith in their subject's entertainment value, gilding the lily with human interest stories and catchy chapter titles like "Apocalypse No." Illuminating and ingratiating, this glimpse into the economics of the nation's first century could very well serve as required reading for students of American history and economics. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The early financial history of the United States merits additional popular and scholarly attention, and Wright and Cowen provide biographical information on nine founders of America's financial and economic systems, from Alexander Hamilton to Andrew Jackson and Nicholas Biddle. The book emphasizes biographical information with limited explanation of financial and economic arguments. This book is useful for large public libraries so that general readers may understand formative economic ideas in American history."