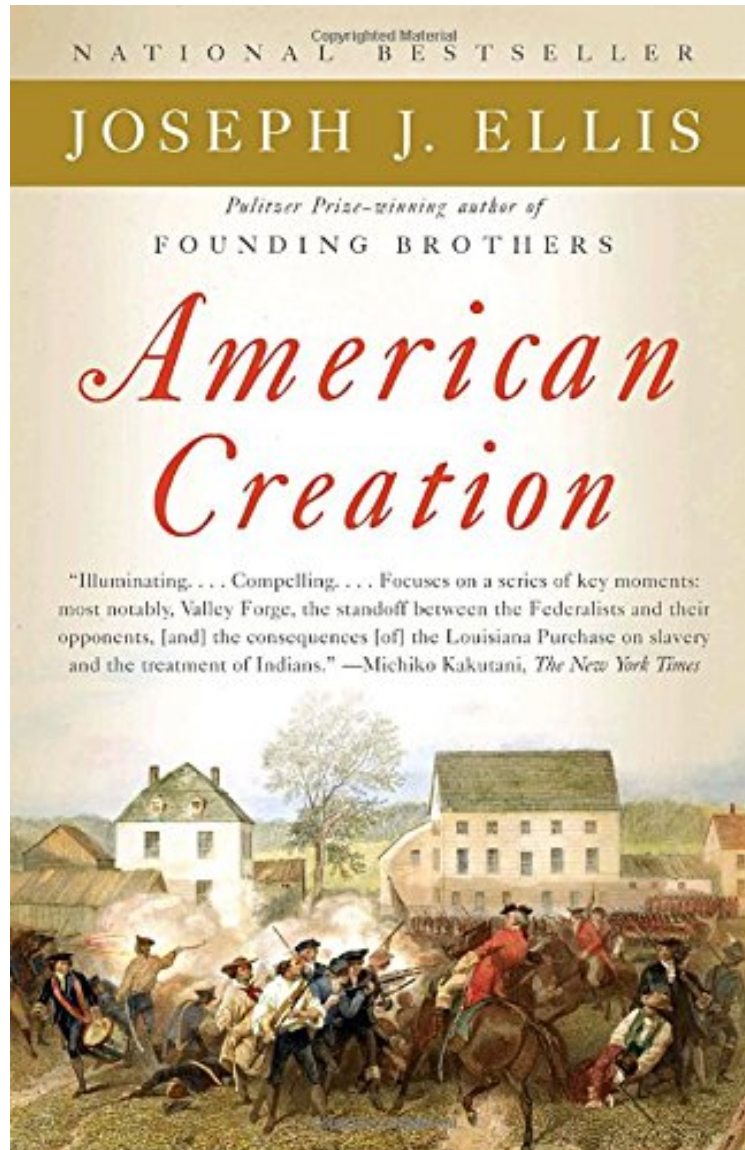


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American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies in the Founding of the Republic

Joseph J. Ellis

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#64809 in Books Ellis, Joseph J. 2008-10-14 2008-10-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x .90 x 5.171, .71 #File Name: 0307276457304 pages Vintage Books USA | File size: 34.Mb

Joseph J. Ellis : American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies in the Founding of the Republic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies in the Founding of the Republic:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A living history of the founding days of this country By Mary C.

Kahl American Creation is one of the best researched, well-written and insightful books on American history that I have read. Divided into a series of essays that bridge the period from the Declaration of Independence to Jefferson's Presidency, it tells the story as it was perceived at the time, with all the complexities, different personalities and array of political issues that the Founding Fathers had to deal with. Reading it made you feel like an eye witness to the events of the day. It also had considerable relevance to contemporary politics, especially the essay dealing with the creation of the two-party system. An outstanding choice for any history buff. 71 of 75 people found the following review helpful. Ellis takes off the rose-colored glasses to look at the American Founding - the result is excellent. By M. Strong While touring to promote his *Founding Brothers*, Ellis was asked, "Why do we have to choose between John Kerry and George Bush when 200 years ago we could have chosen between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson?" Fascinating question, and his answer, *American Creation*, is a truly insightful and well-crafted book. Ellis breaks the founding down into a number of different pieces like the War for Independence, Slavery, the Louisiana Purchase, the Constitution and Native Americans. He treats all of them very even-handedly, framing them in the context of what the realities were around 1800, but also giving penetrating insights into how we might look at things differently today and why. The theme that runs throughout the book is that the people Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and Washington were fallible characters who were meaningfully different from the legends Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and Washington we see now. That said, Ellis really shows how an alignment of the right thoughts, the right time and the right opportunity conspired to pull some extraordinary things from people who might have remained unknown to history had the planets lined up differently. You come away from the book understanding far more about what the politics of the founding were really like. In some ways, they aren't as dissimilar from today's politics as we might think; in other ways, they are, but for very specific reasons that Ellis makes clear. Highly recommended for any fan of history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Splendid By Raffaello Sabatini Anything written by Joseph Ellis is worth reading and re-reading. Wonderful synthesis of historical events that defy the fabricated and confined neatness of, say, Trumbull's painting of the Signing. His rhetoric soars. He uses only primary sources. Every book is a jewel of historical truth. Whenever I go to Amherst, I carry all my Joseph Ellis books, hoping to see him or to gain an audience with the grate man/mind. His signing my collection would be grand. Maybe I'll see him enjoying the popovers at Judy's.

National Bestseller Acclaimed historian Joseph J. Ellis brings his unparalleled talents to this riveting account of the early years of the Republic. The last quarter of the eighteenth century remains the most politically creative era in American history, when a dedicated group of men undertook a bold experiment in political ideals. It was a time of both triumphs and tragedies all of which contributed to the shaping of our burgeoning nation. Ellis casts an incisive eye on the gradual pace of the American Revolution and the contributions of such luminaries as Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, and brilliantly analyzes the failures of the founders to adequately solve the problems of slavery and the treatment of Native Americans. With accessible prose and stunning eloquence, Ellis delineates in *American Creation* an era of flawed greatness, at a time when understanding our origins is more important than ever.

From Publishers Weekly Mayer employs the same mellow, experienced tone he successfully used recently on *Empire of Blue Water* and *Mellon: An American Life*. His familiar voice lends itself nicely to Ellis's sweeping tale of America's evolution from the first shots fired at Lexington and Concord in 1775 to the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. As the story takes us through the many battles, negotiations and personality conflicts of this tumultuous quarter century - some of which have been largely forgotten in the romanticized versions of our nation's early history - listeners can settle in to Mayer's easy, silken tenor as he describes how these formative events unfolded. Ellis spends considerable time critiquing the shortsightedness and racism that prevented the founders from resolving the slavery question or dealing equitably with Native Americans. Mayer's reading keeps pace with the shifting tones of Ellis's narrative, by turns admiring and critical. Mayer's memorable rendition of Ellis's story manages to be avuncular yet brisk. Simultaneous release with the Knopf hardcover (s, June 4). Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine ers embraced *American Creation* for the same reason they enjoyed Ellis's previous books: his treatment of the Founding Fathers is neither idolatrous nor iconoclastic. He portrays them as the fascinating, complex, and human characters they really were. Some historians disagreed with details of Ellis's interpretation, but they tended to emphasize that, like the founders themselves, Ellis has created a useful framework in which the ideas of the Revolutionary period can be discussed. Ellis's prose, on the other hand, did not inspire any comparisons with Thomas Jefferson; in fact, several reviewers suggested another round of editing. But all critics agreed that the authors' masterful handling of the material checked and balanced the occasional tyrannical sentence. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist * Starred * In a structure similar to his *Founding Brothers* (2000), which examined leading American revolutionaries at critical episodes, Ellis selects "certain propitious moments" from the American Revolution and early republic, dramatizes them, and analyzes their crucial ramifications for America's future. Those Ellis discusses, such as a sense of nationalism or the Founders' failure to constrain slavery, emerge as contingent developments. What Ellis emphasizes in this set of incisive narratives is the

possibility that history could have taken some very different directions and that what occurred is unjustifiably endowed with inevitability. Subjects include the debate preceding the Declaration of Independence; the ordeal of Valley Forge; the beginning of the party system in the 1790s; and the Louisiana Purchase. Collectively they illuminate, argues Ellis, the Founders' anxieties about the constitutional nature, territorial extent, and permanence of the republic they were constructing. All the Founders had reservations about the nation-state that resulted. Their maneuvers to alter it, such as an effort by Washington's secretary of war to change Indian policy from dispossession to accommodation, crystallize in Ellis' outstanding acuity about the successes and failures of the Founders. A history bound for phenomenal popularity. Taylor, Gilbert