

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives)

By Christopher Hitchens

Download now

Read Online 

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens

In this unique biography of Thomas Jefferson, leading journalist and social critic Christopher Hitchens offers a startlingly new and provocative interpretation of our Founding Father—a man conflicted by power who wrote the Declaration of Independence and acted as ambassador to France yet yearned for a quieter career in the Virginia legislature. A masterly writer, Jefferson was an awkward public speaker. A professed proponent of emancipation, he elided the issue of slavery from the Declaration of Independence and continued to own human property. A reluctant candidate, he left an indelible presidential legacy. With intelligence, insight, eloquence, and wit, Hitchens gives us an artful portrait of a complex, formative figure and his turbulent era.

 [Download Thomas Jefferson: Author of America \(Eminent Lives ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Thomas Jefferson: Author of America \(Eminent Liv ...pdf](#)

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives)

By Christopher Hitchens

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens

In this unique biography of Thomas Jefferson, leading journalist and social critic Christopher Hitchens offers a startlingly new and provocative interpretation of our Founding Father—a man conflicted by power who wrote the Declaration of Independence and acted as ambassador to France yet yearned for a quieter career in the Virginia legislature. A masterly writer, Jefferson was an awkward public speaker. A professed proponent of emancipation, he elided the issue of slavery from the Declaration of Independence and continued to own human property. A reluctant candidate, he left an indelible presidential legacy. With intelligence, insight, eloquence, and wit, Hitchens gives us an artful portrait of a complex, formative figure and his turbulent era.

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #49903 in Books
- Brand: Hitchens, Christopher
- Published on: 2009-05-05
- Released on: 2009-05-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .47" w x 5.31" l, .35 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages



[Download Thomas Jefferson: Author of America \(Eminent Lives ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Thomas Jefferson: Author of America \(Eminent Liv ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

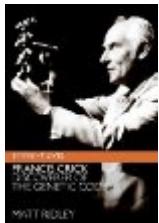
In this unique biography of Thomas Jefferson, leading journalist and social critic Christopher Hitchens offers a startlingly new and provocative interpretation of our Founding Father. Situating Jefferson within the context of America's evolution and tracing his legacy over the past two hundred years, Hitchens brings the character of Jefferson to life as a man of his time and also as a symbolic figure beyond it.

Conflicted by power, Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and acted as Minister to France yet yearned for a quieter career in the Virginia legislature. Predicting that slavery would shape the future of America's development, this professed proponent of emancipation elided the issue in the Declaration and continued to own human property. An eloquent writer, he was an awkward public speaker; a reluctant candidate, he left an indelible presidential legacy.

Jefferson's statesmanship enabled him to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase with France, doubling the size of the nation, and he authorized the Lewis and Clark expedition, opening up the American frontier for exploration and settlement. Hitchens also analyzes Jefferson's handling of the Barbary War, a lesser-known chapter of his political career, when his attempt to end the kidnapping and bribery of Americans by the Barbary states, and the subsequent war with Tripoli, led to the building of the U.S. navy and the fortification of America's reputation regarding national defense.

In the background of this sophisticated analysis is a large historical drama: the fledgling nation's struggle for independence, formed in the crucible of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, and, in its shadow, the deformation of that struggle in the excesses of the French Revolution. This artful portrait of a formative figure and a turbulent era poses a challenge to anyone interested in American history -- or in the ambiguities of human nature.

Discover More Eminent Lives



Francis Crick: Discoverer of the Genetic Code by Matt Ridley



Freud: Inventor of the Modern Mind by Peter Kramer



Machiavelli: Philosopher of Power by Ross King



Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time by Karen Armstrong



George Washington: The Founding Father by Paul Johnson



Alexis de Tocqueville: Democracy's Guide by Joseph Epstein

From Publishers Weekly

In this brief yet dense biography, the newest in HarperCollins's Eminent Lives series, Hitchens (A Long Short War, etc.) proposes that Jefferson "designed America" when he wrote the Declaration of Independence, establishing "the concept of human rights, for the first time in history, as the basis for a republic." Hitchens is quick to point out, however, the obvious contradiction—that Jefferson was both an advocate for freedom and a slaveholder. Beginning with his aristocratic upbringing, which Jefferson purportedly viewed with "indifference," this biography explores both the private and public aspects of Jefferson's life, from his political philosophies to his affair with his slave Sally Hemings. In an attempt to set the facts straight about Hemings, Hitchens explains that, while technically a slave, she was actually related to Jefferson's wife and was treated "more like a privileged housemaid." Presenting countless excerpts from Jefferson's writings, Hitchens closely analyzes the President's words to reveal the Enlightenment ideas that shaped American policy, such as the separation of church and state and the prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment. This opinionated, lively narrative sheds light not only on Jefferson's complex personality but on the politics of his time, making it both a fascinating character study and an excellent review of early American history.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist

In the brief-biography arena, essayist Hitchens' *Jefferson* vies with historian Joyce Appleby's *Thomas Jefferson* (2003) for the loyalty of the time-challenged reader. Hitchens brings his inimitable style of coruscating precision to Jefferson's ambiguities, which have long provoked disparate opinions. Hitchens gives no quarter on the way Jefferson contradicted himself on slavery, but eschewing easy condemnation, wishes Jefferson were less diffident against it: in any case, he extols Jefferson's bolder achievements (e.g., against state-sanctioned religion) that ensured that the American Revolution "was to be truly a change of system and not a change of master." This admiration girds Hitchens' assertion that Jefferson was the author of America, citing as proof the Declaration of Independence and Jefferson's presidency. Imaginative without being inventive, Hitchens is the rare author who can prune a complicated life such as Jefferson's to reveal its salient characteristics. *Gilbert Taylor*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Teresa Howard:

Reading a book for being new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to study a book. When you learn a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what

forms of book that you have read. In order to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, such as novel, comics, and also soon. The Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) will give you new experience in studying a book.

Wayne Sutphin:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for you is Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) this book consists a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. That book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some study when he makes this book. Here is why this book appropriate all of you.

William Powell:

This Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) is completely new way for you who has curiosity to look for some information because it relieves your hunger of information. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having little bit of digest in reading this Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this particular book is easy to get through anyone. These books develop itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in publication form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there is no need in reading a guide especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for an individual. So, don't miss it! Just read this e-book variety for your better life in addition to knowledge.

Robert Frith:

Within this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you must do is just spending your time little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. Among the books in the top list in your reading list is Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives). This book that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in becoming a precious person. By looking up and reviewing this book you can get many advantages.

Download and Read Online Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens #UPVRDHGITY

Read Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens for online ebook

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens books to read online.

Online Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens ebook PDF download

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens Doc

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens MobiPocket

Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens EPub

UPVRDHGITY: Thomas Jefferson: Author of America (Eminent Lives) By Christopher Hitchens