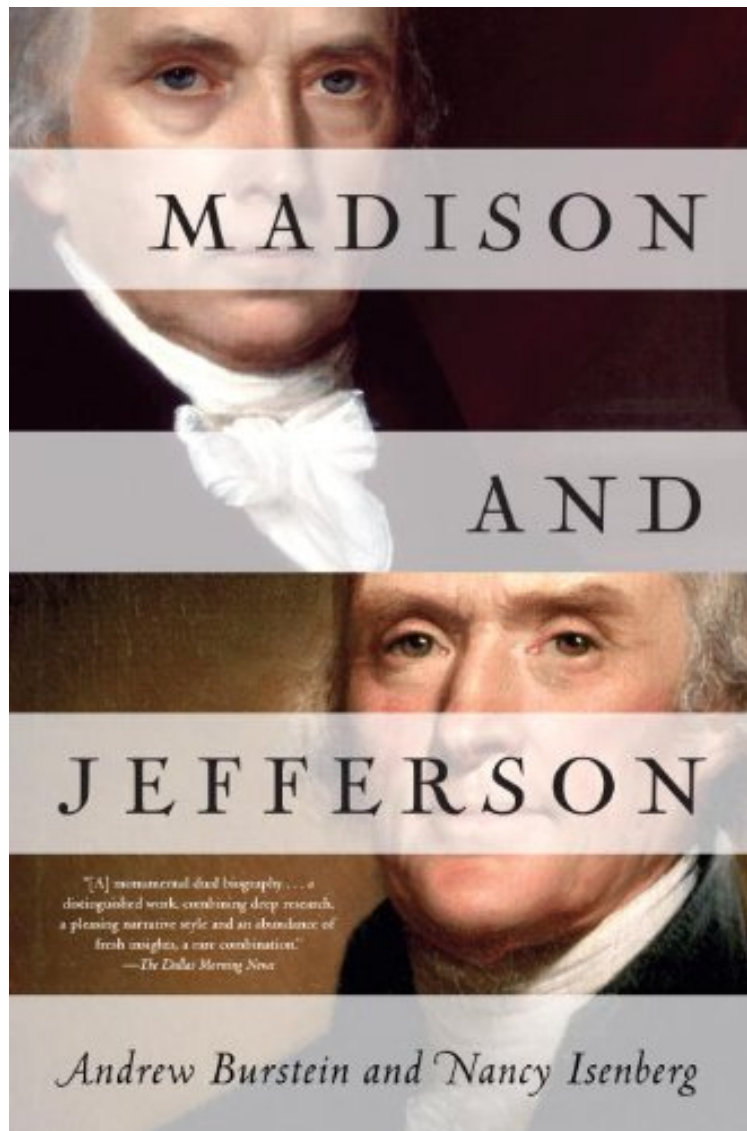


## Madison and Jefferson

*Andrew Burstein, Nancy Isenberg*  
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**Andrew Burstein, Nancy Isenberg : Madison and Jefferson** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Madison and Jefferson:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Virginians. Madison and Jefferson By John Windfall This book is very interesting about the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. It barely mentions the Louisiana purchase but tells of Jefferson's dream of expansion of the Union. It doesn't hardly anything of the the War of 1812 but enough to let us know that it was fought. However, what the reader is treated to is how the Virginians felt that it was they who should be the leaders of the nation. The book also dwells on the rise of political parties. Many of

the founders had their own ideas of what shape this country should take. Even after the Constitution was ratified there was a long dialogue as to the role of the three branches of government. The authors explore this and the beliefs of Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, John Marshall and others. This book is very long and might need two readings to understand all that was happening. After all this was written against the backdrop of the founding of the Union and the problem of slavery. Then there was the problem of our relationship with Great Britain, France and Spain. Yet Thomas Jefferson wanted his headstone to read that he founded a university. So read the book. One review can only whet your appetite. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Madison Jefferson - The Virginia Connection! By Barry Rosen Excellent joint biography of Madison and Jefferson, taking up at around the time of the Revolution to their deaths. The placing of Madison first is deliberate, and historian Andrew Burstein makes a strong case that Madison, who has played second fiddle to Jefferson in most historical accounts, was in some ways the more important of the two in terms of the development of our country. Beautifully written and full of information, including what the essential differences were between the Federalists (Washington, Hamilton and to a lesser extent Adams) and the Republicans (Jefferson, Madison, Monroe), the Virginia, Pennsylvania and NY connections, and the specific roles these persons and others (Patrick Henry, for instance) played in the founding and early decades of the United States. Highly recommended! 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The Lawyer (Madison) and the Philosopher (Jefferson) By Leonard J. Wilson Madison and Jefferson by Andrew Burstein and Nancy Isenberg is a challenging but worthwhile read: Challenging because it presents the history of the intellectual interplay between our third and fourth presidents using their extensive correspondence as a primary source, Worthwhile because it provides a degree of insight to the two presidents' thinking that I have not read elsewhere. Jefferson was the more philosophical, taking his ideas from the natural law school (Rousseau) while Madison was the more practical and down-to-earth, taking his ideas from social contract philosophers (John Locke). Jefferson was also the more eloquent writer, perhaps even flamboyant; Madison's writing was more focused and direct, perhaps even legalistic, reflecting his extensive research on the history of governments in preparation for the Constitutional Convention. (Madison would probably have worded Jefferson's "We hold these truths to be self-evident" to something more like "Consider the following facts".) None-the-less, they were great friends, supporting each other in many ways. The book is slightly more focused on Madison in an attempt to bring him out from Jefferson's extensive shadow. There seem to be three significant phases in Madison's career: \* The Early Federalist: Madison was a fairly strong federalist during the Constitutional Convention (1787), advocating a strong central government. As an example, he unsuccessfully proposed an "Absolute Negative" provision to the constitution under which the Senate could nullify any law of any state. \* The States Rights Republican: In contrast, in 1798 Madison was the unacknowledged author of the Virginia Resolution in which Virginia declared that the federal government's Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional and invited other states to join in seeking their repeal. \* The Pragmatic President: With the US Government's finances in deep trouble following the War of 1812, Madison broke with past Republican opposition to the establishment of a national bank as unconstitutional and supported the creation of the Second Bank of the United States. Here is a small sample of the events centered around these two presidents that I found most interesting: \* In 1782, Jefferson had a bad year. He was governor of Virginia at the time, the British drove him and the legislature from Richmond to Charlottesville and almost captured him, his wife died, and the legislature later investigate him for allowing the British to take Richmond (despite the fact that as governor he had little control over military matters). He was later exonerated and commended for his accomplishments as governor. After this string of negative events, Jefferson decided to retire from public life. Madison was the person primarily responsible for reversing this decision and convincing Jefferson to accept appointment as the minister to France. From that position, he became the first secretary of state under Washington after the constitution was ratified. \* During Washington's administration, Madison evolved from acting as a close advisor to the president to leading the opposition to the administration in congress. It was Madison, more than Jefferson, who organized the Republican Party. \* In the run-up to the 1800 presidential election, Jefferson, the presumptive Republican candidate, proposed to Madison that Madison should accept the Republican nomination to run against President John Adams. \* Jefferson proposed a Virginia state constitution which had a fascinating clause: Any child born to a slave in 1801 or thereafter would be free as of his birth - an interesting way of phasing out slavery. Jefferson's draft constitution was not approved. \* Jefferson agonized over his constitutional authority to purchase Louisiana from France in 1803, at one point considering a constitutional amendment necessary. Madison was instrumental in convincing Jefferson that the delay involved in amending the constitution would make the question moot - Napoleon wanted the money immediately to finance his European wars. \* Both men supported the declaration of war against Britain in 1812. This was probably their greatest shared mistake. The US was woefully unprepared for war. Their strategy was based on the unrealistic assumptions that Canada would fall easily to a US invasion and willingly become part of the United States. The war was actually unnecessary: Britain had agreed to most of the US demands just prior to the US declaration of war, but that information didn't arrive in Washington until war had been declared. Although I give Madison and Jefferson five stars, I'll take mild exception with one conclusion the authors present at the end of the last chapter. They cite Madison's flexible position on federalism and states' rights as a basis for concluding that the concept of "original intent" makes no sense in interpreting the Constitution. I agree with them that the interpretation of the Constitution

changed over Madison's life (to say nothing of the years since). However, I think there is still merit in trying to determine the intent not only of the Constitutional Convention but also of the subsequent state ratifying conventions, and the texts of the various amendments. I don't believe that there can be a single, unambiguous "original intent" that encompasses the views of Republicans Madison, Jefferson, and George Mason let alone Federalists such as Hamilton, Jay, and Marshall. However, examining the range of interpretations these individuals applied to the Constitution does help in determining whether and where a modern interpretation lies within that historical range.

[A] monumental dual biography . . . a distinguished work, combining deep research, a pleasing narrative style and an abundance of fresh insights, a rare combination. *The Dallas Morning News* The third and fourth presidents have long been considered proper gentlemen, with Thomas Jeffersons genius overshadowing James Madisons judgment and common sense. But in this revelatory book about their crucial partnership, both are seen as men of their times, hardboiled operatives in a gritty world of primal politics where they struggled for supremacy for more than fifty years. With a thrilling and unprecedented account of early America as its backdrop, Madison and Jefferson reveals these founding fathers as privileged young men in a land marked by tribal identities rather than a united national personality. Esteemed historians Andrew Burstein and Nancy Isenberg capture Madisons hidden role he acted in effect as a campaign manager in Jeffersons career. In riveting detail, the authors chart the courses of two very different presidencies: Jeffersons driven by force of personality, Madisons sustained by a militancy that history has been reluctant to ascribe to him. Supported by a wealth of original sources newspapers, letters, diaries, pamphlets Madison and Jefferson is a watershed account of the most important political friendship in American history. Enough colorful characters for a miniseries, loaded with backstabbing (and frontstabbing too). *Newsday* An important, thoughtful, and gracefully written political history. *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

From Booklist James Madison and Thomas Jefferson are both in the pantheon of Founding Fathers, but Madison is frequently relegated to the second tier. He is often described as Jeffersons protge and faithful lieutenant and credited primarily with his role in the formation and ratification of the Constitution rather than achievements during his presidency. This extensive and well-researched examination of their relationship spanning 50 years paints a more nuanced and often surprising portrait of both men. The authors, both history professors, succeed in removing their subjects from their pedestals without diminishing their brilliance or importance. Both Madison and Jefferson were intense political animals in politically turbulent times. In his conflicts with Federalists, Jefferson used surrogates to engage in dirty tricks, while seeming to remain above the fray. Madison was much more than a policy wonk. He was an effective and tough legislator at both the state and federal levels; also, he did not shrink from opposing Jeffersons policies when he disagreed with them. This is an important reappraisal of a critical partnership that shaped our early republic. --Jay Freeman An important, thoughtful, and gracefully written political history. *Publishers Weekly* (starred review) [A] monumental dual biography . . . a distinguished work, combining deep research, a pleasing narrative style and an abundance of fresh insights, a rare combination. *The Dallas Morning News* A superb book that greatly deepens our understanding of these founders. *Kirkus* s (starred review) Enough colorful characters for a miniseries, loaded with backstabbing (and frontstabbing too). *Newsday* A richly detailed account . . . that humanizes its subjects. *Tulsa World* A remarkably lucid account . . . With stunning style and clarity, [Burstein and Isenberg have] meticulously reexamined this political relationship. *Library Journal* About the Author Andrew Burstein and Nancy Isenberg are Charles P. Manship Professor of History and professor of history, respectively, at Louisiana State University. Burstein is the author of six other books on early America, including *The Passions of Andrew Jackson* and *Jeffersons Secrets*. Isenberg is the author of two prizewinning books, *Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr* and *Sex and Citizenship in Antebellum America*.