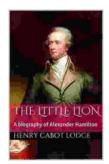
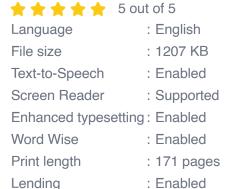
# The Little Lion: A Comprehensive Biography of Alexander Hamilton



### The Little Lion: A biography of Alexander Hamilton

by Henry Cabot Lodge





Alexander Hamilton was a Founding Father of the United States, a brilliant military strategist, a gifted orator, and a visionary statesman. His life was a remarkable journey that spanned the American Revolution, the Constitutional Convention, and the early years of the new republic. This biography explores the complexities of Hamilton's character, his contributions to American history, and his enduring legacy.

# **Early Life**

Alexander Hamilton was born on January 11, 1755, on the Caribbean island of Nevis. His father was a Scottish merchant, and his mother was a French Huguenot. Hamilton's parents died when he was young, and he was raised by his maternal grandparents. He received a good education and developed a passion for reading and writing.

In 1772, Hamilton traveled to New York City to attend King's College (now Columbia University). He soon became involved in the growing movement for American independence. He wrote articles and gave speeches criticizing British colonial policies. In 1775, he joined the New York militia and fought in the Battle of Long Island.

### **Military Career**

Hamilton's military career began inauspiciously. He was captured by the British at the Battle of Long Island and spent several months as a prisoner of war. However, he was eventually exchanged and returned to the Continental Army. He quickly rose through the ranks and became a trusted aide to General George Washington.

Hamilton played a key role in many of the most important battles of the American Revolution, including the Battle of Trenton, the Battle of Princeton, and the Battle of Yorktown. He was also instrumental in the development of the Continental Army's artillery corps.

#### **Constitutional Convention**

After the American Revolution, Hamilton was elected to the Continental Congress. He was a strong advocate for a stronger central government. He played a key role in the Constitutional Convention of 1787, where he helped to draft the Constitution of the United States.

Hamilton was a strong supporter of the Constitution, but he also had some reservations. He believed that the Constitution did not go far enough in creating a strong central government. He also worried that the Bill of Rights did not adequately protect individual liberties.

## **Secretary of the Treasury**

After the ratification of the Constitution, Hamilton was appointed the first Secretary of the Treasury by President George Washington. He served in this role from 1789 to 1795. During his tenure, Hamilton established the nation's financial system, including the Bank of the United States and the national debt.

Hamilton's financial policies were controversial, but they helped to establish the United States as a stable and prosperous country. He also played a key role in the development of the nation's foreign policy. He was a strong advocate for neutrality in the French Revolution and opposed the Jay Treaty with Great Britain.

#### **Political Career**

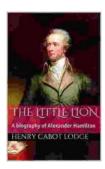
Hamilton was a prominent figure in the Federalist Party. He served as the party's leader in the House of Representatives and was a close advisor to President John Adams. However, Hamilton's political career was cut short by his death in a duel with Aaron Burr in 1804.

Hamilton was a brilliant and ambitious man. He was a gifted orator, a skilled writer, and a visionary statesman. He made significant contributions to American history, and his legacy continues to shape the country today.

# Legacy

Alexander Hamilton is considered one of the most important figures in American history. He was a Founding Father, a brilliant military strategist, a gifted orator, and a visionary statesman. He made significant contributions to the development of the Constitution, the financial system, and the foreign policy of the United States.

Hamilton's legacy is complex and controversial. He was a brilliant and ambitious man who sometimes made enemies. However, he was also a devoted husband and father, and he was deeply committed to the cause of American independence. He is remembered as one of the greatest Americans who ever lived.



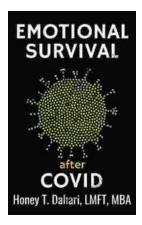
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