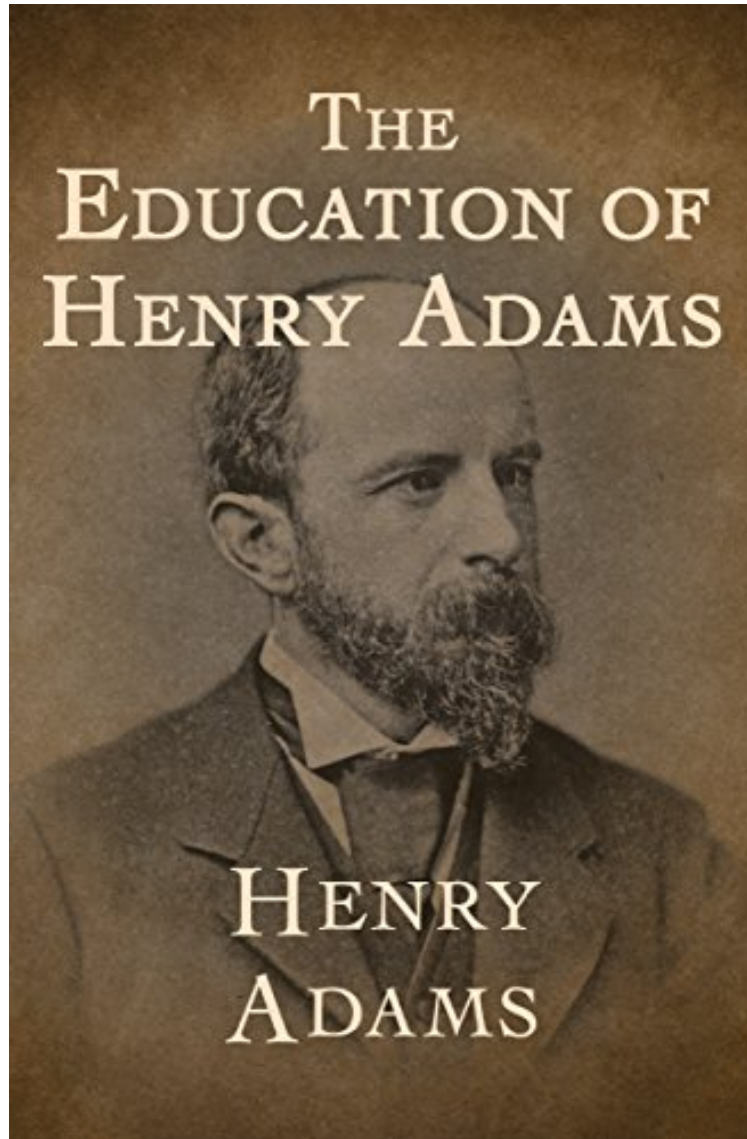


[Download pdf] The Education of Henry Adams (English Edition)

## The Education of Henry Adams (English Edition)

*Von Henry Adams*

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**Von Henry Adams : The Education of Henry Adams (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Education of Henry Adams (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An uneven but rich take on a world in transitionVon Doug VaughnIts funny how some reading experiences encompass more than just the book itself. In the case of Henry Adams autobiographical essay collection, The Education of Henry Adams, I always think of a sunny day in the park. The first time I read the book I was still in High School and believed

that I had an obligation to read all those books that had been identified as "classics". This was one. I read most of it one afternoon while sitting under a large oak tree in Shelby Park in Nashville, TN. I remember contrasting the gloom and pessimism of Adams' thought with the sunny day and the optimistic prospects I believed the future held for me. I argued with him as I read. I thought his reaction to Darwin, for example, was misplaced and in bad faith. I thoroughly disagreed with his argument in the chapter "The Virgin and the Dynamo"; I felt I knew enough about the Middle Ages to prefer living in a time of electric lights, running water, medical science and imperfect democracy than in a hovel in some Medieval village dominated by King and the Roman Catholic Church. I dismissed Henry Adams as a whiner and an educated misfit who had nothing to say to me. It's also funny how the passage of time changes one's perceptions. Rereading the book a couple of decades later I was surprised to find how much Adams and I had in common. I still didn't agree with his particular nostalgia for a time he had never experienced except in his imagination, but his sense of loss, of powerlessness, of the world slipping into some dangerous entropic state, all rang true to me. I also had read enough history of the 19th Century to appreciate more his many insightful anecdotes of the period. The subtlety of his humor and the richness of his writing style I also found appealing. I found this reading to be a much more rewarding experience - and I can't tell you a thing about where I was at the time, except deeply into the book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Adam's cynical view of U.S. history is amusing and brilliant

Von Ein Kunde

Dear Stefi, Now that there is a slight lull in the happy Chestertown merry-go-round, I want to write a paragraph or two explaining why it is one of the most interesting books I have ever read. This is why it is so interesting: It was written about 1906 and covers U.S. intellectual and political history from about 1860 to 1906. What is clever about it is the cynical, humorous sophistication (very un-American) with which he, an insider, regards all of these events. The book, like Montaigne or Rousseau's is an autobiography and, like Montaigne, Adams is of the view that life should above all be amusing, so that any great enterprise should be undertaken only if it is indeed amusing. The driving idea of the book, however, is where to find the truth (you guessed it--he is still searching on the last page). The places where he searches are very intriguing. He begins at Harvard, where, says he, he learned nothing from books and only one thing from the classes: how to get up and talk in front of large crowds of people about nothing. He was required to do this routinely, and his speeches were, like everyone else's, greeted with hissing and criticisms, so he learned not to expect approbation from an audience. Adams got heavily into the debate about evolution (Darwin being the hot topic at the end of the nineteenth century), because he thought it was the main amusement of his era. His position on evolution is "reversion" rather than progress. One of his proofs is a comparison of George Washington and Ulysses S. Grant. He admired Washington (a great general who became a great president); he voted for Grant (a great general). He knew personally the members of Grant's cabinet, thieves or incompetents at best. QED: things are getting worse not better. In his old age (sixty), after many other amusements of a busy lifetime, he decided to do what I did at the age of twenty-two: to visit all the important medieval French cathedrals. (In 1958, I bought a car in Saarbrücken--VW bug--and drove to seventeen of the greatest cathedrals, Guide Michelin in hand, staying at the youth hostels.) His book is peppered with well-digested quotations from French literature; he apparently knew it from top to bottom. His goal was to understand the Middle Ages (unity in the Virgin) and to write two books, one about the unity of the Middle Ages (title: ) and another about the diversity of the twentieth century, . Adam's book has a number of difficult spots (confusing original philosophy and historical references that mean something only to the well-informed historian), but the good parts are worth going on to find. I hope this vignette will persuade you to get through the boring chapters at the beginning of the book on his childhood in Quincy. The narrative becomes interesting only with his stories about the Court of Saint James where he spent his early twenties as a diplomat during the U.S. Civil War. From that point on, I think you will love it as much as I did. Cheers!

Claire

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Pompous, amusing, annoying, erudite . . . Von Ein Kunde (It is certainly exciting that the internet provides a chance for book-lovers to discuss not just new books but classics. People write thoughtful reviews only for the glorious reason of expressing ideas; that certainly gives one hope for humanity. . .) Sometimes H. Adams makes one laugh, other times one just wants to grab him by his starched collar and slap him across the face a few times. Stop whining about the failure of education! One doubts he even KNOWS what he has learned and what he has not! The most frustrating aspect of this book is the fact that the experience which clearly would have caused him to learn the most, the suicide of his wife, is completely omitted. Clearly he did not believe he could discuss such a horrendous event without deviating from his measured, cynical detachment (which is not without its benefits), so he just skips over it! We only know that post 1890 is his "posthumous" period, where he is even more cold and sober than before. Emotional content is sorely lacking in this book. If we are going to relate to someone born into such unique circumstances, we need to find what is human about him, joy and sorrow. Not just amusement and cynicism. Another big problem with the book is the relentless of name-dropping of (now) obscure 19th century poets and esoteric references. It really slows it down for the reader. All that being said, this is a very worthwhile book. Adams has much to teach us about America, if not ourselves. His generalizations are pat but often incisive, his writing is full of 19th century flavor, and he is the insider's insider to D.C. shenanigans. He is full of quips and insights that still hold true today (European perceptions of Americans, the state of British cuisine, etc.) The book is challenging in a good way. Just try fully grasping some of

labrynthian run-on sentences.

KurzbeschreibungThe Modern Library's number-one nonfiction book of the twentieth century and winner of the Pulitzer Prize: The acclaimed memoir of a brilliant man reckoning with an era of profound change The great-grandson of President John Adams and the grandson of President John Quincy Adams, Henry Adams possessed one of the most remarkable minds of his generation. Yet he believed himself fundamentally unsuited to the era in which he livedthe tumultuous period between the Civil War and World War I. One of the finest autobiographies ever written, The Education of Henry Adams is a remarkable and uniquely unclassifiable work. Written in third person and originally circulated in a private edition to friends and family only, it recounts Adams's lifelong search for self-knowledge and moral enlightenment and bears witness to some of the most significant developments in American history. This ebook has been professionally proofread to ensure accuracy and readability on all devices.