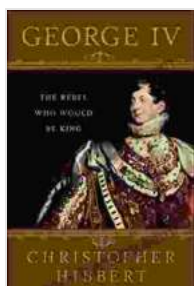


George IV: The Rebel Who Would Be King

In the annals of British history, few monarchs have been as enigmatic and controversial as George IV. Known as the "First Gentleman of Europe" for his refined tastes and lavish lifestyle, he was also a libertine and spendthrift who defied conventions and scandalized society.

In his captivating new book, "George IV: The Rebel Who Would Be King," historian and biographer Jeremy Black paints a vivid portrait of this complex and contradictory figure. Drawing on extensive research and previously unpublished sources, Black reveals the untold stories and scandals that defined George's life and reign.



George IV: The Rebel Who Would Be King

by Christopher Hibbert

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1618 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 1069 pages



The Early Years: A Rebel in Waiting

Born in 1762 to King George III and Queen Charlotte, George was a precocious and headstrong child. He displayed a rebellious streak from an

early age, clashing with his father over his extravagant spending and hedonistic lifestyle.

In his youth, George became a figure in the fashionable world of London, indulging in gambling, drinking, and amorous affairs. He gained a reputation as a flamboyant and unconventional prince, earning the nickname "Prinny" from his friends.

The Regency: A Reign of Excess and Scandal

In 1811, George's father was declared insane, and George became Prince Regent. He ruled in place of his father for nine years, a period marked by political turmoil, social unrest, and personal scandals.

As Regent, George continued his lavish spending and extravagant lifestyle. He commissioned the construction of several opulent palaces, including Carlton House and the Brighton Pavilion. He also indulged in a series of scandalous love affairs, most notably with the married socialite Maria Fitzherbert.

Despite his personal excesses, George also proved to be a shrewd and capable ruler. He supported the war against Napoleon and played a key role in the Allied victory. However, his popularity waned due to his financial extravagance and his scandalous private life.

The Reign as King: A Legacy of Controversy

In 1820, George III died and George became King. His coronation was a lavish affair, but it was overshadowed by his unpopularity with the public. As King, George continued his controversial ways, alienating many with his lavish spending and scandalous behavior.

George's reign was also marked by political and economic challenges. He faced widespread criticism for his support of the conservative government of Lord Liverpool and his opposition to parliamentary reform. The country experienced a series of economic crises, including the Panic of 1825, which further eroded his popularity.

The Legacy of a Controversial Monarch

George IV died in 1830 at the age of 68. His death was met with little public mourning, and he is remembered today as one of the most controversial and complex monarchs in British history.

Black's book provides a nuanced and insightful exploration of George's life and legacy. He argues that George was a paradoxical figure, a man of both great talent and deep flaws. He was a charismatic and intelligent ruler, but also a spendthrift and a libertine.

Through a wealth of fascinating anecdotes and detailed historical analysis, "George IV: The Rebel Who Would Be King" offers a fresh perspective on a pivotal figure in British history. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the Regency era, the British monarchy, or the complex nature of human character.

Reviews

"Black's biography is a masterful exploration of a fascinating and enigmatic monarch. He paints a vivid picture of George IV's life and reign, revealing the untold stories and scandals that shaped his controversial legacy." - The Times

"A brilliant and insightful account of one of the most controversial monarchs in British history. Black's book is a must-read for anyone interested in the Regency era and the complex nature of human character." - The Guardian

"This captivating biography sheds new light on the life and reign of George IV. Black's writing is both engaging and informative, offering a nuanced and balanced perspective on a complex and contradictory figure." - The Independent



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