

# Titan: The Life of John Rockefeller Sr.

John Davison Rockefeller Sr. was an American industrialist, philanthropist, and the founder of Standard Oil. He is widely considered to be the wealthiest American of all time and the richest person in modern history.



## **Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller, Sr.** by Ron Chernow

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 834 pages



Rockefeller was born in Richford, New York, on July 8, 1839. His father was a traveling salesman and his mother was a devout Baptist. Rockefeller had a strict upbringing and was taught the value of hard work and thrift at a young age.

Rockefeller began his business career as a clerk in a Cleveland, Ohio, wholesale grocery firm. In 1863, he founded his own oil refining company, Standard Oil. Rockefeller quickly grew Standard Oil into a monopoly, and by the early 1880s, he controlled 90% of the oil refining business in the United States.

Rockefeller's business practices were often ruthless, and he was accused of using anti-competitive tactics to drive his competitors out of business. However, he also became known for his philanthropy, and he donated millions of dollars to educational, religious, and medical institutions.

Rockefeller retired from Standard Oil in 1897, but he remained active in business and philanthropy until his death in 1937. He left behind a fortune of over \$1 billion, and his descendants continue to control a significant portion of the wealth he amassed.

## **Early Life and Education**

John Davison Rockefeller Sr. was born on July 8, 1839, in Richford, New York. His father, William Avery Rockefeller, was a traveling salesman and his mother, Eliza Davison Rockefeller, was a devout Baptist.

Rockefeller had a strict upbringing and was taught the value of hard work and thrift at a young age. He attended public schools in Richford and Cleveland, Ohio, and then enrolled in Folsom's Commercial College in Cleveland.

Rockefeller graduated from Folsom's Commercial College in 1855 and began working as a clerk in a Cleveland wholesale grocery firm. He quickly rose through the ranks and became a partner in the firm in 1863.

## **Standard Oil**

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## **Philanthropy**

Rockefeller was a major philanthropist, and he donated millions of dollars to educational, religious, and medical institutions. He founded the University of Chicago, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Rockefeller's philanthropy was motivated by his belief that the wealthy had a responsibility to help those less fortunate. He said, "I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty."

Rockefeller's philanthropy has had a lasting impact on the world. The University of Chicago is one of the leading research universities in the world, and the Rockefeller Foundation has supported major advances in public health and education.

## **Legacy**

John D. Rockefeller Sr. is one of the most influential figures in American history. He was a ruthless businessman who built a vast fortune, but he

was also a major philanthropist who donated millions of dollars to worthy causes.

Rockefeller's legacy is complex and controversial. He is admired for his business acumen and his philanthropy, but he is also criticized for his ruthless business practices.

Despite the controversy, there is no doubt that Rockefeller was a major force in American history. He helped to shape the American economy and the American social landscape.

## Bibliography

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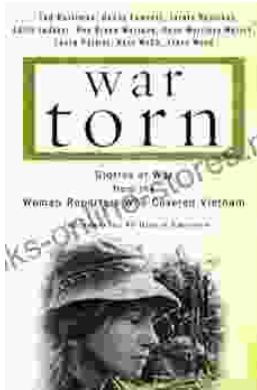
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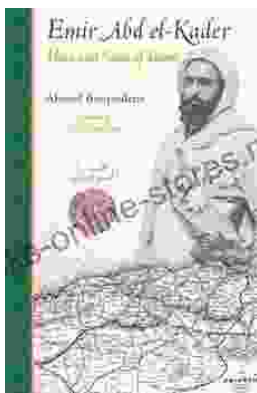
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