



Suggested Reading: Eleanor Roosevelt

Compiled by Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.

Eleanor Roosevelt Vol. 1: 1884-1933 and Volume 2: The Defining Years, 1933-1938 by Blanche Wiesen Cook (1993 and 2002). These landmark biographies provide a fresh, compelling evaluation of one of the most inspiring women in American political history. Thoroughly researched. Cooks paints a portrait of a very real Eleanor Roosevelt – warts and all.

Eleanor and Franklin by Joseph P. Lash (1971, repr. 2014). This exhausting (930-page) but masterful book is primarily an examination of her life with Franklin. A *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Awards. Lash was a political activist-turned-historian who formed a close lifelong friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt.

The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt by Eleanor Roosevelt (1961, repr. 2014). Although Eleanor sometimes glosses over, or even omits, crucial details, her autobiography is remarkable for its energy, frankness, insight, tolerance, and range of view. Not necessarily the best book as a first biography but essential for anyone who really wants to understand her.

No Ordinary Time, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II by Doris Kearns Goodwin (1994). Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History, this parallel biography focuses on the inner workings of the Roosevelt White House during the war. Goodwin has a novelist's grasp of drama and tells the story in a highly readable manner. Paints a compelling portrait of extraordinary people during a decidedly unordinary time.

Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage by Hazel Rowley (2011). Not so much a dual biography as a stunning exploration of an unconventional marriage. Rowley cuts through myths to portray a much stronger and more flexible marriage than previous biographers saw. Highly readable. Depicts an amazing evolution--- from a conventional Victorian marriage to a bold and radical partnership.

The Roosevelts: An Intimate History by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns (2014). A vivid portrait that expands on the hugely acclaimed seven-part PBS documentary series. Weaves together the lives and careers of Teddy Roosevelt, his cousin Franklin, and Franklin's wife, Eleanor (who was also Teddy's niece). Notable especially for its many brilliant photographs.