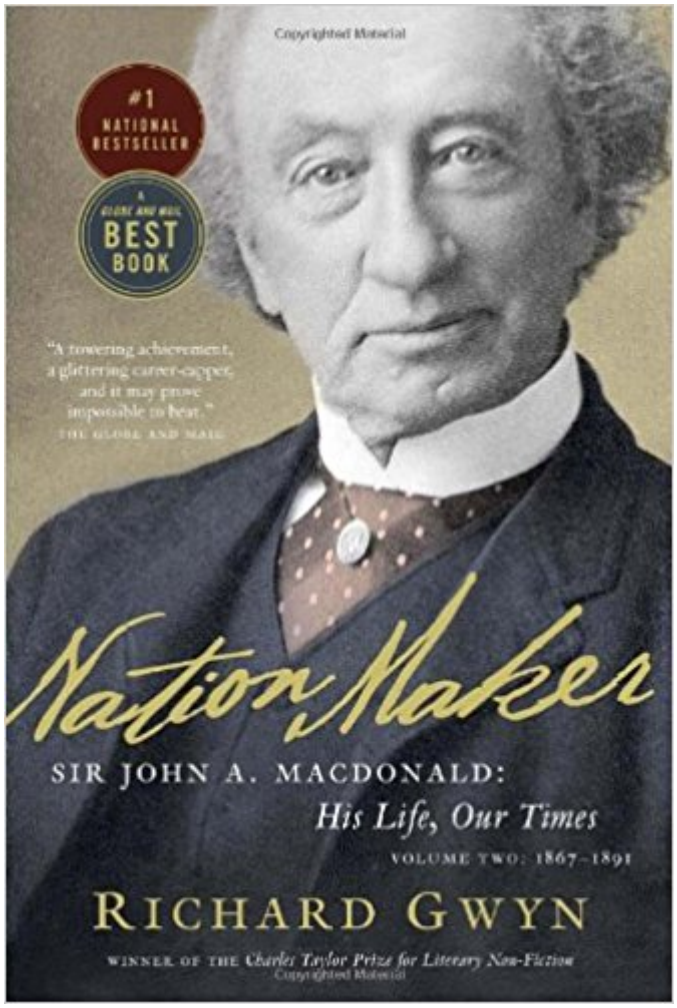
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Nation Maker: Sir John A. Macdonald: His Life, Our Times



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Synopsis

#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLERJohn A. Macdonald, Canada's first and most important prime minister, is the man who made Confederation happen, who built this country over the next quarter century, and who shaped what it is today. From Confederation Day in 1867, where this volume picks up, Macdonald finessed a reluctant union of four provinces in central and eastern Canada into a strong nation, despite indifference from Britain and annexationist sentiment in the United States.Ã Â But it wasn't easy. Gwyn paints a superb portrait of Canada and its leaders through these formative years and also delves deep to show us Macdonald the man, as he marries for the second time, deals with the birth of a disabled child, and the assassination of his close friend Darcy McGee, and wrestles with whether Riel should hang. Indelibly, Gwyn shows us Macdonald's love of this country and his ability to joust with forces who would have been just as happy to see the end of Canada before it had really begun, creating a must-read for all Canadians.

Book Information

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impossible to beat." The Globe and Mail"Writing with his usual elegance and insight, Richard Gwyn has done full justice to the man whose own story is inextricably interwoven with that of Canada." Margaret MacMillan, author of Paris 1919

RICHARD GWYN is an award-winning author and political columnist. He is widely known as a commentator for the Toronto Star on national and international affairs and as a frequent contributor to television and radio programs. His books include two highly praised biographies, Smallwood: The Unlikely Revolutionary on Newfoundland premier Joey Smallwood, and The Northern Magus on Pierre Elliott Trudeau. His book, Nationalism Without Walls: The Unbearable Lightness of Being Canadian, was selected by the Literary Review of Canada as one of the 100 most important books published in Canada.The first volume of Gwyn's biography of Macdonald was published in 2007, became a national bestseller and won the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. The author lives in Toronto, ON.

Wanting to learn about Macdonald's wife is what enticed me to the book. I loved all of it. It was eye opening in terms of how the railroad terms were worked out. Learning about the persons of John Macdonald, his wife and daughter was all new to me. I also loved to learn how inclusive Macdonald was and what brought settlers to Canada...not guns and gold.

The author has done an excellent job of creating a detailed view of Sir John but also an excellent overview of the beginnings of Canada .This book along with his first book should be recommended reading for school history classes because he encapsulates all the changes that occurred in British NA from the War of 1812 on until the 1890's.Our history has been told in a masterful easy to read way hitting all the right areas without being pedantic .I was aware of much of the material but Gyn has managed to bring out all the subtleties 0f the times

This was one of the best history books I have read in years. Terrific insights into the politics and life of those times and the personality that was Sir John A. Wonderfully written, never dull, the sections about Louis Riel particularly poignant. And above all, to realize how close we came to becoming part of the USA - but didn't - was astonishing to behold. Lots to learn and appreciate from this terrific book.

Mr. Gwyn did an excellent job capturing and expressing the essence and times of Sir John A. He

was correct from the onset that we need more literature and work on our history and our leaders. This very well written book is an excellent start down that path.

Sir John A. Macdonald really comes to life in this account. The author includes the human-interest material as well as the chronological account of history, making it a very interesting read.Its unsettling to learn that the same political shenanigans taht we see today went on back then!!

Bought for my mother - a history buff and former Canadian citizen. She loved it.

I seldom become enthused by a biography but Richard Gwyn has provided a masterful study of the man who made Canada a nation. I don't think I've ever used the word riveting with a biography but this one is.

Equally enjoyable and epic, Gwyn's two tome account of the life and times of John A. taught me much about MacDonald, but probably more about Canada.

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