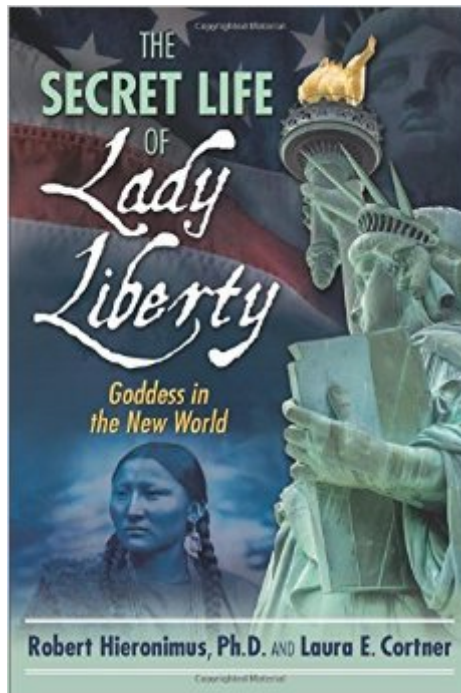


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The Secret Life Of Lady Liberty: Goddess In The New World



Synopsis

The goddess origins of the Statue of Liberty and her connections with the founding and the future of America • Examines Lady Liberty's ties to Native American spiritual traditions, the Earth Mother, Roman goddesses, Black Madonnas, and Mary Magdalene • Reveals the sharp contrast between depicting liberty as a female and the reality of women and other suppressed classes even today • Explains how this Goddess of the New World inspires all people toward equality, compassion, peace-keeping, and environmental stewardship

Uncovering the forgotten lineage of the Statue of Liberty, Bob Hieronimus and Laura Cortner explain how she is based on a female symbol representing America on the earliest maps of the continent in the form of a Native American "Queen." The image of a woman symbolizing independence was embraced by the American revolutionaries to rally the populace against the King, filling the role of "Founding Mother" and protector of the fledgling republic. Incorporating Libertas, the Roman goddess of freed slaves, with Minerva, Demeter, Justice, and the Indian Princess, Lady Liberty is seen all over the nation's capital, and on the seals and flags of many states. Showing how a new appreciation for the Statue of Liberty as the American goddess can serve as a unifying inspiration for activism, the authors explore how this Lady Liberty is a personification of America and its destiny. They examine multiple traditions that influenced her symbolism, from the Neolithic Earth Mother, to Mary Magdalene, Columbia, and Joan of Arc, while revealing the sharp contrast between depicting liberty as a female and the reality of women and other suppressed classes throughout history. Their study of "Liberty Enlightening the World" led them to conclude that the empowerment of contemporary women is essential for achieving sustainable liberty for all. Sounding the call for this "Goddess of the New World" to inspire us all toward peacekeeping, nurturing, compassion, and environmental stewardship, the authors explain how the Statue of Liberty serves as the conscience of our nation and is a symbol of both the myths that unite us and the diversity that strengthens us.

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Customer Reviews

Professor Hieronimus is one of the best in the alternative history business. SECRET LIFE OF LADY LIBERTY is competitive with similar studies by David Ovason as well as the monumental research on Masonic elements in eighteenth century France and America by Bauval and Hancock. This is the major leagues. The iconography of Liberty is here examined in a thorough and diligent fashion. LADY LIBERTY is a work of genuine culture criticism which explores the iconography of Liberty on many levels. She is seen in the context of the grand feminist narrative starting with certain women of the Bible and then going into Native American/First Peoples myth and iconography. LADY LIBERTY uses Zinn's PEOPLE'S HISTORY as a lead in to a number of unpleasant aspects of American history that are often glossed over by mainstream history. Hieronimus and Cortner gloss over nothing. But what makes this book one of a kind are the wonderful illustrations many of which are photos of colossal murals and smaller paintings by Professor Hieronimus. We are confronted here with someone with not one not inconsiderable gift, but two. This is the kind of thing one associates with a William Blake or a Michelangelo. How many of us can do more than one thing well? LADY LIBERTY is a very rich experience with things coming at you the reader all at once. To mix metaphors, this is polyphonic experience!. It is like reading a gorgeously illustrated classic, maybe a book by James Audubon or Richard Dawkins. The graphical component is important to LADY LIBERTY because it extends the symbolism of the goddess yet further into the iconic and the visual. It is a cliché that a picture says more than a pack of sentences and paragraphs. But in LADY LIBERTY the illustrations do not eclipse the wonderful scholarship. They supplement it in the most wonderful way.

The Secret Life of Lady Liberty is FASCINATING! The symbolism, conspiratorial theories â “ who would have ever thought to put this all together! Very thought provoking and enlightening. Not until the last century did America start celebrating "real" women rather than goddess-like images. So many female American heroes who shaped our country were deliberately omitted from our history books; they were never acknowledged or recognized including the two million suffragists who fought

for 72 years to win enfranchisement. This is a great read! Patricia Wirth Executive Director
Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association

This is a "fierce" book, make no mistake. You will learn a tremendous amount of history but it is a painless by-product of this fascinating call to arms. Dr. Bob Hieronimus and Laura Cortner paint a colorful portrait of a statue that magically morphs in front of our very eyes from French revolutionary, to American Native, to Native Queen, to Roman warrior goddess, to Black Madonna, to Whore of Babylon, to fighting suffragette. The blending and overlapping symbolism of oppression and revolution, like the strange male-female androgenous face of the defiant Statue of Liberty herself, have fired generations of Americans to rethink the entire concept of liberty. Who does she really represent? Who really has liberty in America? This is a book that will inspire revolution - again.

The Statue of Liberty is one of our greatest American icons and symbols of freedom, which is still something being fought for in the U.S. and abroad today. Hieronimus and Cortner's book, *The Secret Life of Lady Liberty*, reconnects us to her lineage rooted in the very ideas that founded this country and reminds us that our "Founding Mother" is a divine goddess, to be respected as we would our own mother. They also show how Lady Liberty is a symbol of hope for our country in this modern age, when women's roles are advancing into greater forms of leadership and power, overcoming a suppressed history, which is carefully well written in this intriguing new book.

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