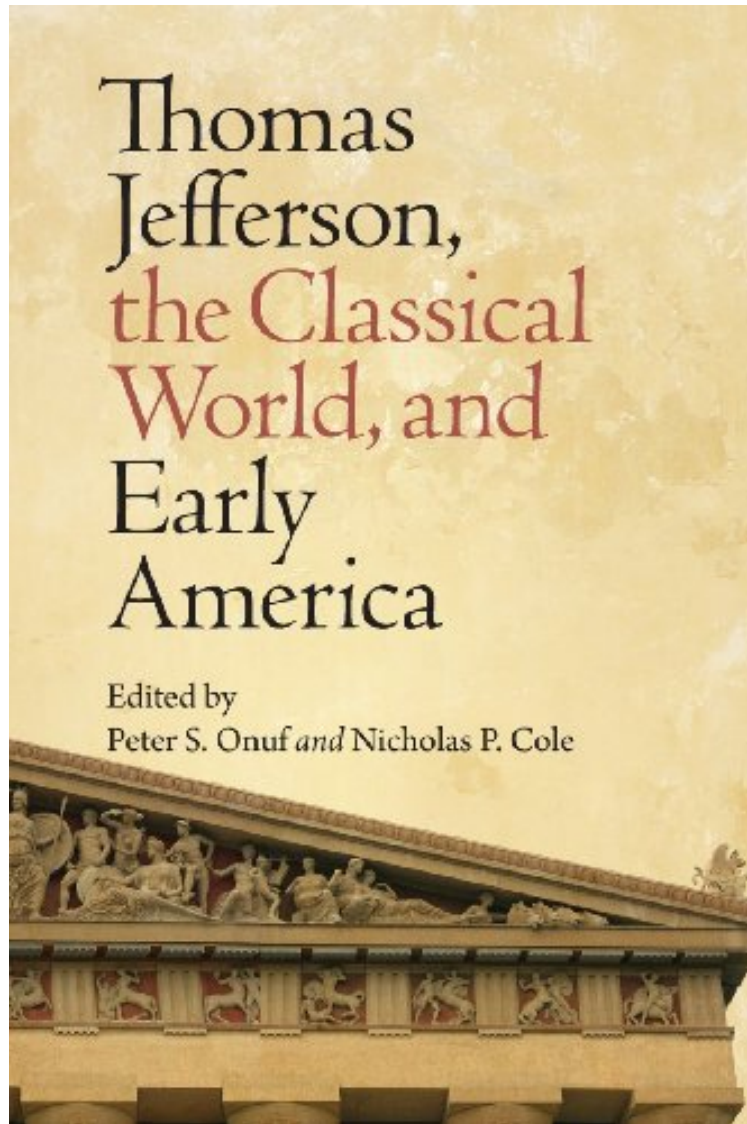


(Online library) Thomas Jefferson, the Classical World, and Early America (Jeffersonian America)

Thomas Jefferson, the Classical World, and Early America (Jeffersonian America)

From Brand: University of Virginia Press
ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#3209161 in Books University of Virginia Press 2013-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .74 x 5.981, 1.07 #File Name: 0813934435328 pages | File size: 50.Mb

From Brand: University of Virginia Press : Thomas Jefferson, the Classical World, and Early America (Jeffersonian America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thomas Jefferson, the Classical World, and Early America (Jeffersonian America):

3 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Primary Sources are betterBy wgreenThe Secondary Sources tend to be politically motivated. There is a difference between 1) knowing a subject, and 2) loving a subject. Many Jefferson

scholar's loathe Jefferson, and claim that their bias is "disinterested and objective." In reality, they're ignorant. The reading is Course Work. If you don't need it for a paper, don't buy it. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Jefferson Classicism By Steve B Thomas Jefferson, the Classical World, and Early America, edited by Peter S. Onuf and Nicholas P. Cole is a collection of essays from various classical scholars that attempts to flesh out the degree of influence classicism had on Jefferson, both personally and politically. This is no easy task, as the architect of Monticello, one of the most famous examples of neo-classical buildings in early America, and the scholar who was fluent in both Greek and Latin, in a letter to John Adams, "ridiculed Plato's Republic; and in other correspondence, he dismissed the importance and refused to bemoan the loss of major portions of Aristotle's Politics," (56). Evidently, Thomas Jefferson's views on the relevance and importance of classicism was at best conflicted. This collection contains ten essays broken down into two parts: Jefferson's Classical World and Classical Influences. By keeping the focus broad the editors have done an excellent job of allowing the authors to present a vivid picture of the intellectual world of the Revolutionary period. Because of this, we are able to place Jefferson's worldview within the context of his peers, and what emerges is a Jefferson who is not inline with many of his contemporaries in terms of classical thought. Giving a thoughtful review of a collection of essays which cover such a scope as this, which ranges from such topics as classical moral theory, to childrearing and education, to an analysis of George Washington as Cincinnatus, to Aristotle and King Alfred, and to Pericles in America is challenging to say the least. However, the editors have again done an excellent job at collating these diverse essays into an insightful whole, which generally paints a cohesive picture of a Jefferson who, while personally enamoured with classical language, writings and architecture, none the less views ancient political theory with suspicion. While the individual authors in this book may disagree about whether the classics were foundational or illustrative for Jefferson, the overall books allows for a more open-ended dualistic answer.

Thomas Jefferson read Latin and Greek authors throughout his life and wrote movingly about his love of the ancient texts, which he thought should be at the core of America's curriculum. Yet at the same time, Jefferson warned his countrymen not to look to the ancient world for modern lessons and deplored many of the ways his peers used classical authors to address contemporary questions. As a result, the contribution of the ancient world to the thought of America's most classically educated Founding Father remains difficult to assess. This volume brings together historians of political thought with classicists and historians of art and culture to find new approaches to the difficult questions raised by America's classical heritage. The essays explore the classical contribution to different aspects of Jefferson's thought and taste, as well as examining the significance of the ancient world to America in a broader historical context. The diverse interests and methodologies of the contributors suggest new ways of approaching one of the most prominent and contested of the traditions that helped create America's revolutionary republicanism.

Contributors: Gordon S. Wood, Brown University * Peter S. Onuf, University of Virginia * Michael P. Zuckert, University of Notre Dame * Caroline Winterer, Stanford University * Richard Guy Wilson, University of Virginia * Maurie D. McInnis, University of Virginia * Nicholas P. Cole, University of Oxford * Peter Thompson, University of Oxford * Eran Shalev, Haifa University * Paul A. Rahe, Hillsdale College * Jennifer T. Roberts, City University of New York, Graduate Center * Andrew Jackson OShaughnessy, University of Virginia

This well-written, thoroughly researched, highly provocative collection of essays by eminent scholars makes a significant contribution to an understanding of Jefferson's classicism. (Carl J. Richard, University of Louisiana at Lafayette author of *Greeks and Romans Bearing Gifts: How the Ancients Inspired the Founding Fathers*) This is a striking collection of essays. Jefferson associated classicism with ideas of beauty and taste, and ideals of health, virtue, and contentment. Yet this volume says much more, going beyond Jefferson to address broader intellectual currents and matters of historical consciousness. Importantly, the contributors do not shy from questioning traditional assumptions about the centrality of classical knowledge in the political thought of early Americans. Diverse and greatly appealing. (Andrew Burstein, Louisiana State University author of *Jefferson's Secrets: Death and Desire at Monticello*)

About the Author Peter S. Onuf is Thomas Jefferson Foundation Professor of History at the University of Virginia. Nicholas P. Cole is Junior Research Fellow in History at St. Peter's College, University of Oxford.