



GEORGE WASHINGTON



George Washington (1732-99) was commander in chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War (1775-83) and served two terms as the first U.S. president, from 1789 to 1797. The son of a prosperous planter, Washington was raised in colonial Virginia. As a young man, he worked as a surveyor then fought in the French and Indian War (1754-63). During the American Revolution, he led the colonial forces to victory over the British and became a national hero. In 1787, he was elected president of the convention that wrote the U.S. Constitution. Two years later, Washington became America's first president. Realizing that the way he handled the job would impact how future presidents approached the position, he handed down a legacy of strength, integrity and national purpose. Less than three years after leaving office, he died at his Virginia plantation, Mount Vernon, at age 67



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George Washington

Great Leaders Series by Indian Institute of Governance

Let us learn how George Washington gained knowledge on various situations in his life. And also learn how he managed to use his wisdom gained through knowledge & experience acquired in various occasions. Let us also see how re-engineered himself towards various developments and for the welfare of his nation.

Legends used: Words in

D¹ represents **Knowledge / Leadership Tactics**

D² represents **Governance**

D³ represents **RE-ENGINEERING**

D⁰ represents **Self Evolution**

D¹ Knowledge Gaining

Let us learn how he gained knowledge and wisdom in his early life and adult life.

Washington received his primary education at a nearby churchyard school and then was sent to a boarding school 30 miles away. He enjoyed learning about the practical world (how to count one's goods and be a good gentleman farmer), but was not versed in the literary classics of the day, nor did he excel in reading or languages. In Washington's early teens his formal education came to an end.

Through his acquaintance with backwoodsmen and the plantation foreman George Washington used much of his knowledge from this to the rest of

Photo Gallery



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his life. ^{D1} *He proved to be a versatile person by his early teen by growing tobacco, stock raising and surveying.*

Under Anne Fairfax tutorage, George was schooled in the finer aspects of colonial culture. In 1748, when he was 16, George traveled with a surveying party plotting land in Virginia's western territory.

For over 200 years, Washington has been acclaimed as indispensable to the success of the Revolution and the birth of the nation. But his most important legacy may be that he insisted he was dispensable, asserting that ^{D2} *the cause of liberty was larger than any single individual.*

D1 Leadership

^{D1} *Washington could have been a king. Instead, he chose to be a citizen. He set many precedents for the national government and the presidency:*

French and Indian War (1754-62)

The Ohio Company was an important vehicle through which British investors planned to expand into the Ohio Valley, opening new settlements and trading posts for the Indian trade. In 1753, the French themselves began expanding their military control into the Ohio Country, a territory already claimed by the British colonies of Virginia and Pennsylvania. These competing claims led to a war in the colonies called the French and Indian War, and contributed to the start of the global Seven Years' War (1756–63). By chance, Washington became involved in its beginning.

On October 31, 1753, Virginia's Lieutenant Governor, Dinwiddie sent Washington to Fort Le Boeuf, at what is now Waterford, Pennsylvania, to warn the French to remove themselves from land claimed by Britain.

¹ *During his trip Washington met with Tanacharison (also called "Half-King") and other Iroquois chiefs allied with England at Logstown to secure their support in case of a military conflict with the French—indeed Washington and Tanacharison became friends.*

Visionary Leadership Segment I



Toughness

Persistence

Incredible bravery

Organization

Sites to refer

<http://americanfoundingspot.in/2008/07/leadership-qualities-of-george.html>

<http://www.centerforworklife.com/george-washingtons-leadership-qualities/>

<http://www.military-history.org/intel/george-washington.htm>

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¹Historian Joseph Ellis concludes that the Battle of Jumonville Glen demonstrated Washington's bravery, initiative, inexperience and impetuosity.

These events had international consequences; the French accused Washington of assassinating Jumonville, who they claimed was on a diplomatic mission. Both France and Great Britain were ready to fight for control of the Ohio Valley and both sent troops to North America in 1755; war was formally declared in 1756.

^{D1}To illustrate Persistence - A lesser man would've resigned himself to failure and ignominy after the terrible debacle at Fort Necessity. Not Washington. He politically and painstakingly maneuvered his way back into the war as a member of General Braddock's staff, which gave him an opportunity at personal redemption and to showcase the next quality of his leadership....

In 1755, Washington became the senior American aide to British General Edward Braddock on the ill-fated Braddock expedition. This was the largest British expedition to the colonies, and was intended to expel the French from the Ohio Country; the first objective was the capture of Fort Duquesne.

^{D1}To illustrate Toughness - Washington was, in every respect, a rugged frontiersman from an early age. He endured hardship on the frontier and survived several health challenges, including a major bout with dysentery. Washington was as hardy and downright "tough" as they came.

^{D1}To illustrate Incredible bravery - Washington repeatedly exposed himself to danger, at one point even charging his horse between lines of his own men who were mistakenly firing volleys at one another! During Braddock's infamous march and defeat, Washington was among the only mounted officers to emerge unscathed.

Awards & achievements



As Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, hero of the revolution and the first president of the United States, George Washington's legacy remains among the greatest in American history.

Washington set many precedents for the national government, and the presidency in particular, and was called the "Father of His Country" as early as 1778

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D1 *In the Battle of the Monongahela despite his lingering illness, he demonstrated much bravery and stamina—he had two horses shot from underneath him, while his coat was pierced with four bullets.*

The Virginia Regiment was the first full-time American military unit in the colonies (as opposed to part-time militias and the British regular units). Washington was ordered to "act defensively or offensively" as he thought best.

D1 Organization - Though these years were frustrating for him, Washington had to contend, on a regular basis, with matters of supply, morale, discipline, and communication. He developed critical experience in organizing and managing troops under his command.

George Washington was courageous and determined and smart enough to keep one step ahead of the enemy.

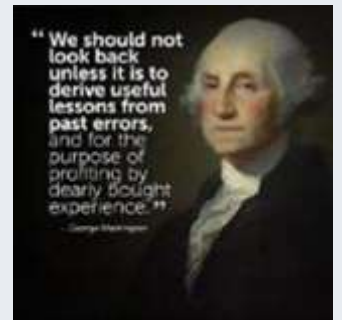
However, in 1787, he was asked to attend the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and head the committee to draft the new constitution. His impressive leadership there convinced the delegates that he was by far the most qualified man to become the nation's first president.

George Washington died late in the evening of December 14, 1799. The news of his death spread throughout the country, plunging the nation into a deep mourning. Many towns and cities held mock funerals and presented hundreds of eulogies to honor their fallen hero.

When the news of this death reached Europe, the British fleet paid tribute to his memory, and Napoleon ordered ten days of mourning.

Washington left one of the most enduring legacies of any American in history. Known as the "Father of His Country," his face appears on the U.S. dollar bill and quarter, and hundreds of U.S. schools and towns, as well as the nation's capital city, are named for him.

Quotes



"Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism."

"Experience teaches us that it is much easier to prevent an enemy from posting themselves than it is to dislodge them after they have got possession."

"Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble."



D2 Governance

Let us see some of the people centric governance aspects applied by George Washington during his time.

D2 *When in command of a thousand soldiers, Washington was a disciplinarian who emphasized training.*

He led his men in brutal campaigns against the Indians in the west; in 10 months his regiment fought 20 battles, and lost a third of its men.

D2 *Washington's strenuous efforts meant that Virginia's frontier population suffered less than that of other colonies;*

Ellis concludes "it was his only unqualified success" in the war. He also entered politics and was elected to Virginia's House of Burgesses in 1758.

D2 *Though the British Proclamation Act of 1763—prohibiting settlement beyond the Alleghenies—irritated him and he opposed the Stamp Act of 1765,*

On June 15 1775, he was appointed Major General and Commander-in-Chief of the colonial forces against Great Britain.

D0 *Washington was the best choice for a number of reasons: he had the prestige, military experience and charisma for the job and **D2** he had been advising Congress for months.*

D2 *Another factor was political. Washington proved to be a better general than military strategist. His strength lay not in his genius on the battlefield but in his ability to keep the struggling colonial army together.*

The Revolution had started in New England and at the time, they were the only colonies that had directly felt the blunt of British tyranny.

Governance Segment 2



- His system of governance was people centric
- He kept people together either in war or otherwise
- He carefully attended to the responsibilities and duties of his office, remaining vigilante to not emulate any European royal court.
- George Washington proved to be an able administrator.
- He delegated authority wisely
- He consulted regularly his cabinet
- He always maintained highest integrity, exercising power with restraint and honesty.

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Virginia was the largest British colony and deserved recognition and New England needed Southern support.

Political considerations and force of personality aside, George Washington was not necessarily qualified to wage war on the world's most powerful nation. Washington's training and experience were primarily in frontier warfare involving small numbers of soldiers. He wasn't trained in the open-field style of battle practiced by the commanding British generals. He had no practical experience maneuvering large formations of infantry, commanding cavalry or artillery, or maintaining the flow of supplies for thousands of men in the field.

In August 1776, the British army launched an attack and quickly took New York City in the largest battle of the war. Washington's army was routed and suffered the surrender of 2,800 men. ² *He ordered the remains of his army to retreat across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania.*

Over the course of the grueling eight-year war, the colonial forces won few battles but consistently held their own against the British.

In October 1781, with the aid of the French (who allied themselves with the colonists over their rivals the British) the Continental forces were able to capture British troops under General Charles Cornwallis (1738-1805) in Yorktown, Virginia. ¹² *This action effectively ended the Revolutionary War and ¹Washington was declared a national hero.*

Washington formally bade his troop's farewell and on December 23, 1783, he resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the army and returned to Mount Vernon.

Mr. President

Quotes



“The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible.”

“Real men despise battle, but will never run from it.”

“Let your conversation be without malice or envy, for it is a sign of a tractable and commendable nature; and in all cases of passion admit reason to govern.”

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D2 *When George Washington became President in 1789, he crystallized the power of the presidency as a part of the government's three branches, able to exercise authority when necessary, but also accept the balance of power inherent in the system*

He preferred the title "Mr. President," instead of more imposing names that were suggested.

D2 *He surrounded himself with some of the most capable people in the country, appointing Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury and Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State. He consulted regularly with his cabinet listening to their advice before making a decision. Washington established broad-ranging presidential authority, but always with the highest integrity, exercising power with restraint and honesty.*

In doing so, he set a standard rarely met by his successors, but one that established an ideal by which all are judged.

D2 *As Treasury secretary, Alexander Hamilton pushed for a strong national government and an economy built in industry. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson desired to keep government small and center power more at the local level, where citizen's freedom could be better protected. He envisioned an economy based on farming.*

Those who followed Hamilton's vision took the name Federalists and people who opposed those ideas and tended to lean toward Jefferson's view began calling themselves Democratic-Republicans. **D1** *Washington despised political partisanship, believing that ideological differences should never become institutionalized.*

In 1796, after two terms as president and declining to serve a third term, Washington finally retired. **D2** *In his farewell address, he urged the new*

Quotes



"We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience."

"Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all"

"It is substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government."

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nation to maintain the highest standards domestically and to keep involvement with foreign powers to a minimum.

The address is still read each February in the U.S. Senate to commemorate Washington's Birthday.

Upon returning to Mount Vernon in the spring of 1797, Washington felt a reflective sense of relief and accomplishment. **D2** *He had left the government in capable hands, at peace, its debts well-managed, and set on a course of prosperity.*

D3 TRANSFORMATION

Let us see some of the re-engineering strategies applied for the transformation of the people around by George Washington during his time.

Washington did not take a leading role in the growing colonial resistance against the British until the widespread protest of the Townshend Acts in 1767. His letters of this period indicate he was totally opposed to the colonies declaring independence. However, by 1767, he wasn't opposed to resisting what he believed were fundamental violations by the Crown of the rights of Englishmen.

D3 *In 1769, Washington introduced a resolution to the House of Burgesses calling for Virginia to boycott British goods until the Acts were repealed.*

After the passage of the Intolerable Acts in 1774, Washington chaired a meeting in which the Fairfax Resolves were adopted calling for the convening of the Continental Congress and the use of armed resistance as a last resort. He was selected as a delegate to the First Continental Congress in March 1775.

After the battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, the political dispute

Video Gallery



Climbing Military Ranks 1



Early War Experience 1



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between Great Britain and her North American colonies escalated into an armed conflict.

D3 *In May 1775, Washington traveled to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia dressed in a military uniform, indicating that he was prepared for war.*

Washington and his small army did taste victory early in March 1776 by placing artillery above Boston, on Dorchester Heights, forcing the British to withdraw. Washington then moved his troops into New York City. But in June, a new British commander, Sir William Howe, arrived in the Colonies with the largest expeditionary force Britain had ever deployed to date.

D3 *On Christmas night, 1776, Washington and his men crossed the Delaware River and attacked unsuspecting Hessian mercenaries at Trenton, forcing their surrender. A few days later, evading a force that had been sent to destroy his army, Washington attacked the British again, this time at Princeton, dealing them a humiliating loss.*

General Howe's strategy was to capture colonial cities and stop the rebellion at key economic and political centers. He never abandoned the belief that once the Americans were deprived of their major cities, the rebellion would wither. In the summer of 1777, he mounted an offensive against Philadelphia. George Washington moved in his army to defend the city and was defeated at the Battle of Brandywine. Philadelphia fell two weeks later.

In the late summer of 1777, the British army sent a major force, under the command of John Burgoyne, south from Quebec to Saratoga, New York, to split off the rebellion in New England. But the strategy backfired, as Burgoyne became trapped by the American armies led by Horatio Gates and Benedict Arnold, at the Battle of Saratoga. Without support from

Transformation Segment 3



- He showed an act of resistance by boycotting british goods
- He proved to be proactive by gaining friendship / allies during critical times of war
- Washington discovered an important lesson and used it as a strategy in the war against british.
- A near mutiny was avoided and there by secured independence when Washington convinced Congress to grant a five-year bonus for soldiers in the revolutionary war.

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Howe, who couldn't reach in time, he was forced to surrender his entire 6,200 man army

D3 *The victory in the battle of Saratoga was a major turning point in the war as it encouraged France to openly ally itself with the American cause for independence.*

D3 *Washington realized that the political nature of war was just as important as the military one and that military victories were not as important as keeping the resistance alive*

Americans began to believe that they could meet their objective of independence without defeating the British army. On the other hand, British General Howe clung to the strategy of capturing colonial cities in hopes of smothering the rebellion. He didn't realize that capturing cities like Philadelphia and New York would not unseat colonial power. The Congress would just pack up and meet elsewhere.

For the remainder of the war during the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge, George Washington was content to keep the British confined to New York, although he never totally abandoned the idea of retaking the city. **D3** *The alliance with France had brought a large French army and a navy fleet.*

Washington and his French counterparts decided to let Clinton be and attack British General Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. Facing the combined French and Colonial armies and the French fleet of 29 warships at his back, Cornwallis held out as long as he could, but on October 19, 1781, he surrendered his forces.

D3 *A near mutiny was avoided when Washington convinced Congress to grant a five-year bonus for soldiers in March 1783.*

Principles & Practices



I. Liberty is of Divine Origin (First Inaugural Address)

II. Liberty has a Price "The independence and liberty you possess are the work of . . . joint efforts, of common dangers, suffering and successes." (Farewell Address)

III. Liberty is secured by Government "Liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian." (Farewell Address)

IV. Liberty requires Unity "[Y]our union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other."



By November of that year, the British had evacuated New York City and other cities and the war was essentially over. The Americans had won their independence.

When Shays's rebellion erupted in Massachusetts, Washington knew something needed to be done to improve the nation's government. In 1786, Congress approved a convention to be held in Philadelphia to amend the Articles of Confederation.

At the Constitution Convention, Washington was unanimously chosen as president.

Among others, such as James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, ^{D3} *Washington had come to the conclusion that it wasn't amendments that were needed, but a new constitution that would give the national government more authority.*

He spoke but once during the proceedings, but he lobbied hard with his fellow delegates in the afterhours for major changes in the structure of government. In the end, the Convention produced a plan for government that not only would address the country's current problems, but would endure through time.

After the convention adjourned, Washington's reputation and support for the new government were indispensable to the Constitution's ratification. Opposition was strident, if not organized, with many of America's leading political figures—including Patrick Henry and Sam Adams—condemning the proposed government as a grab for power. Even in Washington's native Virginia, the Constitution was ratified by only one vote.

Still hoping to retire to his beloved Mount Vernon, Washington was once again called upon to serve this country. During the presidential election of 1789, he received a vote from every elector to the Electoral College, the only president in American history to be elected by unanimous approval.

Principles & Practices



V. Liberty is maintained by Obedience to Law "Respect for [this Government's] authority, compliance with its laws,

VI. Liberty is dependent upon Virtue "[V]irtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government." (Farewell Address)

VII. Liberty affords the path to Happiness "[T]here is no truth more thoroughly established, than that there exists . . . an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness." (First Inaugural Address)

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He took the oath of office at Federal Hall in New York City, the capital of the United States at the time. As the first president, Washington was astutely aware that his presidency would set a precedent for all that would follow.

D1 *At first he declined the \$25,000 salary Congress offered the office of the presidency, for he was already wealthy and wanted to protect his image as a selfless public servant. However, Congress persuaded him to accept the compensation to avoid giving the impression that only wealthy men could serve as president.*

D3 *During his first term, Washington adopted a series of measures proposed by Treasury Secretary Hamilton to reduce the nation's debt and place its finances on sound footing. His administration established several peace treaties with Native American tribes and approved a bill establishing the nation's capital in a permanent district along the Potomac River. In 1791, Washington signed a bill authorizing Congress to place a tax on distilled spirits, which stirred protests in rural areas of Pennsylvania.*

D2 *Quickly, the protests turned into a full-scale defiance of federal law known as the Whiskey Rebellion. Washington invoked the Militia Act of 1792, summoning local militias from several states to put down the rebellion. Washington personally took command, marching the troops into the areas of rebellion and demonstrating that the federal government would use force, when necessary, to enforce the law.*

D3 *In foreign affairs, Washington took a cautious approach, realizing that the weak, young nation could not succumb to Europe's political intrigues.*

In 1793, France and Great Britain were once again at war. At the urging of Alexander Hamilton, Washington disregarded the U.S. alliance with

Fundamentals



In the history of George Washington we have learnt that how he gained knowledge and wisdom, and how subsequently applied this wisdom to govern and transform the people of his nation at his time.

He balanced well between his military life and personal life

He was able to appreciate and use the technologies of his time for the development of his own & country.

Thus we are able to see his knowledge, talents and attitudes across the four segments of IIG Model.

George Washington

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France and pursued a course of neutrality. In 1794, he sent John Jay to Britain to negotiate a treaty (known as the "Jay Treaty") to secure a peace with Britain and clear up some issues held over from the Revolutionary War.

The action infuriated Thomas Jefferson, who supported the French and felt that the U.S. needed to honor its treaty obligations.

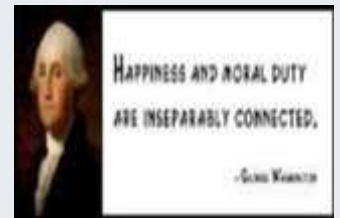
D3 *Washington was able to mobilize public support for the treaty, which proved decisive in securing ratification in the Senate. Though controversial, the treaty proved beneficial to the United States by removing British forts along the western frontier, establishing a clear boundary between Canada and the United States, and most importantly, delaying a war with Britain and providing over a decade of prosperous trade and development the fledgling country so desperately needed.*

All through his two terms as president, Washington was dismayed at the growing partisanship within government and the nation. The power bestowed on the federal government by the Constitution made for important decisions, and people joined together to influence those decisions. The formation of political parties at first was influenced more by personality than by issues.

D3 *George Washington strongly felt that political leaders should be free to debate important issues without being bound by party loyalty.*

However, Washington could do little to slow the development of political parties. The ideals promoted by Hamilton and Jefferson produced a two-party system that proved remarkably durable. These opposing viewpoints represented a continuation of the debate over the proper role of government, a debate that began with the conception of the Constitution and continues today.

Quotes



“Human happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected.”

“99% of failures come from people who make excuses.”

“The government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion.”

“Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages.”

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D3 *However, ever mindful his presidency would set the precedent for those to follow, George Washinton was careful to avoid the trappings of a monarchy. At public ceremonies, he did not appear in a military uniform or the monarchical robes. Instead, he dressed in a black velvet suit with gold buckles and powdered hair, as was the common custom. His reserved manner was more due to inherent reticence than any excessive sense of dignity.*

In the last months of his presidency, Washington felt he needed to give his country one last measure of himself. With the help of Alexander Hamilton, he composed his Farewell Address to the American people, which urged his fellow citizens to cherish the Union and avoid partisanship and permanent foreign alliances. In March 1797, he turned over the government to John Adams and returned to Mount Vernon, determined to live his last years as a simple gentleman farmer. His last official act was to pardon the participants in the Whiskey Rebellion.

D3 STRATEGIES APPLIED IN CRITICAL MOMENTS

The darkest time for Washington and the Continental Army was during the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The 11,000-man force went into winter quarters and over the next six months suffered thousands of deaths, mostly from disease. But the army emerged from the winter still intact and in relatively good order. Realizing their strategy of capturing Colonial cities had failed, the British command replaced General Howe with Sir Henry Clinton. The British army evacuated Philadelphia to return to New York City. Washington and his men delivered several quick blows to the moving army, attacking the British flank near Monmouth Courthouse. **D3** *Though a tactical standoff, the encounter proved Washington's army capable of open field battle.*

George Washington had no way of knowing the Yorktown victory would bring the war for independence to a close. The British still had 26,000

Source



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington

<http://www.biography.com/people/george-washington-9524786>

<http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/george-washington>

<http://americanfoundingspot.in/2008/07/leadership-qualities-of-george.html>

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troops occupying New York City, Charleston, and Savannah and a large fleet of warships in the Colonies. By 1782, the French army and navy had departed, the Continental treasury was depleted, and most of his soldiers hadn't been paid for several years.

By 1783, the British started evacuating many cities and finally Americans had won their independence.

Do Self Evolution

¹During the year 1749, aided by Lord Fairfax, Washington received an appointment as official surveyor of Culpeper County. For two years he was very busy surveying the land in Culpeper, Frederick and Augusta counties. ^{Do}That experience made him resourceful and toughened his body and mind.

A month after leaving the army, Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis, a widow. From his retirement from the Virginia militia until the start of the Revolution, ^{Do}George Washington devoted himself to the care and development of his land holdings, attending the rotation of crops, managing livestock and keeping up with the latest scientific advances. He loved the landed gentry's life of horseback riding, fox hunts, fishing, and cotillions.

IG Model



- Throughout his life, George Washington held farming as one of the most honorable professions and he was most proud of Mount Vernon.
- He was not only considered a military and revolutionary hero, but a man of great personal integrity, with a deep sense of duty, honor, and patriotism.
- When he was appointed Major General and Commander-in-Chief of the colonial forces against Great Britain on June 15 1775. Washington was the best choice for a number of reasons: he had the prestige, military experience and charisma for the job.



Conclusion

Thus George Washington gained knowledge from past events and present happenings around his time. He showed wisdom by applying gained knowledge wherever required. Also transformed people around him through his innovative ideas and re-engineering techniques. He also self-evaluated him on and off and also kept his inner peace without compromising ethics and moral values. With all these qualities imbibed in him, he was thus viewed as a Visionary Leader in this world.

Books



- George Washington and Slavery: A Documentary Portrayal - Fritz Hirschfeld – 1997
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Kristin Thoennes Keller – 2001
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Biographies



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- *Washington: A Life* by Ron Chernow
- *Washington: The Indispensable Man* by James T. Flexner
- *1776* by David McCullough
- *George Washington: A Biography* by Washington Irving