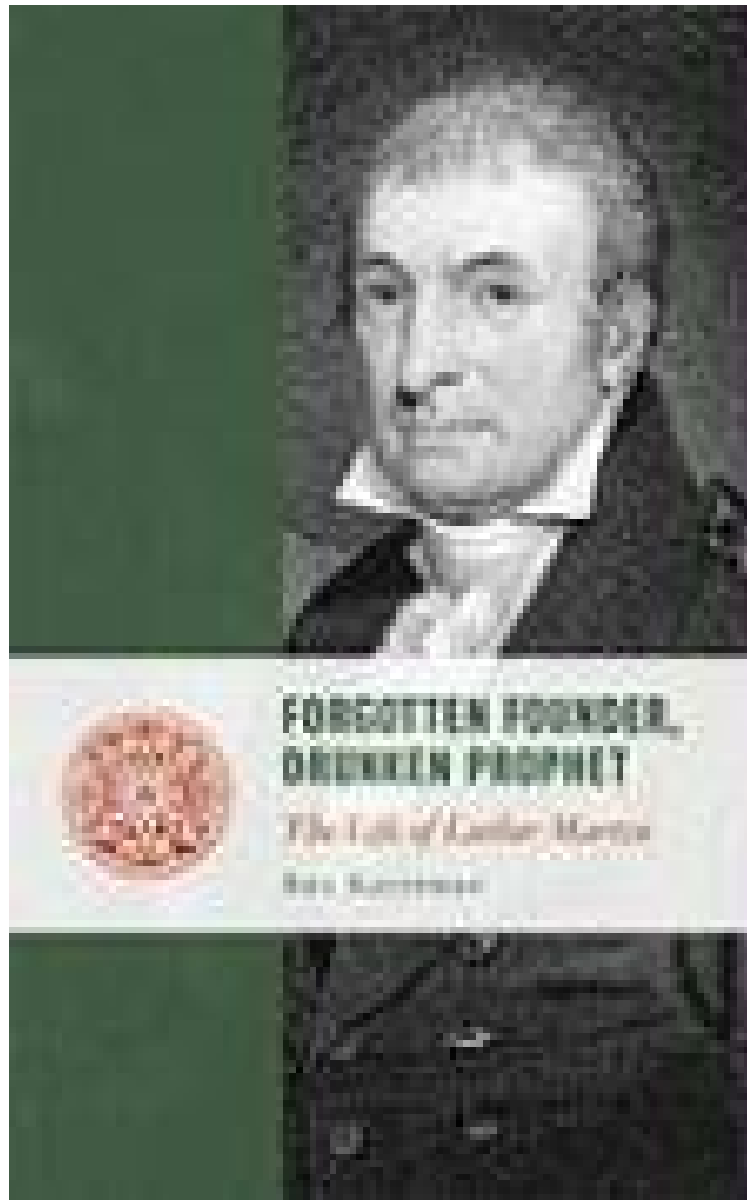


(Download pdf ebook) *Forgotten Founder, Drunken Prophet: The Life of Luther Martin* (Lives of the Founders)

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Bill Kauffman

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Bill Kauffman : Forgotten Founder, Drunken Prophet: The Life of Luther Martin (Lives of the Founders) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forgotten Founder,

Drunken Prophet: The Life of Luther Martin (Lives of the Founders):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fun Read about The Forgotten FounderBy Paulicus MaximusBill Kauffman has written an entertaining book about a Founder that has unfortunately been ignored by history. I had to keep a dictionary handy as Mr. Kauffman's vocabulary is several light year's beyond mine. This is not to say that the fault is with Mr. Kauffman, but is the result of this reader's public schooling. Kauffman brings contemporaneous events and people into the writing, which makes the book a fun read. Too bad Luther Martin has been given a bad rap. He understood human nature, and knew that this new Federal government could not be contained. I could just see Luther Martin and Thomas Paine, hanging out in a bar together, discussing the politics of the day with Bill Kauffman taking notes. Wish I could join them.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent historical biography.By Mimi CoffeyThis great legal mind was a founding father of state's rights. He was a defense lawyer of the highest degree of passion. This is a historical gem, so glad or was written. Posterity needs to understand this important political history as our federal government's power grows. Every constitutional law professor should make this required reading.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Washington, Adams, Franklin, JeffersonBy avidreaderand maybe one or two more are well known. But there are many more very important founding fathers we need to remember. These books really tell us about the forgotten ones and help us appreciate the ones we never got to know. Great contributions from these forgotten men. And the books are interestingly written. Add the entire series to your library.

The Anti-Federalist Luther Martin of Maryland is known to us if he is known at all as the wild man of the Constitutional Convention: a verbose, frequently drunken radical who annoyed the hell out of James Madison, George Washington, Gouverneur Morris, and the other giants responsible for the creation of the Constitution in Philadelphia that summer of 1787. In Bill Kauffman's rollicking account of his turbulent life and times, Martin is still something of a fitfully charming reprobate, but he is also a prophetic voice, warning his heedless contemporaries and his amnesiac posterity that the Constitution, whatever its devisers' intentions, would come to be used as a blueprint for centralized government and a militaristic foreign policy. In Martin's view, the Constitution was the tool of a counterrevolution aimed at reducing the states to ciphers and at fortifying a national government whose powers to tax and coerce would be frightening. Martin delivered the most forceful and sustained attack on the Constitution ever levied—a critique that modern readers might find jarringly relevant. And Martin's post-convention career, though clouded by drink and scandal, found him as defense counsel in two of the great trials of the age: the Senate trial of the impeached Supreme Court justice Samuel Chase and the treason trial of his friend Aaron Burr. Kauffman's Luther Martin is a brilliant and passionate polemicist, a stubborn and admirable defender of a decentralized republic who fights for the principles of 1776 all the way to the last ditch and last drop. In remembering this forgotten founder, we remember also the principles that once animated many of the earliest and many later American patriots.

From BooklistIt figures that local patriot Kauffman is skeptical about the Constitution, which, after all, subjected the states to a huge, remote setup in New York City, then Philadelphia, then the fever swamps of the Potomac. Luther Martin (1748-1826), a Maryland delegate to the convention that drafted the Constitution, vigorously opposed its centralizing tendencies in a two-day argument against it. When he saw his was a losing battle, like other delegates since contradictorily called Antifederalist (they were for the strong state and limited central governments of true federalism), he went home to fight ratification. He was scathingly counterattacked, though primarily for his well-known bibulousness, and gave back (mostly) better than he got, by Kauffman's lights. After the Constitution prevailed, he settled down to strictly construct it. Maryland's longest-serving attorney general, Martin also successfully defended Supreme Court justice Samuel Chase and former vice president Aaron Burr in the two highest-profile political trials in early U.S. history. Kauffman, the liveliest conservative wit of our time, tells Martin's story with great relish and principled rue for federalism lost. --Ray OlsonAbout the AuthorBill Kauffman is the author of seven previous books, among them *Aint My America*; *Look Homeward, America* (ISI Books), which the American Library Association named one of the best books of 2006; and *Dispatches from the Muckdog Gazette*, which won the 2003 national Sense of Place Award from Writers Books. Kauffman writes for the *Wall Street Journal*, the *American Conservative*, and *Orion*, among other publications. He lives in his native Genesee County, New York, with his wife and daughter.