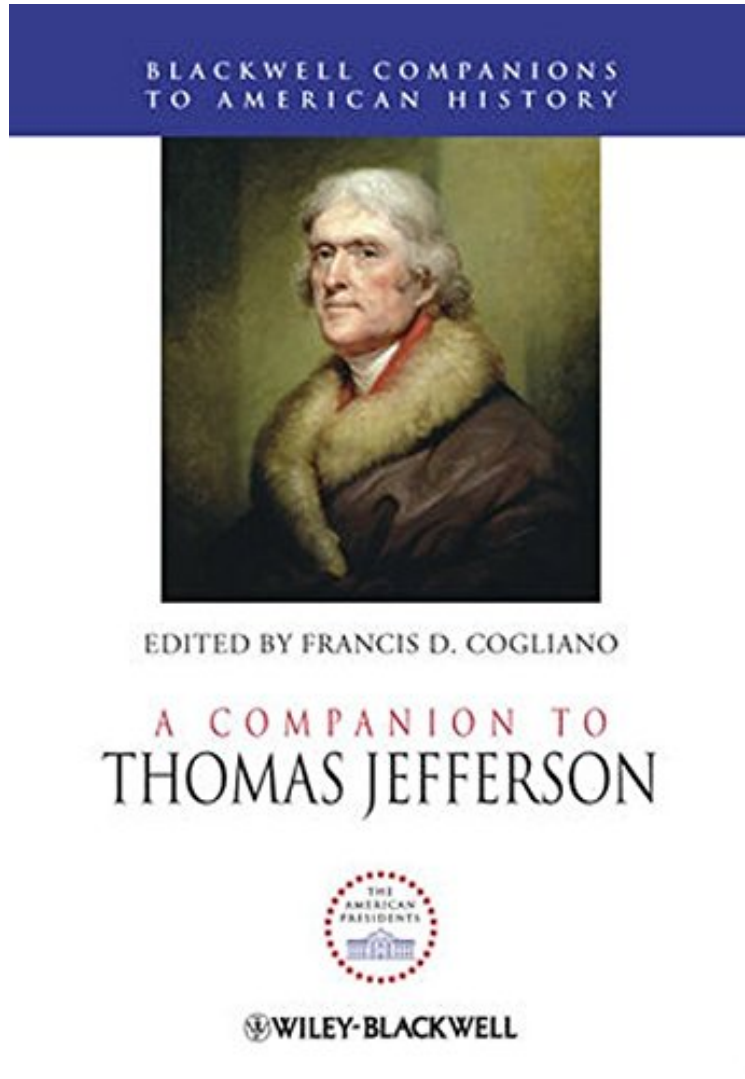


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A Companion to Thomas Jefferson

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From Wiley-Blackwell : A Companion to Thomas Jefferson before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Companion to Thomas Jefferson:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely Essential Reference Source for Thomas JeffersonBy Ronald H. ClarkCurrently, still more books on Thomas Jefferson are being released. For example Jon Meacham's very well received biography has attracted considerable positive attention. I have certainly found it interesting and plan to do a review on shortly. Henry Wiencek's recent study of Jefferson and slavery has stirred up quite a fuss as his methodology and conclusions have been challenged by some students of TJ, including Annette Gordon-Reed, who has herself been quite critical of Jefferson.Since the flow of Jefferson books and articles will undoubtedly continue

forever, it is a fortunate time for Frank Cogliano to release his "A Companion to Thomas Jefferson." The 600 page book is a compendium of essays by a number of Jefferson scholars on virtually every dimension of Jefferson's life, thought, political activities, and retirement that one could think of. It is one of a series of "companions" that Wiley-Blackwell is releasing on American presidents and other American topics and places. This particular companion evidences a very high quality of expertise and care in putting these studies together in a useful format. The essays are grouped under three headings: the first is "Jefferson's Life and Times." Included are essays on Virginia, the Declaration, the "Notes," the Virginia Statute for Establishing Religious Freedom, the Paris years, the Election of 1800, and his retirement. All critical dimensions of his life. I found the second group, "Themes," especially interesting. Here the authors address important issues such as Jefferson's libraries, TJ and the law, Sally Hemings, TJ and slavery, TJ's interest in the ancient world, and his views on education. "Legacy" heads the final grouping of essays which probably deals with the questions most of us living today have about the actual significance of Jefferson. One key issue here is why does TJ continue to fascinate (or anger) us coming up on 200 years since his death in 1826? Another issue is whether Jefferson can still speak to us today; hence essays are included on his papers and the role of Monticello and its associated research arms. Each essay has suggested readings attached to it; and there is an outstanding and quite extensive bibliography at the end of the volume. A similar collective study is Frank Shuffelton's "Cambridge Companion to Thomas Jefferson." It has a few authors in common with the Cogliano collection, but some of the essays deal with topics not really examined there. At 200 pages, it is less hefty in bulk; but equally rich in ideas and insights. Just this week, there were several critical letters about Jefferson in the "New York Times." TJ has gone through many stages of public acceptance and criticism since he died. We should be thankful that we have access to these two fine and insightful collective studies of the man and his impact to help us sort out our feelings toward him.

A Companion to Thomas Jefferson presents a state-of-the-art assessment and overview of the life and legacy of Thomas Jefferson through a collection of essays grounded in the latest scholarship. Features essays by the leading scholars in the field, including Pulitzer Prize winners Annette Gordon-Reed and Jack Rakove. Includes a section that considers Jefferson's legacy. Explores Jefferson's wide range of interests and expertise, and covers his public career, private life, his views on democracy, and his writings. Written to be accessible for the non-specialist as well as Jefferson scholars.

A marvelous collection of authoritative and well-written essays on nearly every aspect of Jefferson's life and legacy. Compiling and editing the works of such a variety of scholars is no easy task, and Frank D. Cogliano deserves the highest praise. (Expofairs, 14 May 2013) A marvelous collection of authoritative and well-written essays on nearly every aspect of Jefferson's life and legacy. Compiling and editing the works of such a variety of scholars is no easy task, and Frank D. Cogliano deserves the highest praise. Gordon S. Wood, Brown University No American president cared more about posterity's judgment than Thomas Jefferson. This kaleidoscopic collection, by an all-star cast of scholars, is the most comprehensive historical assessment of him ever undertaken. - David Armitage, Harvard University, author of *The Declaration of Independence: A Global History* "Deftly edited by Francis D. Cogliano, *A Companion to Thomas Jefferson* explores the greatest mystery in American history: Who was Thomas Jefferson? Brilliant, elusive, and contradictory, Jefferson compels and confounds as a key to our national origins and to our enduring dilemmas in politics and race. In this comprehensive collection of vivid essays, a stellar cast of leading scholars offers compelling new insights that enrich our understanding of the most mercurial of our founders." Alan Taylor, University of California, Davis Frank Cogliano has brought together the leading specialists to create an invaluable and authoritative collection of essays for anyone interested in the most current scholarship on Thomas Jefferson. It covers a wide array of different aspects of his life and legacy including coverage of his role as a plantation manager and slavery at Monticello. It will help to navigate readers through the overwhelming secondary literature and to offer greater clarity about the man who many regard as the most elusive of the Founding Fathers. Dr. Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello From the Back Cover *A Companion to Thomas Jefferson* presents a comprehensive assessment and overview of the life and legacy of Thomas Jefferson through a collection of essays grounded in the latest scholarship. Works from more than thirty leading scholars explore specific themes concerning the extraordinary life and times of the influential Founding Father and third U.S. President. Jefferson's wide range of interests and expertise, are explored, along with his lengthy and multifaceted public career. Other essays delve into elements of Jefferson's private life, including his controversial relationship with Sally Hemings. The essays also consider Jefferson and American democracy, slavery, Native Americans, and his writings such as the Summary View of the Rights of British America, The Declaration of Independence, and Notes on the State of Virginia. *A Companion to Thomas Jefferson* represents a comprehensive portrait of the elusive and contradictory figure who continues to hold sway in the public imagination and occupies a central place in American history.