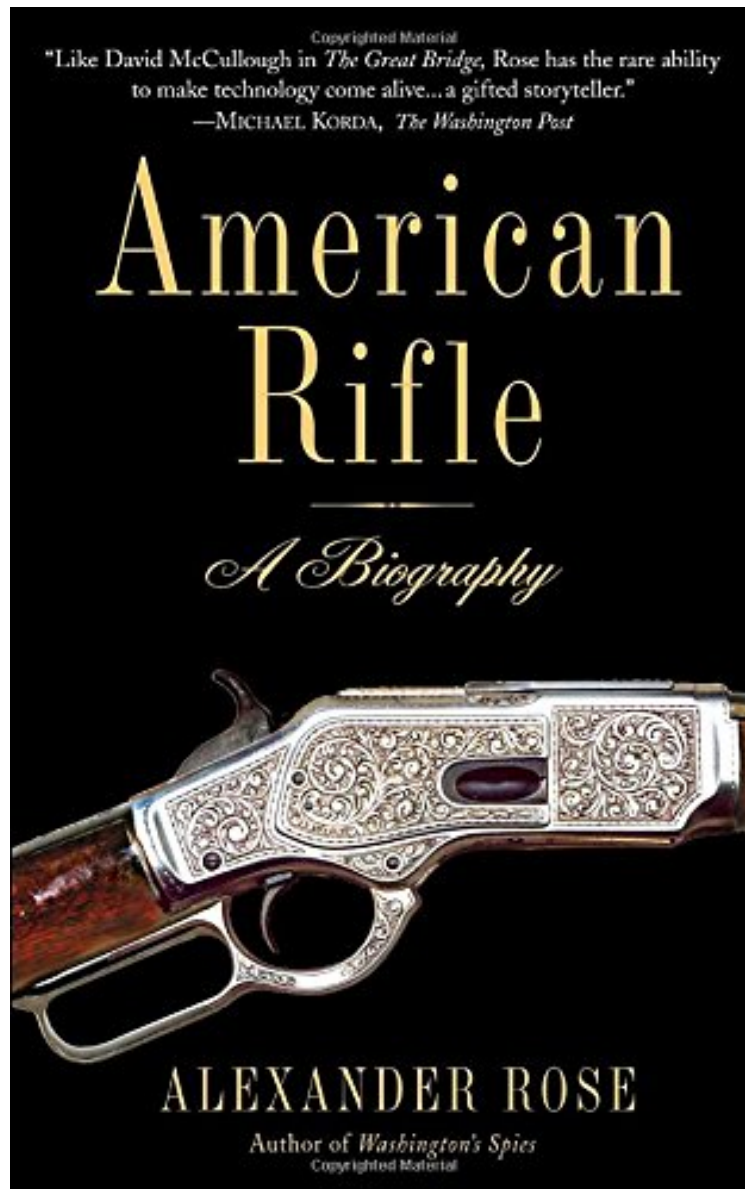


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American Rifle: A Biography

Alexander Rose

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Alexander Rose : American Rifle: A Biography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Rifle: A Biography:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A long-overlooked piece of American history By FPK15B When my wife gave me this book for Christmas, my first thought was "A biography? Of the rifle?" Two days later, when I

surfaced from reading it cover to cover during every spare moment, I thought "Brilliant book!" and "Brilliant wife!" This book is an absolute must read for anyone interested in firearms and their place in American society. I began reading thinking I knew quite a bit about the rifle--thanks to growing up in the American West, the Marine Corps, and many years as a cop. I finished this wonderfully well-written biography with a better understanding of how and why the rifle has been an integral part of our nation's social, technological, military and political evolution. Bryan Vila, Ph.D. Co-author *Micronesian Blues* Co-author *The Role of Police in American Society: A Documentary History* (Primary Documents in American History and Contemporary Issues) 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Real Deal about "our weapons". By Mark C. Evitts Wanna "know" what you're talking about when it comes to the history of American firearms? Well pilgrim read this book. The transition from the M-1 Garand to the M-16 is especially well described and heart breaking because of the way it was introduced to fighting men in Vietnam. The difference of stick and ball gunpowder in this weapon's ammunition needs to be exposed as one of the root causes of its fail to fire blues. And to all who lionize the M-14 (the stopgap between the M-1 and the M-16) the true story of why the M-14 and why it was an inferior weapon as opposed to the communist AK. A damn good read IMHO. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. What a wonderful history By J. Tant This is a terrific work, well researched and engaging. One of the best parts of this format is that the references are hotlinked within the text. In other words, when a passage in the book refers to a research work the author used, the superscript is a hotlink to the references section, where the reader may get more information on the passage. There is a handy link in the references page which then returns the reader to the passage. Very nice, especially in a work like this. As for the book itself, it did suffer from some formatting issues, mainly hyphenated words which, in the original, were obviously at the end of a line. However, this only distracted me a little. The content is informative and engaging, the conclusions drawn are apt, and the history given was, at least for me, something not commonly taught or learned. I appreciated Mr. Rose's efforts with this book and look forward to reading more of his works.

George Washington insisted that his portrait be painted with one. Daniel Boone created a legend with one. Abraham Lincoln shot them on the White House lawn. And Teddy Roosevelt had his specially customized. In this first-of-its-kind book, historian Alexander Rose delivers a colorful, engrossing biography of an American icon: the rifle. Drawing on the words of foot soldiers, inventors, and presidents, based on extensive new research, and spanning from the Revolution to the present day, *American Rifle* is a balanced, wonderfully entertaining history of the rifle and its place in American culture.

.com Best of the Month, October 2008: Given the title, *American Rifle* is a book that many potential readers might dismiss without a thought. Don't do it: Alexander Rose's peculiar "biography" is not written for gun enthusiasts--though they'll certainly enjoy it--but for anyone interested American history from George Washington to the Wild West to Iraq. Drawing on original sources ranging from Samuel Colt to the soldiers who depend on the weapon the most, this book is an exhaustive history of the rifle's place in American culture, not only as an instrument of war, but also as a driver of technological innovation and advances in mass production that helped propel the United States into its role as both a military and economic superpower. Once you start, *American Rifle* will have to be pried from your cold, dead hands before you put it down. --Jon Foro From Publishers Weekly In this solid history, Rose (Washington's Spies) explores the development of the rifle, such as how it evolved in American history to become an iconic symbol of freedom and how it developed as an effective military instrument as well as a private citizen's firearm. Drawing on numerous primary sources, from letters and journals of ordinary soldiers to the writings of inventors such as Samuel Colt, Rose traces the rise of the rifle from its original use as a hunting tool and a means of defense and protection to its eventual use as an offensive weapon in wars of conquest. Loaded with facts, the book reveals that firearms didn't come into their own in the colonies until 1609, when Samuel de Champlain led his men on a raid of the Mohawks. In their increasing contact with European adventurers and traders, Native Americans recognized the power of firearms and cannily traded for such weapons. By the early 18th century, gunsmiths of German extraction invented a rifle that had greater accuracy and distance than muskets. The Kentucky rifle, so named because it's rumored that Daniel Boone carried one of these early rifles in his travels around the frontier, was easier to load and could drop a bear, or a British soldier, in fewer shots and at a more distant range than a musket. In his entertaining history, Rose engagingly chronicles Americans' peculiar quest to build a more refined and effective firearm. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Properly, this is a history of the development of the American military rifle, a story that begins with frontiersmen bringing their personal weapons to the fight, then a government with varying degrees of reluctance developing the capability to arm large numbers of fighting men. Historian Rose (*American Spies*) is at his best with the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Civil wars, explaining in great but absorbing detail the intricacies of flintlock vs. musket vs. percussion rifle, smoothbore vs. rifling, muzzle loader vs. breech loader. He's intimate with the various pioneering gunsmiths and the growing trend toward industrialization of warfare throughout the 19th century. A constant theme is the endless, excruciating debate between those who desire an army of highly trained marksmen as opposed to those who plump for firepower. He's

brief and less convincing, though well documented, about the 20th century, particularly post—World War II armaments, although the development of the AR-16 as a challenger to the AK-47 makes an interesting comparison. Recommended for most libraries, this will find readers among historians, militarists, gun enthusiasts, and Americana buffs. Includes extensive footnotes and a lengthy bibliography. —Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army Combined Arms Research Lib., Fort Leavenworth, KS Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.