

Synopsis

Rights of Man presents an impassioned defense of the Enlightenment principles of freedom and equality that Thomas Paine believed would soon sweep the world. He boldly claimed, "From a small spark, kindled in America, a flame has arisen, not to be extinguished. Without consuming... it winds its progress from nation to nation." Though many more sophisticated thinkers argued for the same principles, and many people died in the attempt to realize them, no one was better able than Paine to articulate them in a way that fired the hopes and dreams of the common man and actually stirred him to revolutionary political action.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

... is what it is, the most stirring defense of the French Revolution and the most cogent assault on monarchical and aristocratic institutions ever penned. In it Thomas Paine, whose American pamphlets had made a powerful contribution to the quest for independence, explicated his vision of a republican government with the powers to administer social programs to remedy poverty through progressive, redistributive tax measures. Unfortunately, Paine marred his profundity by including pages of diatribe against "Jewish" financiers. It's painful to find such an ugly blemish on one of my lifelong intellectual heroes. Perhaps, when I read *The Rights of Man* on the page, decades ago, I selectively skimmed such unfortunately passages. Ignored them. Erased them from my mind as quickly as I turned the next page. Hearing them read, however, with elegant elocution and immaculate intelligibility by Arthur Morey, I had to accept the fact of Paine's human fallibility. I won't

even bother with the usual apology, that he was "a man of his times". His anti-Semitism was false and shallow. Arthur Morey has recorded well over 100 audio books, from "A Praying Life" by Paul Miller, to "Ada, or Ardor" by Vladimir Nabokov, to "The Most Dangerous Man in America: Rush Limbaugh's Assault on Reason" by John Wilson. Morey has a "Stradivarius" voice, perfect for radio and audio books. His clarity of pronunciation is extraordinary. He never hams or overwhelms the text with mannerisms, yet he always seems to find the right modulation of tone to express the text with feeling. If you have a use for audio books, Morey's participation as the Reader is a guarantee of lucidity.

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