Not So!: Popular Myths About America From Columbus to Clinton (Paperback)

By Paul F. Boller

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 1996. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. In sailing westward in 1492, did Columbus defy the prevailing belief that the Earth was flat? Was Thomas Paine an atheist? Was Truman plucked from obscurity to be FDR s running mate in 1944? Are presidential campaigns nowadays far dirtier than they were in the past? Is Hillary Clinton the most active or influential First Lady ever? Not so, says Paul Boller, in this delightfully informative look at some of the most common myths and misconceptions about the American past. As he did in his bestselling They Never Said It, Boller provides us with a cornucopia of historical correction, debunking myths that range from the trivial-for instance, George Washington did not have false teeth made of wood (they were made of ivory)-to the pernicious (FDR did not know in advance that the Japanese planned to bomb Pearl Harbor). We learn that most educated people in Columbus s day knew the world was round (it was Washington Irving who first portrayed Columbus as defying a coterie of flat-earthers); that Washington s famous Farewell Address was mostly written by Alexander...

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