



The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Human Events

Stanley Coren

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Human Events

Stanley Coren

The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Human Events Stanley Coren

The Pawprints of History shines a new light on a favorite subject -- the relationship between humans and their four-legged best friends. Stanley Coren, a renowned expert on dog-human interactions, has combed the annals of history and found captivating stories of how dogs have lent a helping paw and influenced the actions, decisions, and fates of well-known figures from every era and throughout the world.

As history's great figures strut across the stage, Coren guides us from the wings, adoringly picking out the canine cameos and giving every dog of distinction its day. In this unparalleled chronicle, we see how Florence Nightingale's chance encounter with a wounded dog changed her life by leading her to the vocation of nursing. We learn why Dr. Freud's Chow Chow attended all of his therapy sessions and how the life of the Fifth Dalai Lama was saved by a dog who shared his bed. Dogs have even found their way to the battlefield - great military leaders such as Robert the Bruce and Omar Bradley have shared their lives, exploits, and gunfire with dogs. From Wagner, who admitted that one of the arias in the opera Siegfried was "written" by one of his dogs, to the dogs that inspired and lived with Presidents Lincoln, Roosevelt, Johnson, and Clinton, these loving canines do double duty as loyal pets and creative muses.

From war to art, across the spectrum of human endeavor and achievement, there often stands, not only at his side but leading the way, man's beloved "best friend." For those who believe that behind every great person is a good dog, the uplifting stories in *The Pawprints of History* will be a lasting delight.

The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Human Events Details

Date : Published April 2nd 2003 by Atria Books (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780743222310

Author : Stanley Coren

Format : Paperback 336 pages

Genre : History, Animals, Dogs, Nonfiction

 [Download The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Human ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Huma ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Human Events
Stanley Coren

From Reader Review The Pawprints of History: Dogs and the Course of Human Events for online ebook

Helen Southall says

Very interesting book about dogs and their place in human events.

Ginger says

This book is about dogs who have played a role in history. It was interesting, but not extremely well-written. And sometimes I felt like the author was stretching it with some of these dogs influencing history.

Bruce says

Dogs have played key roles at various times in history. This book describes how acts of various dogs have affected history. From a pet greyhound of Alexandria the Great to the Lion Dogs of the Forbidden City to Presidential dogs, from war dogs to lap dogs, individual pets have affected the course of human events. Some of this is Counter-factual history, i.e. what if type of questioning. If Freud did not have a dog to deal with his own personal problems would he have come up with his ideas of psychoanalysis? If Wagner did not have a dog would he have written as many works as he did? Part of the problem is like that of all social history, not all of the participants were literate. What is obtained about them is from letters and diaries of others and if lucky, comments in other written works. I found this book to be light, easy reading with numerous vignettes about the dogs of several individuals important in history's timeline.

TheSaint says

Stanley Coren really likes dogs. In fact, *The Pawprints of History* is his fifth book about dogs. His premise is that pet dogs have played significant roles -- usually unwittingly -- in their masters' marks on history. Napoleon disliked dogs, but a Newfoundland saved him from drowning, before he could go on to start the chain of events that led to his defeat at Waterloo. Sigmund Freud noted that when his dogs were present during therapy sessions, patients felt more at ease and their treatment was more successful, leading to the training of therapy dogs in use today. Not particularly well-referenced, this book is a quick and enjoyable read.

Steven Peterson says

This book is more a bon bon than anything substantial. But if you like dogs, you'll find this book a hoot. The premise is simple: dogs have had an impact on history.

The book commences with a chapter on dogs as sentinels. Thereafter, we read stories of the role of dogs in the lives of people as varied as Saint Patrick, Sigmund Freud, Richard Wagner, Charles I, Alexander Graham

Bell, George Washington, Sir Walter Scott, Frederick the Great, Christopher Columbus, George Armstrong Custer, and so on.

In the last chapter, the author asks the question (page 291): "If dogs have had such an influence on human culture and history, it is quite reasonable to ask, why is it that we don't see canine contributions cited in standard political, social, and cultural histories?" The author provides no definitive answer, but his book is a lot of fun to read. Dog lovers will enjoy seeing "The Pawprints of History." One caution: There are a number of very bad factual errors in the chapter on General George Custer; this at least raises in my mind the accuracy of historical accounts elsewhere. But this is still an enchanting book.

TheIron Paw says

While Coren is a well known author about dogs, this book is more about famous people who loved dogs. It is generally easy to read, with some interesting legends and history, but did not really tell me much about dogs per se.

Carter says

Some stories (Chap. 12: The Dog Shogun) were interesting and clearly depicted the dog as an important character. However, there were several stories (Chap. 8: Dogs in the Opera House) where the dogs' presence is trivial and insignificant; it seems as if Coren were reaching to dramatize an otherwise common or inconsequential canine behavior.

SaraKat says

Absolutely fascinating! It mixed my two favorite topics- animals and neat history stories. A must-read for any dog lovers!

Maia says

I was amazed! Napoleon hated dogs, and one saved his life, and wars are won or lost based on the actions of a dog. fascinating.

Michael says

An examination of the effect of dogs on human history. You might be surprised at a few of these stories. And I'm sure there are many more. This guy has written a few other dog-centered books that I will check out.

Georgie Lee says

If you are a dog lover and a history buff, like me, you will love this book. It's an interesting look at how dogs helped shape history and often examines how things might have been different if it weren't for man's best friend.

Mark says

Light reading, some interesting tid-bits but no meat.

Elaine says

This should have been a really gripping read for a dog lover like me, and I did find enough interesting to give it 3 stars, but it really slogged along at times. Coren's thesis is that dogs have changed the course of human history. I am sure they did, and he did have a couple of chapters that that reinforced such a belief, but, first of all, one would expect that a history book would be laid out in chronological order unless there was some other organizing principle, like "dogs in war," "dogs of inventors," "dogs as baby sitters," but there was no organizing principle at all, including no chronological ordering.

Some chapters are really only about famous people who loved dogs or hated them. Napoleon was of the latter persuasion, although a dog rescued him from drowning when he was in Elba. I guess I have to admit that Napoleon wouldn't have gone on to other defeats had this anonymous Newfoundland dragged him from the water.

Other chapters are more to the point, especially the one about how Spanis Conquistadors used legions of attack mastiffs, weighing as much as 135 pounds, to rip Mayan warriors to bits, although I don't think the Mayans would've defeated the Spanish in the long run even without the dogs.

The book takes a fascinating subject and shows that a poor writer can ruin any topic, no matter how inherently interesting it is. Still, dogs are undersung in history books. They are also undersung in considering how civilizations have advanced. Dogs were crucial to the building of culture and nations. Coren's book helps to fill that gap in history by virtue of being one of the few books on that topic. too bad it wasn't a better read.

Jen says

Probably not the best book to read hot on the heels of the newly-released *The Modern Dog*.

Some of the content is identical.

Not that that hasn't happened before with Coren's works...

The Pawprints of History provides more than a few of the same stories used in the aforementioned work, expanding upon them in more detail. The historical accounts here are enough to make individual chapters out

of, rather than just tidbits placed here and there to illustrate other discussions, as in the newer volume.

It's not my favorite work by the author. I really didn't enjoy it as much as his other books. I don't know if that's due to getting both books at the same time, reading the newer one first and following it with this one, or if, as it is just a collection of historical accounts, I just didn't have as much fun reading it. I like history and I enjoy it. Perhaps some of the trouble comes from instances where an account of a dog affecting one historical person was told in more than one place, because said dog and said historical figure also affected another part of history. Therefore, you get to read "both sides" of some stories.

But that only further increases the feeling of déjà vu.

I'm a bit disappointed.

Particularly as most of the stories I'd just read in the other book are all compiled at the end of this one- it's hard to get motivated to want to finish it.
