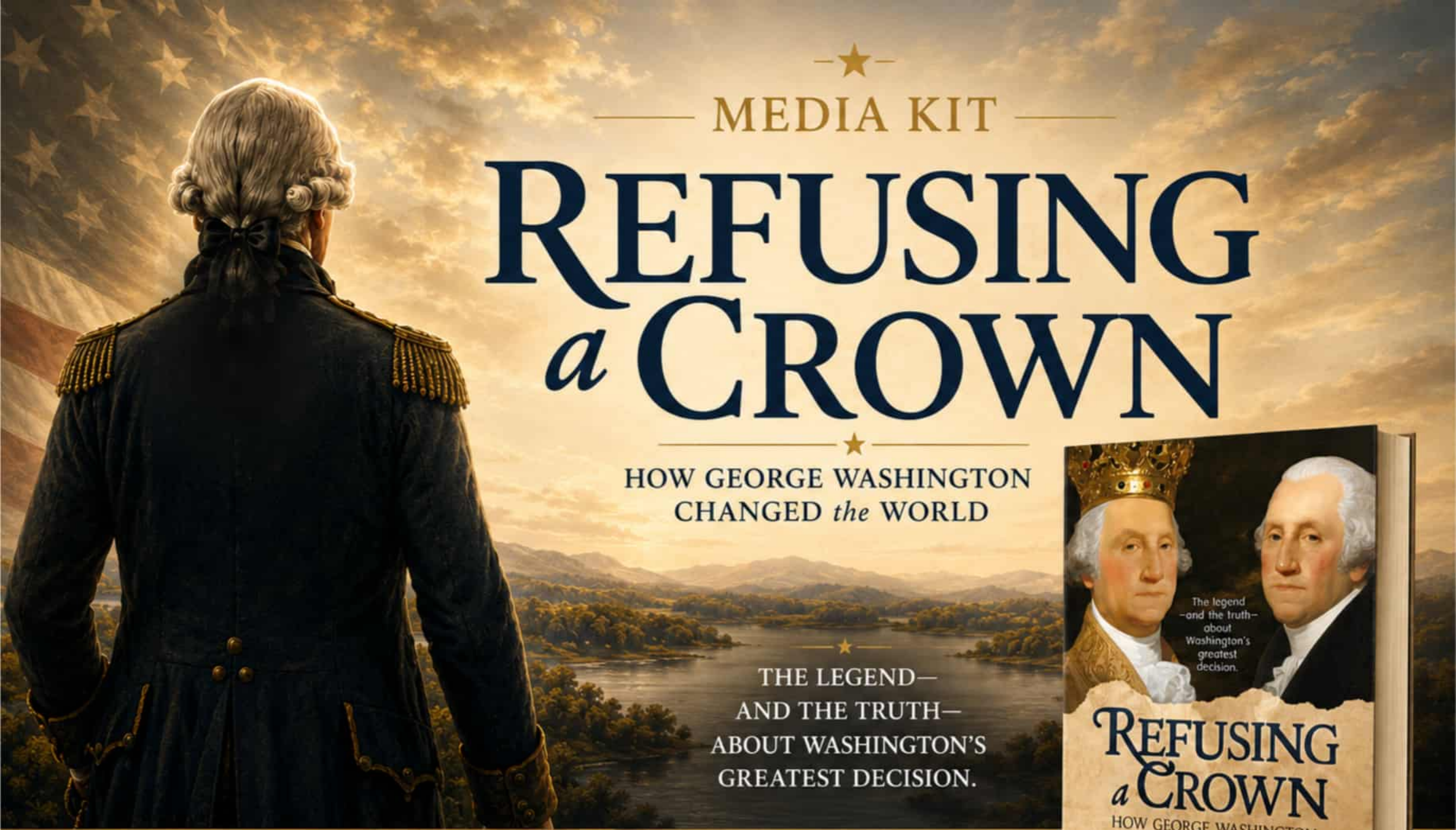


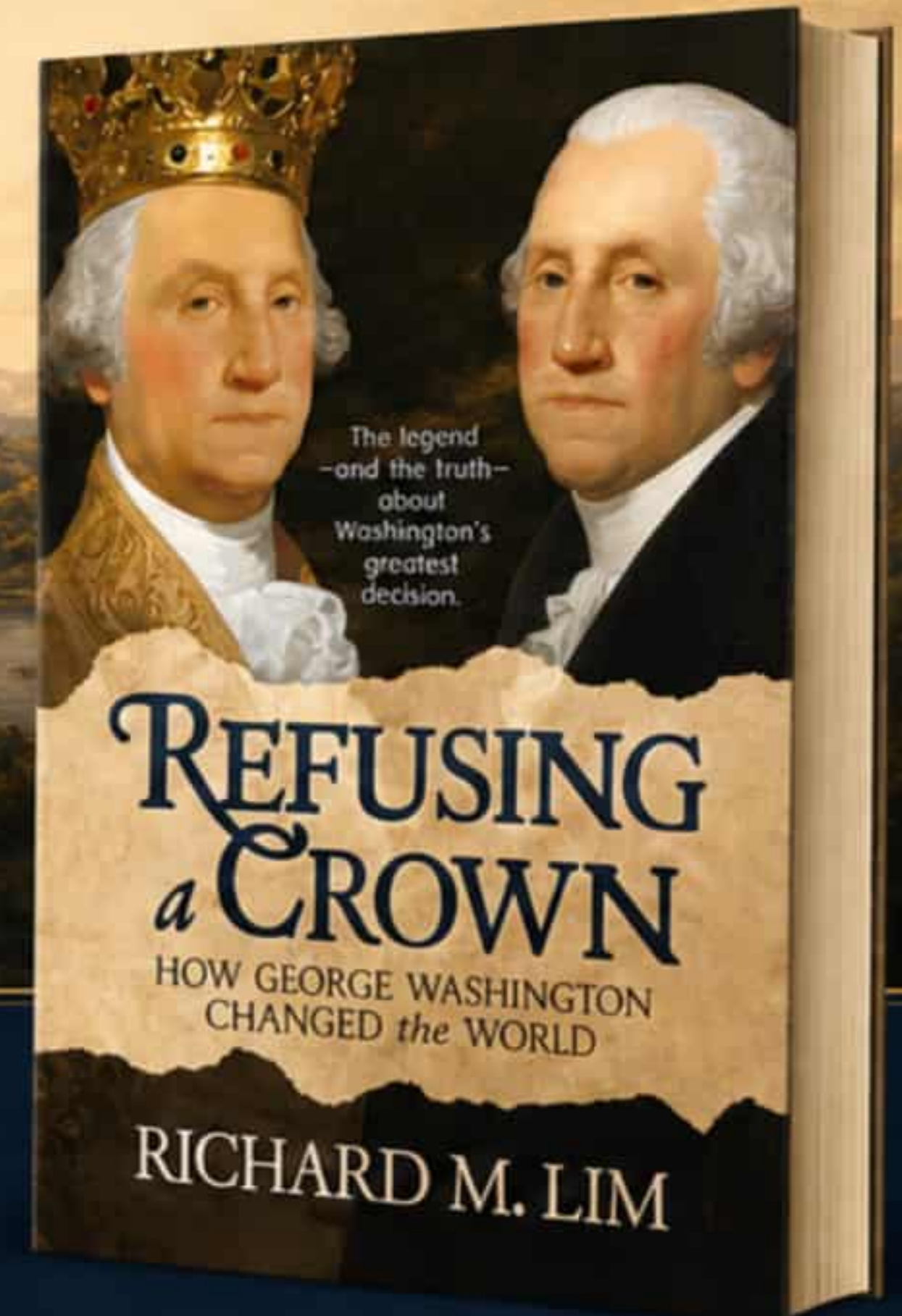


—★—
MEDIA KIT

REFUSING *a* CROWN

—★—
HOW GEORGE WASHINGTON
CHANGED *the* WORLD

—★—
THE LEGEND—
AND THE TRUTH—
ABOUT WASHINGTON'S
GREATEST DECISION.



RICHARD M. LIM

AUTHOR • HISTORIAN • STORYTELLER



*Bringing history to life.
Inspiring a deeper understanding of liberty.*



Historian and host of the *This American President* podcast, exploring the people, decisions, and events that have shaped the American presidency through interviews and narrative storytelling.

AT A GLANCE



TITLE

Refusing a Crown

How George Washington Changed the World



PUBLICATION DATE

October 13, 2026



ISBN

ISBN-10: 978-1-64572-128-4

ISBN (eBook): 978-1-64572-129-1



PRICE

\$21.00 (paperback)

\$14.99 (Kindle)



PUBLISHER

Republic Book Publishers



GENRE

Narrative History

(Popular History)



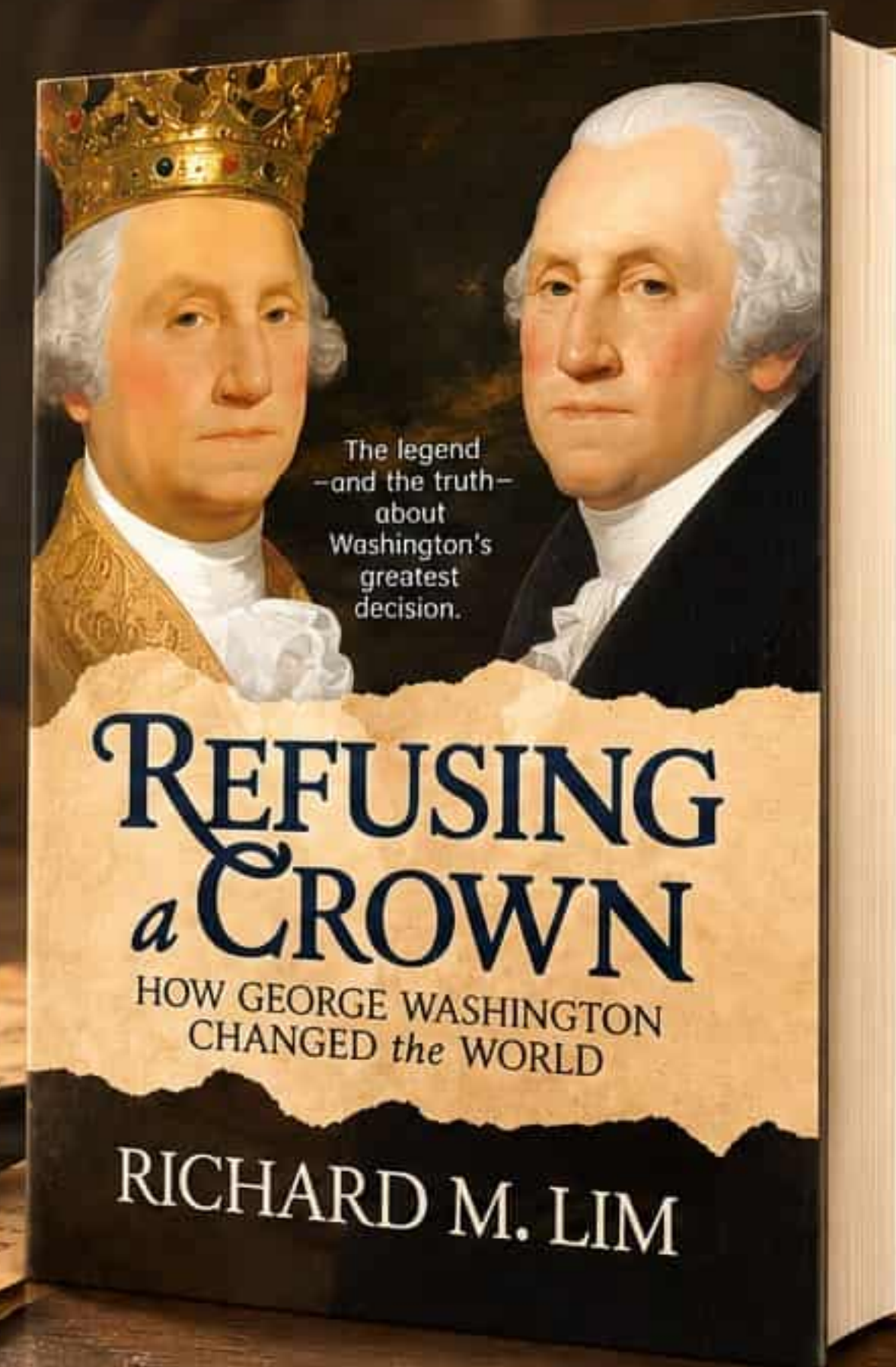
SECONDARY GENRES

American Founding / Revolutionary Era History

Presidential History • Political History

Biography • Leadership / Statesmanship

Intellectual History



“General Washington’s decision to return his sword to the Congress was the key moment in the development of American self government... Richard Lim’s book is a very helpful introduction to that key turning point in the history of freedom.”

—NEWT GINGRICH

FORMER SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BOOK SUMMARY

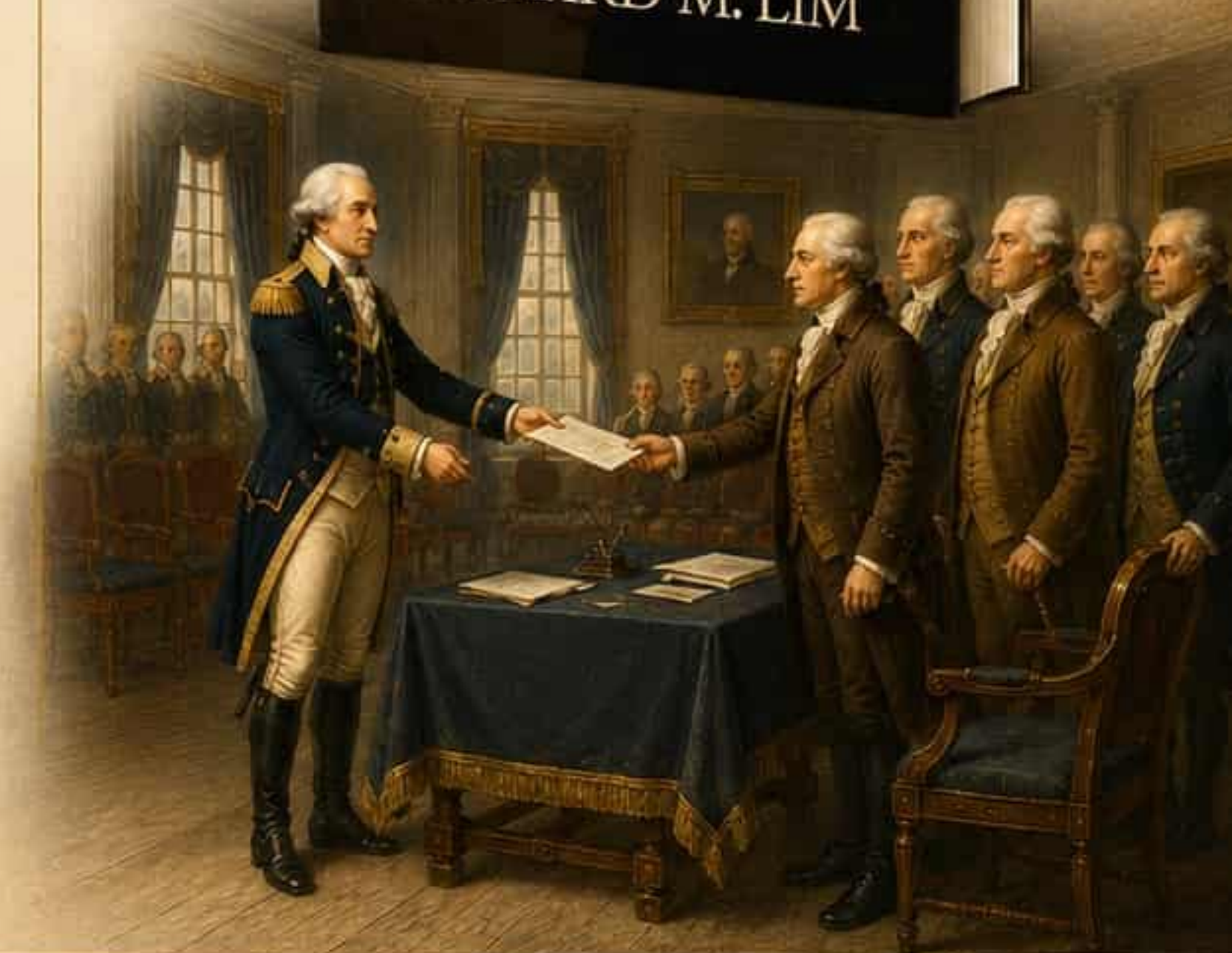
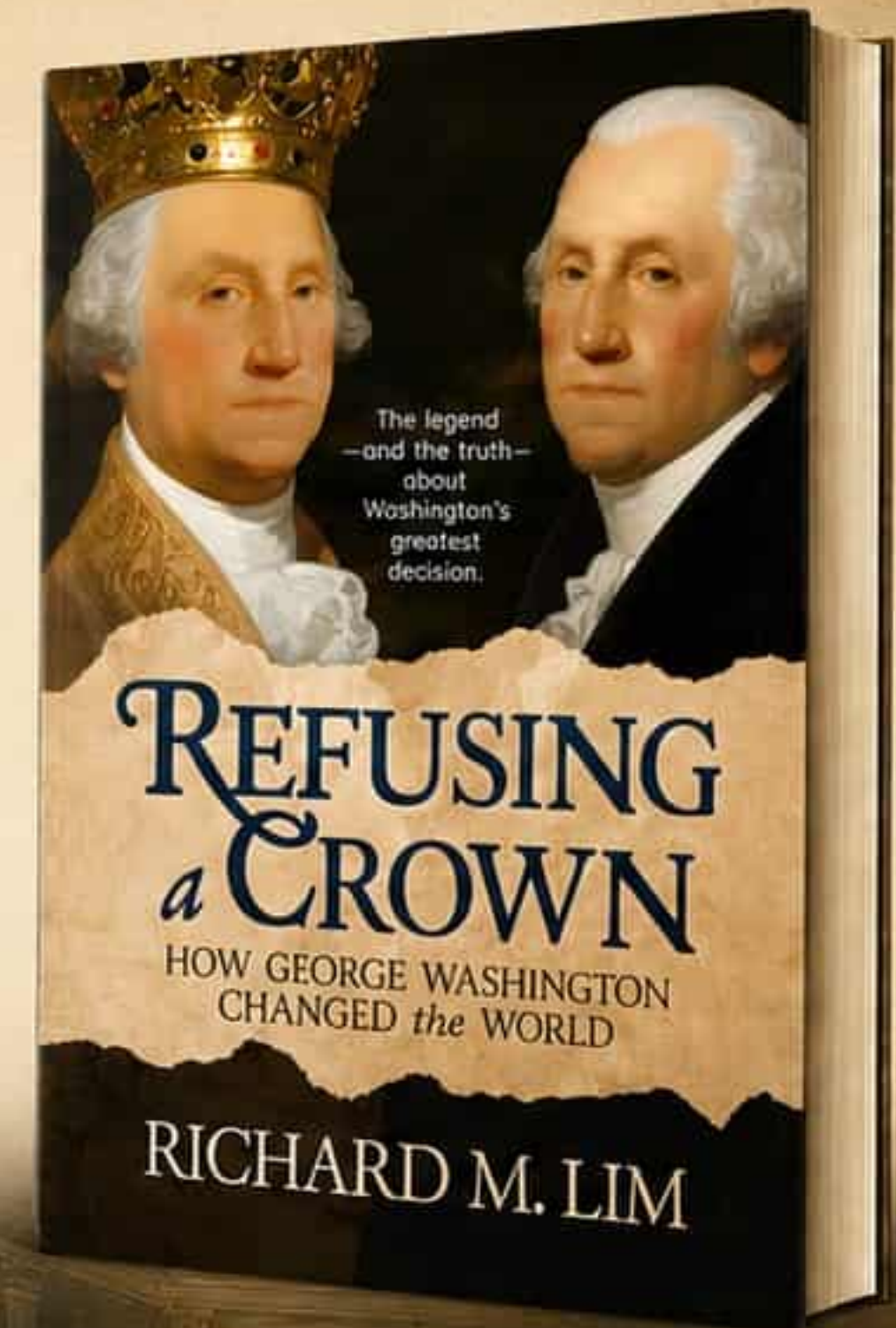
Everyone knows George Washington gave up all his power.
Almost no one asks why.

At a time when Americans are disillusioned with leaders who cling to power, *Refusing a Crown: How George Washington Changed the World* examines the decisions that made the American experiment possible. Washington's greatest achievement was not winning American independence or serving as the nation's first president. It was surrendering power—first as commander of the Continental Army and later after two presidential terms—establishing a new model of republican greatness.

Refusing a Crown is the first book to place Washington's actions within the West's transition from monarchy to republican government—a transformation more complex than most accounts suggest. It explores how the civic virtues of ancient Rome, the Judeo-Christian moral vision, and the constitutional inheritance of the British world converged in America's founding. Rather than rejecting monarchy outright, the Founders adapted some of its strengths to republican government, creating a presidency strong enough to govern yet accountable to the people. Washington embodied this transformation through humility and restraint, proving that a free people could govern themselves without a king.

By examining key moments in Washington's life—the infamous Nicola letter, the Newburgh Conspiracy, his resignation before Congress, and his Farewell Address—the book reveals how Washington helped secure civilian government, redefine statesmanship, and establish lasting limits on executive power. It is also the first book to trace Washington's influence on revolutions around the world, showing how figures including Napoleon, Simón Bolívar, and Yuan Shikai were measured against the man who willingly laid down power.

For people living under dictatorships today, Washington's story still has the power to inspire, reminding them that liberty is possible. As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, there is no better time to rediscover it.





ENDORSEMENTS

★ NEWT GINGRICH

"General Washington's decision to go to Annapolis and return his sword to the Congress was the key moment in the development of American self government. King George said it made him the greatest man of the century. Richard Lim's book is a very helpful introduction to that key turning point in the history of freedom."

— *Former Speaker of the House*

★ BILL O'REILLY

"George Washington wasn't really a politician at all. He never exploited the vast power he held after defeating the British. In his book *Refusing a Crown: How George Washington Changed the World*, Richard Lim astutely reports what motivated Washington to reject the trappings of power. With the nation's 250th anniversary fast approaching, this is a great read."

— *Author and Television Host*

★ PAUL KENGOR

"In a time of uproar about 'No Kings' and the current president allegedly seeking a 'crown,' here's a splendid story about our nation's first president, who, no doubt, refused a crown. That action by George Washington was merely one of the things that made him great and made him the founder of our country—and changed the world. Few modern voices have understood this as well as Richard Lim, a keen researcher and writer. This inspiring story has had his heart and attention for years. Richard has long endeavored to get this account published. Now, at long last, he has done so—to our benefit."

— *Professor of History and Author*

★ J. RANDY TARABORRELLI

"This book reminded me why Washington still matters. Richard Lim cuts through the folklore and shows how two simple acts of stepping aside shaped the modern idea of self-government. It's clear, well-researched, and genuinely eye-opening. Anyone who cares about American history will want this on their shelf."

— *New York Times Bestselling Author*

★ GLENN BECK

"If you think you know everything about America's first president, think again. In an era when political leaders seem to vie for greater power, George Washington's quiet, patriotic example urges us to set aside our own pursuit of prestige and embrace the American principles that uplift and sustain us all. Richard Lim's latest book celebrates the spirit of republicanism that America introduced to the world during our founding, and, I pray, one she will continue to champion for generations to come."

— *Radio and Television Host*

★ WILFRED MCCLAY

"Richard Lim has made a wonderful gift to all Americans with this crisp, vivid, and incisive book, which will help them to know better the indispensable man whose peerless example meant so much to a fledgling nation. By focusing on Washington's act of 'refusing a crown,' he has pinpointed one of the deepest meanings of 1776: that henceforth it would be our joy, and our task, to be a people that governs itself. May his example give us both direction and heart, as we march forth into our second quarter-millennium of existence."

— *Historian and Author*

★ STEVE DEACE

"Whenever I'm asked who the greatest president is, I say it's George Washington hands down. Because if he blows it, there are no other presidents. Not only didn't he blow it, but in this book Richard defines why Washington is still the standard for presidential greatness over 200 years later."

— *Radio and Television Host*

★ DINESH D'SOUZA

"Richard Lim's *Refusing a Crown* is a rich and detailed account of how George Washington's great act of abstinence—refusing an offer to become king—defines and distinguishes our constitutional republic. A timely, important book!"

— *Author and Filmmaker*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

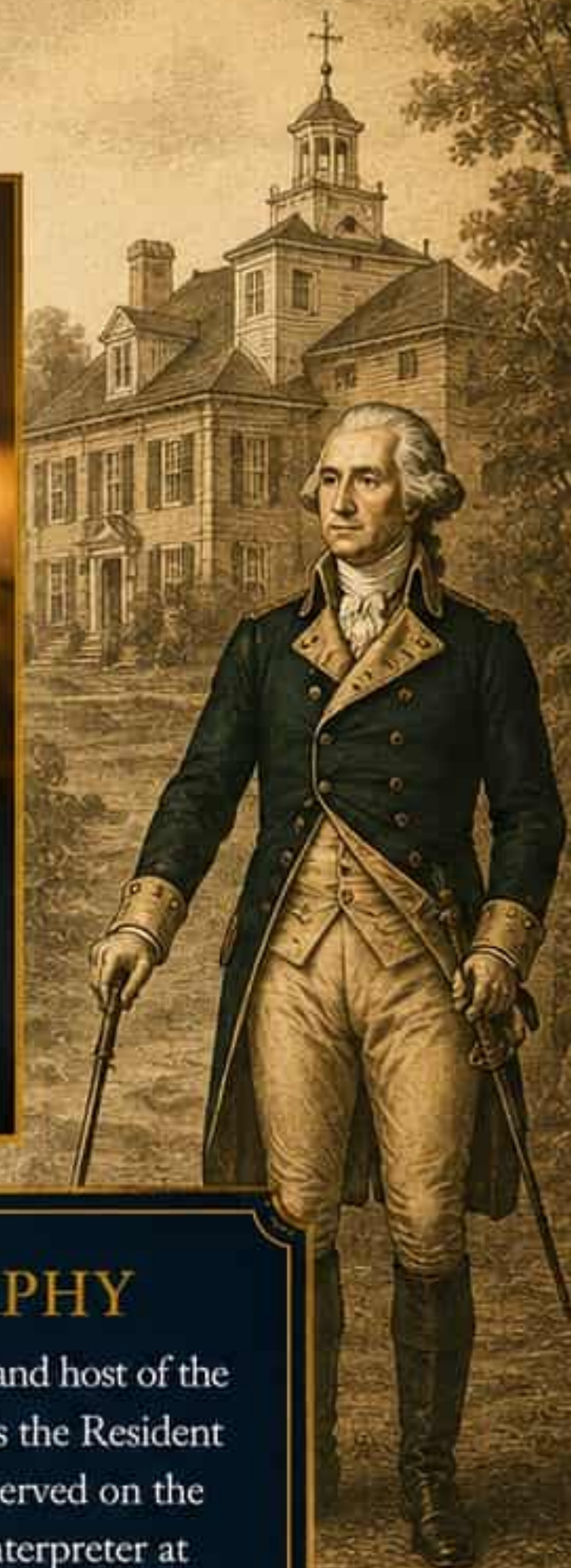
Richard M. Lim is a historian, author, and host of the *This American President* podcast, which explores the people, decisions, and events that have shaped the American presidency through interviews and narrative storytelling.

Richard is the Resident Historian at PragerU, where he has written and presented educational content reaching millions of viewers. He previously served on the White House staff from 2007 to 2009 and worked as a historic interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon—experiences that deepened his passion for the presidency and America's founding.

He earned bachelor's degrees in history and political science from the University of California, San Diego, and a Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School.

Richard's work has been featured by *Newsweek*, C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, the George W. Bush Presidential Center, and the History Channel, where he appeared as a featured historian in its 2023 documentary *FDR*. Through *This American President*, he has interviewed notable guests including former CIA and NSA Director Michael V. Hayden, Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise, Secret Service Agent Clint Hill, Fox News chief political anchor Bret Baier, and bestselling author and television host Bill O'Reilly.

An experienced writer, Richard has published opinion essays in the *Daily Signal*, *Washington Examiner*, and *History News Network*. Earlier in his career, while working at Stand Together, he ghostwrote 81 published op-eds that appeared in outlets including the *Financial Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *National Review*, *Fox News*, *The Hill*, *Scientific American*, *RealClearPolicy*, and *Townhall*.



SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Richard M. Lim is a historian, author, and host of the *This American President* podcast. He is the Resident Historian at PragerU and previously served on the White House staff and as a historic interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Richard has appeared on the History Channel, C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, and the George W. Bush Presidential Center. He holds degrees from the University of California, San Diego, and Syracuse University's Maxwell School.

THE DECISIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

— AT THE HEART OF THE STORY —

From the start of the Revolutionary War to the end of his presidency, George Washington made choices that forever changed the course of history. These pivotal moments reveal the character, convictions, and courage that established a new model of leadership for the world.

THE NICOLA LETTER (1782)



When Colonel Lewis Nicola hinted that Washington should seize power and claim the crown, the general rejected the idea outright. Washington's response ensured that America's future depended on the will of the people—not on the ambition of a general.

THE NEWBURGH CONSPIRACY (1783)



When the army threatened to disobey Congress over unpaid wages, many believed the American Revolution would end in tyranny. Washington, however, saved the day by winning over his men and reaffirming the army's loyalty to the nation.

RESIGNING HIS COMMISSION BEFORE CONGRESS (1783)



In a moment that stunned the world, Washington returned his commission and laid down his power voluntarily—proving that the American Revolution had been fought not to create a new king, but to secure self-government under law.

LEAVING THE PRESIDENCY (1796)



After being unanimously elected president twice, Washington refuses to serve a third term. His decision established the peaceful transfer of power, a precedent that guided American presidents for almost a century and a half.

THE FAREWELL ADDRESS (1796)



In his final public act, Washington warned against political factions, foreign commitments, and the decline of religion and morality. His Farewell Address was a statesman's guide for a free people—as relevant today as it was in 1796.

Together, these decisions made possible the rise of the freest, greatest nation in history. Washington's example continues to inspire leaders and citizens around the world who aspire to liberty and self-government.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Richard M. Lim
thisamericanpresident.com

<https://www.richardmlim.com>

At a Time of Deep Political Division, Why Is George Washington Still One of the Last Americans Almost Everyone Admires?

New book argues Washington's greatest achievement wasn't winning the Revolutionary War—it was giving up power.

LOS ANGELES, Calif., [DATE] — At a time when Americans disagree about nearly everything, George Washington remains one of the last figures almost everyone still admires. Why? According to historian Richard M. Lim, people instinctively recognize the rarity of a leader who voluntarily gave up power.

As America prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, Lim's new book, *Refusing a Crown: How George Washington Changed the World*, offers a surprising answer to one of history's most familiar stories. Washington did not surrender power simply because he was humble. By doing so, he made perhaps the greatest political gamble in history: that ordinary people could successfully govern themselves. He placed his confidence not in a king or a dynasty, but in ordinary citizens, believing the promise of self-government was worth the risk. By voluntarily laying down authority—first as commander of the Continental Army and later after two presidential terms—he sought to prove that a republic could succeed without a king.

"Throughout history, rulers have sought to accumulate power," said Lim. "Washington became the most powerful man in America and then voluntarily gave that power away—not once, but twice. He believed the future belonged not to kings, but to free citizens. History proved him right."

The book is the first to place Washington's renunciations within the West's long transition from monarchy to republican government, revealing how the civic virtues of ancient Rome, the Judeo-Christian moral tradition, and the constitutional inheritance of the British world converged in America's founding. It also traces, for the first time, how Washington's example influenced revolutions around the world, showing how leaders from Napoleon and Simón Bolívar to Yuan Shikai were measured against the American statesman who willingly laid down power.

Through dramatic episodes including the Newburgh Conspiracy, Lewis Nicola's proposal that Washington become king, his resignation before Congress, and his Farewell Address, *Refusing a Crown* argues that Washington did more than establish presidential precedents. He helped legitimize an entirely new form of government in which political authority flowed from the people rather than hereditary rule.

"Most people think they know why Washington gave up power," Lim said. "What surprised me was discovering that his decision was about far more than personal virtue. It was about convincing the world that self-government could work. More than two centuries later, that story still has the power to inspire people everywhere liberty is cherished."

Richard M. Lim is Resident Historian at PragerU, host of the *This American President* podcast, and a former White House staff member and historic interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon. His work has been featured by the History Channel, *Newsweek*, C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, and the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

Refusing a Crown: How George Washington Changed the World is available wherever books are sold.

###

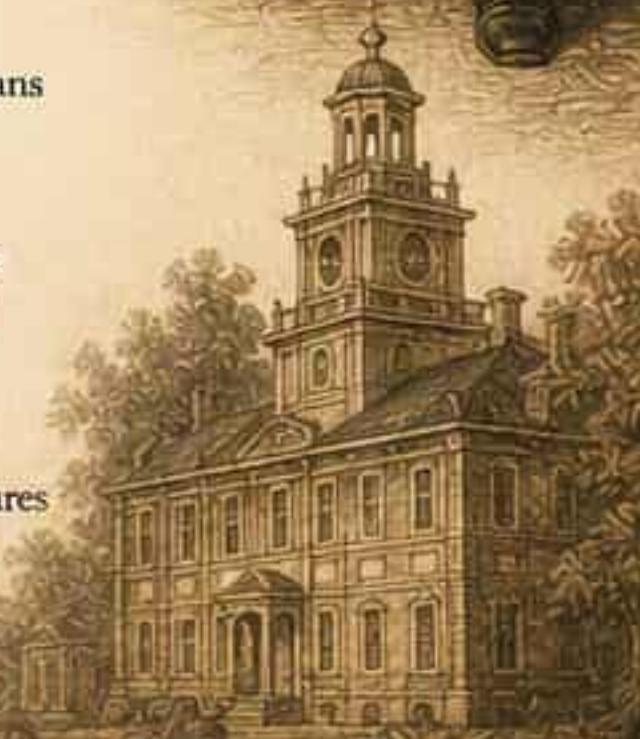
INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What inspired you to write *Refusing a Crown*?
2. You often say this book actually began in China. What happened there that changed the way you thought about George Washington?
3. Everyone knows George Washington gave up power. What's the bigger story that most people are missing?
4. Your title refers to Washington "refusing a crown." Did someone really ask him to become king?
5. Why do you believe George Washington changed the very meaning of political greatness?
6. One of your most surprising arguments is that America didn't completely reject monarchy. What do you mean by that?
7. You describe the presidency as a kind of "republican king." How can a republic have something that resembles a monarch?
8. The Continental Army endured years of extraordinary hardship during the Revolutionary War. How did those sacrifices make Washington's decision to surrender power even more remarkable?
9. Tell us about the Newburgh Conspiracy. How close did America come to a military coup?
10. Why do you consider Washington's resignation before Congress one of the greatest moments in world history?
11. What role did ancient Rome play in shaping George Washington and the American Founding?
12. Many historians emphasize the Enlightenment. You argue that the Bible and the Judeo-Christian tradition played a much larger role than many people realize. Why?
13. You write that Washington proved "the people rule" in America. What does that mean?
14. Why does Washington's Farewell Address still matter more than two centuries later?
15. In what ways did George Washington influence revolutionary movements and political leaders around the world?
16. How did figures like Napoleon, Simón Bolívar, and Yuan Shikai respond to comparisons with George Washington?
17. During your research, what discovery surprised you the most?
18. Why do you think Washington continues to unite Americans across political divides?
19. As America approaches its 250th anniversary, why is now the right time to revisit George Washington?
20. If readers remember just one lesson from *Refusing a Crown*, what do you hope it is?

TIMELY INTERVIEW ANGLES

- ★ **America 250:** Why George Washington's example is especially relevant as America celebrates its 250th anniversary.
- ★ **The Leader Who Walked Away:** Why Washington's greatest achievement wasn't winning the Revolutionary War—it was voluntarily surrendering power.
- ★ **The Day Someone Asked Washington to Become King:** What really happened during the famous "crown" episode—and why it still matters.
- ★ **The Forgotten Crisis That Almost Changed America Forever:** The Newburgh Conspiracy and how Washington prevented a military takeover.
- ★ **Faith and the American Founding:** The overlooked influence of the Judeo-Christian tradition on Washington's understanding of liberty and self-government.
- ★ **Did America Really Reject Monarchy?** A surprising look at why the Founders created a presidency that borrowed certain strengths from kingship while remaining accountable to the people.
- ★ **The World's First Modern Statesman:** How Washington redefined political greatness by giving up power instead of accumulating it.
- ★ **The Forgotten Farewell Address:** What Washington warned Americans about—and why those warnings remain strikingly relevant today.
- ★ **How George Washington Changed the World:** Why leaders from Napoleon and Simón Bolívar to Yuan Shikai found themselves measured against Washington's example.
- ★ **Why Washington Still Unites Americans:** One of the few historical figures admired across political and ideological divides.



CONTACT & AVAILABILITY



MEDIA CONTACT

Richard M. Lim

thisamericanpresident@gmail.com



ONLINE



<https://www.richardmlim.com>



<https://www.facebook.com/ThisAmerPres/>



@thisamerpres



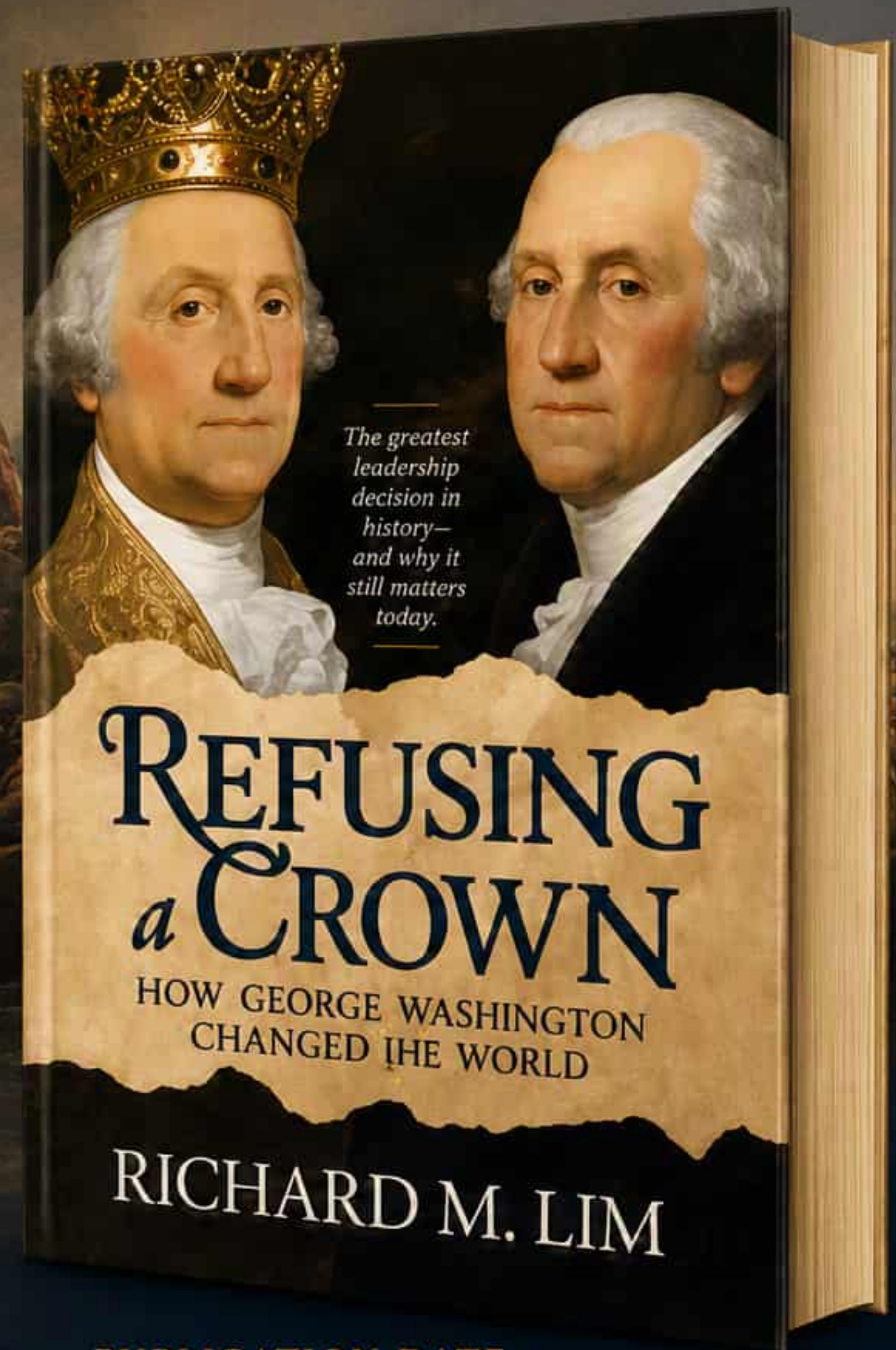
@thisamericanpresident



@thisamericanpresident



@this.american.president



PUBLICATION DATE:
OCTOBER 13, 2026