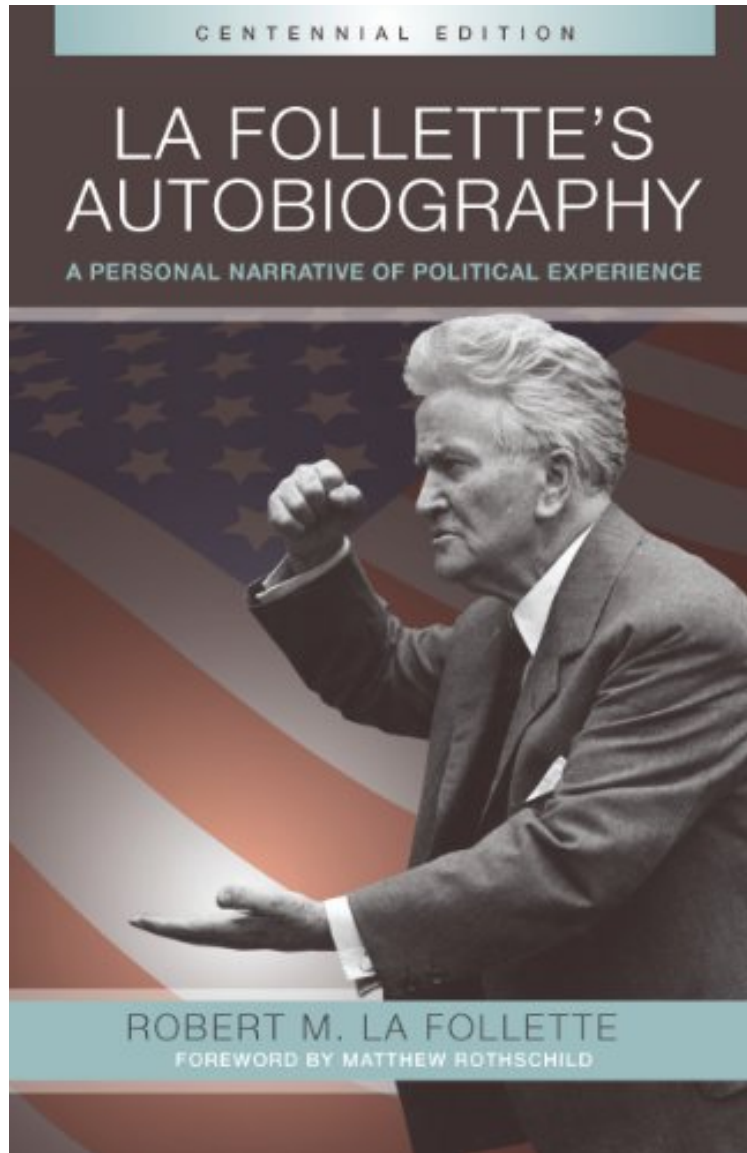


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# La Follettes Autobiography: A Personal Narrative of Political Experiences

Von Robert M. La Follette  
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**Von Robert M. La Follette : La Follettes Autobiography: A Personal Narrative of Political Experiences** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised La Follettes Autobiography: A Personal Narrative of Political Experiences:

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Progressive tells his story. Von Ein Kunde LaFollette's *Autobiography*, is a well written outline of his political struggles, as he saw them up to the time of the writing in October, 1912. The book was written just after LaFollette had concluded his campaign for the 1912 Republican Presidential Nomination. This spirited pronouncement of the Progressive program can be divided into two parts. The first part deals with the political struggles and accomplishments which LaFollette made during his career in Wisconsin state politics, concluding with his service as Governor. In the section, LaFollette tells the story of his fight against machine politics to achieve a more open political process and the struggle against the representatives of the railroads in his effort to bring the lines into the tax system on a par with other taxpayers. Those goals having been accomplished, LaFollette moved on to achieve state regulation of railroad rates. The second section of the book deals with his involvement on the national political scene. This covers the issues with which LaFollette was interested, particularly railroad regulation. The last parts of the book is devoted to a report of LaFollette's unsuccessful bid for the 1912 Republican Presidential nomination, won by President William Howard Taft. Toward the end the book turns into an attack on the record of Theodore Roosevelt, who had effectively ended LaFollette's bid for the Presidency when he entered the 1912 race by usurping LaFollette's position as the bearer of the Progressive banner. LaFollette engages in an examination of Roosevelt's record to establish the point that Roosevelt was never a true Progressive. The main difference seems to be that LaFollette was unwilling to compromise on the Progressive agenda, willing to fight indefinitely for victory, whereas Roosevelt is depicted as willing to espouse the Progressive agenda and then agree to political compromises which were not to LaFollette's satisfaction. The conclusion of the book calls for the preservation of the Progressive movement in the Republican Party and blasts Theodore Roosevelt for splitting the movement by the creation of the Progressive Party. Ironically, LaFollette would bolt the GOP to form a Progressive Party to support his own Presidential bid twelve years later. Although the details may be a bit boring for the general reader, LaFollette's *Autobiography* is an interesting read for anyone interested in LaFollette or the Progressive Era.

Kurzbeschreibung Written in lucid, vigorous prose, La Follette's *Autobiography* is the famous Wisconsin senator's own account of his political life and philosophy. Both memoir and a history of the Progressive cause in the United States, it charts La Follette's formative years in politics, his attempts to abolish entrenched, ruthless state and corporate influences, and his embattled efforts to advance Progressive policies as Wisconsin governor and U.S. senator. With a new foreword by Matthew Rothschild, editor of *The Progressive* the magazine that La Follette himself founded the *Autobiography* remains a powerful reminder of the legacies of Progressivism and reform and the enduring voice of the man who fought for them.