

# Unveiling the Symbol of Freedom: What Is The Statue of Liberty What Was

Standing proud and tall in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty is an iconic symbol of freedom and democracy. But what is the story behind this majestic monument? In this article, we embark on a journey to uncover the history, significance, and enduring legacy of the Statue of Liberty.

## The Genesis of an Idea

The concept of creating a statue to symbolize the ideals of liberty and democracy was first conceived in France in the 1860s. The French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi envisioned a colossal statue that would be a beacon of hope for the oppressed around the world. Inspired by the Roman goddess Libertas, Bartholdi's design depicted a woman holding a torch aloft, symbolizing enlightenment and progress.



### What Is the Statue of Liberty? (What Was?) by Joan Holub

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Screen Reader : Supported  
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## Collaboration and Construction

The project to build the Statue of Liberty was a joint effort between France and the United States. The French government commissioned Bartholdi to design the statue, while the United States was responsible for providing the pedestal and assembling the monument on Liberty Island. The statue's internal metal framework was engineered by Gustave Eiffel, the renowned architect behind the Eiffel Tower.

### **Fundraising and Controversies**

The construction of the Statue of Liberty was a massive undertaking that required significant funding. In both the United States and France, fundraising campaigns were launched to gather donations from the public. However, the project also encountered its share of controversies. Some critics questioned the statue's aesthetic value and its potential to overshadow other historical monuments in New York City.

### **Unveiling and Dedication**

Despite the challenges, the Statue of Liberty was finally completed and dedicated in 1886. On October 28th, President Grover Cleveland presided over the unveiling ceremony, which was attended by thousands of spectators. The statue's dedication marked a pivotal moment in American history, as it became a powerful symbol of the nation's ideals and its commitment to freedom and equality.

### **The Statue's Symbolism**

The Statue of Liberty's symbolism is multifaceted and deeply layered. The statue's torch represents enlightenment, guiding people out of darkness and towards a brighter future. Her robe symbolizes justice, while the broken chains at her feet represent freedom from tyranny and oppression. The

statue's inscription, "Liberty Enlightening the World," speaks to her universal message of hope and inspiration for all.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Over the centuries, the Statue of Liberty has become an enduring symbol of freedom and democracy around the world. It has inspired countless people to fight for their rights and to strive for a better future. The statue has also been used as a symbol of American strength and resilience, particularly in times of crisis.

## **Preservation and Restoration**

The Statue of Liberty has faced challenges and threats over the years, including damage from storms and pollution. To preserve this iconic monument, ongoing restoration and maintenance efforts are undertaken. In 1986, the statue underwent a major restoration project that cleaned its exterior and repaired its internal structure.

## **A Beacon of Hope and Inspiration**

Today, the Statue of Liberty continues to stand as a beacon of hope and inspiration for people around the globe. It is a symbol of the enduring power of freedom and the promise of a better future for all. Visitors from all corners of the world flock to Liberty Island to witness the statue's majesty and to reflect on its timeless message.

The Statue of Liberty is a masterpiece of art and architecture that transcends its physical form to become a powerful symbol of freedom, democracy, and hope. Its story is one of collaboration, perseverance, and enduring legacy. As we look to the future, may the Statue of Liberty

continue to inspire us to strive for a world where all people are free and equal.



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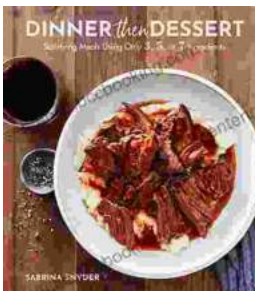
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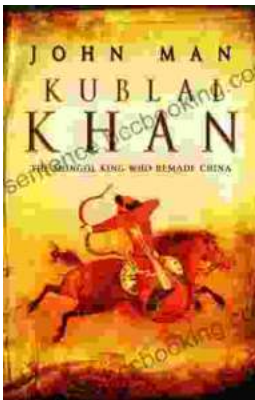
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