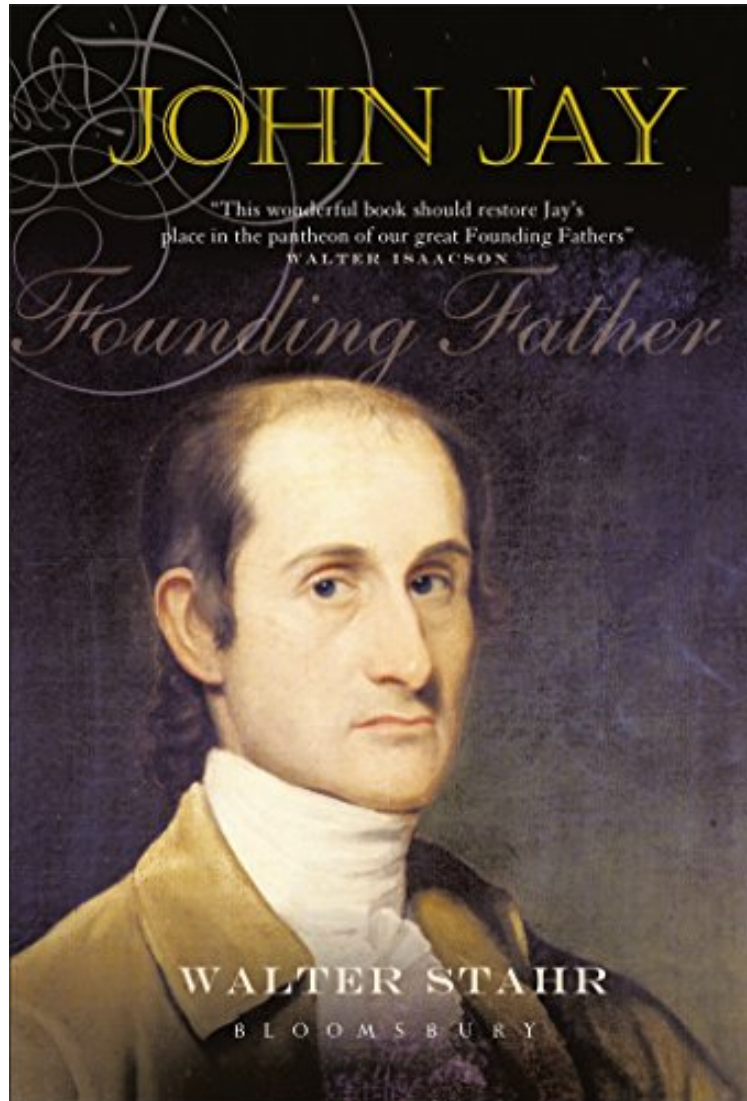


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## John Jay: Founding Father

Walter Stahr

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**Walter Stahr : John Jay: Founding Father** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Jay: Founding Father:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A New Stahr in American BiographiesBy CatManWalter Stahr is becoming one of the best American historical biographist. This one about John Jay is superb. Jay is one of, if not the most forgotten, of the founding fathers of the United States. Stahr has painted a vivid portrait of who Jay was and his importance to the American Revolution and subsequent years of infancy for this country. The book flows very well. It doesn't go off on any tangents or other parts of American history. It always centered around Jay and his contributions

to an early America. This book is well worth anyone's time and effort to read if you want to know more about Jay or early America. This was the first of Stahr's biographies to this point. He has since written one about Seward and Edwin Stanton of Lincoln's cabinet. I read the one about Seward and it is wonderful too. I highly recommend any of Stahr's book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A unique history By Robert Knotts Not a page turner, the book reads a bit dry as if a series of lectures were strung together. On the other hand we learn a lot about the international situation during the Revolution from Jay's angle instead of by following Jefferson or Franklin's better known trails. The book is unique in its attention to the genesis of the judiciary, particularly the early moves by Jay to make the Supreme Court the supreme arbiter of the law of the land and to define the proper operation of the legislative, executive, and judicial pillars upon which the US stands. It's well-worth reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In this book, John Jay gets the recognition he deserves. By earlybirdy On Independence Day, I was doing a bit of "patriotic reading," and I came across an article mentioning John Jay and this new biography. I decided to get it in Kindle format to take along on vacation. I thoroughly appreciated the author's work in presenting the life of this overlooked founding father. The writer expectedly brings out Jay's strengths and accomplishments but also honestly addresses some of his weaknesses and inconsistencies of character. I did find some of the book to be a little dry in the parts that go into the law cases that Jay worked on. But the better part of the work is interesting and very informative. The most fascinating sections, to me, related the work John Jay did on the peace treaty with Britain to end the war. As Americans, we tend to focus on the Declaration of Independence and the battles and heroic deeds. But this book brings alive the intrigue of the behind-the-scenes cat-and-mouse strategies of the diplomats involved in the negotiation process. Jay and his wife showed great fortitude and patience in the way they conducted themselves abroad. I was also interested in the glimpses the author gave into the characters of the other, better-known key figures of the independence effort like Hamilton, Adams, and Washington. Altogether, it is a very informative and enjoyable book which has fostered for me a new appreciation for John Jay.

John Jay was a central figure in the early history of the American Republic. A New York lawyer, born in 1745, Jay served his country with the greatest distinction and was one of the most influential of its Founding Fathers. In the first full-length biography in almost seventy years, Walter Stahr brings Jay vividly to life, setting his astonishing career against the background of the American Revolution. Drawing on substantial new material, Walter Stahr has written a full and highly readable portrait of both the public and private man. It is the story not only of John Jay himself, the most prominent native-born New Yorker of the eighteenth century, but also of his engaging and intelligent wife, Sarah, who accompanied her husband on his wartime diplomatic missions. This lively and compelling biography presents Jay in the light he deserves: as a major Founding Father, a true national hero, and a leading architect of America's future.

From Publishers Weekly The greatest founders--such as Washington and Jefferson--have kept even the greatest of the second tier of the nation's founding generation in the shadows. But now John Jay (1745-1829), arguably the most important of this second group, has found an admiring, skilled student in Stahr, an international lawyer in Washington, D.C. Since the last biography of Jay appeared 60 years ago, a mountain of new knowledge about the early nation has piled up, and Stahr uses it all with confidence and critical detachment. Jay had a remarkable career. He was president of the Continental Congress, secretary of foreign affairs, a negotiator of the treaty that won the United States its independence in 1783, one of three authors of *The Federalist Papers*, first chief justice of the Supreme Court and governor of his native New York. Very few men exceeded Jay in importance and influence. Yet he presents a problem for any biographer: he was a conservative man of unfailingly sober disposition who left his mark more in significant deeds than in memorable words and commanding decisions. Stahr, however, captures both his subject's seriousness and his thoughtful, affectionate side as son, husband, father and friend. In humanizing Jay, Stahr makes him an appealing figure accessible to a large readership and places Jay once again in the company of America's greatest statesmen, where he unquestionably belongs. Bw illus. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist John Jay's writings lacked Jefferson's passionate eloquence in defense of liberty; his demeanor did not radiate the gravitas of Washington; he apparently did not share Madison's zest for and grasp of political theory. Yet, as this well-done biography illustrates, Jay was a vital figure in the founding of our republic, and he deserves an ample share of credit for the nurturing of our nation in its infancy. Stahr, an international lawyer, has written a fast-paced narrative account of Jay's life that stresses his deep religious connections, strength of moral character, and dedication to duty. By nature, Jay was conservative, and he was a reluctant revolutionary with the usual Federalist fears about unrestrained democracy. As an attorney and as first chief justice of the Supreme Court, he understood implicitly the need for the rule of law to prevail over the tendency to seek salvation from "great" men. He was a gifted diplomat whose negotiations in Europe helped our vulnerable nation to avoid conflicts with European powers, and he was an effective governor of New York. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "This wonderful book should restore Jay's place in the pantheon of our great

Founding Fathers."Walter Isaacson