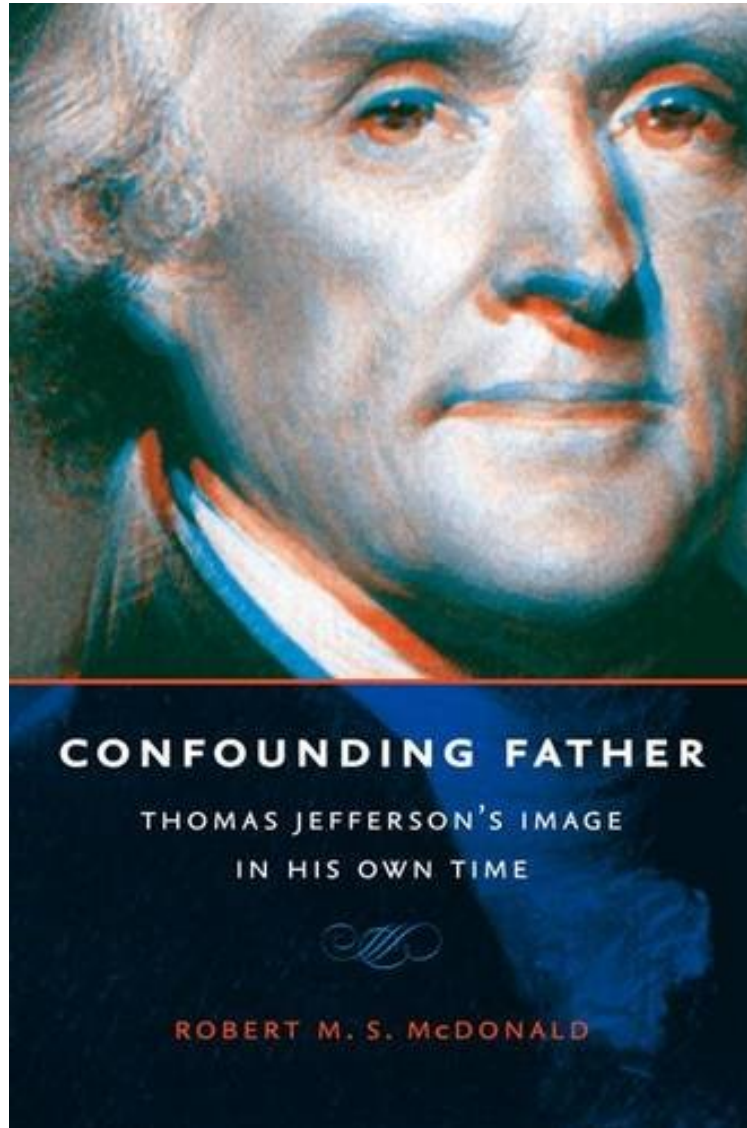


(Mobile library) *Confounding Father: Thomas Jefferson's Image in His Own Time (Jeffersonian America)*

## **Confounding Father: Thomas Jefferson's Image in His Own Time (Jeffersonian America)**

*Robert M. S. McDonald*

*ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1054105 in Books VIRGINIA 2016-08-29Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x 1.00 x 6.10l, .0 #File Name: 0813938961328 pagesVIRGINIA | File size: 27.Mb

**Robert M. S. McDonald : Confounding Father: Thomas Jefferson's Image in His Own Time (Jeffersonian America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Confounding Father: Thomas Jefferson's Image in His Own Time (Jeffersonian America)*:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and informativeBy Gray C.This is an interesting and informative book that is fair and balanced on Thomas Jefferson. It helped me see him as a real person.I haven't

enjoyed non-fiction this much in a long time. The writing is very clear and sometimes really fun. Many sentences made me smile and I even laughed out loud a couple times. Toward the end, when Jefferson died, I got a lump in my throat. I also learned a lot, even though I majored in history and have read other books on Jefferson. A few of the things I learned: First, no one knew Jefferson wrote the Declaration until the 1790's, but even then people tried to deny that he was its author. Second, at first Madison was the leading Republican before Hamilton went after Jefferson in newspapers, causing the public to see him as the leader. Third, Jefferson worked really hard to shape his reputation, even though the rules of politics back then forced him to do it mostly in secret. Fourth, Jefferson was kind of obsessive about what people were saying and kept scrapbooks of newspaper articles about himself. Fifth, how Jefferson handled the Sally Hemmings scandal and got away with it. Sixth, Jefferson's Republicans started off pretty pure ("principles and not men") but being in power caused them to kind of forget what they stood for. The book does a really great job explaining these things. Is this book a biography of Jefferson? Yes and no. Really, it is the story of the life of his public image. This is what makes it unique. It is fascinating to see how he went from being the unknown writer of the Declaration of Independence to one of the most controversial presidents in history. Haters actually thought he'd import the bloody French Revolution. Supporters saw him as the philosopher of the American Revolution. The book also gives a nice history of Jefferson's time. He was involved in just about every important event. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Smart and substantive while also readable and fascinating. By Customer I bought this because I needed it for my thesis and the library didn't yet have it. I didn't intend to read it cover to cover. I was only going to read the parts related to my research. But once I started reading, I didn't want to stop. This is a history book you can read for pleasure. It manages to both be smart and substantive while also readable and truly fascinating. This book has transformed my thoughts about Thomas Jefferson and deepened my understanding of the politics of the early republic. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rich in Detail. By Terry Tucker This is an very focused look at Jefferson the man, his philosophy and his life. The controversy over his life continues to this day, but despite any criticism the honor of his authorship of one of the greatest documents in history remains his.

Of all the founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson stood out as the most controversial and confounding. Loved and hated, revered and reviled, during his lifetime he served as a lightning rod for dispute. Few major figures in American history provoked such a polarization of public opinion. One supporter described him as the possessor of "an enlightened mind and superior wisdom; the adorer of our God; the patriot of his country; and the friend and benefactor of the whole human race." Martha Washington, however, considered Jefferson "one of the most detestable of mankind"--and she was not alone. While Jefferson's supporters organized festivals in his honor where they praised him in speeches and songs, his detractors portrayed him as a dilettante and demagogue, double-faced and dangerously radical, an atheist and "Anti-Christ" hostile to Christianity. Characterizing his beliefs as un-American, they tarred him with the extremism of the French Revolution. Yet his allies cheered his contributions to the American Revolution, unmasking him as the now formerly anonymous author of the words that had helped to define America in the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson, meanwhile, anxiously monitored the development of his image. As president he even clipped expressions of praise and scorn from newspapers, pasting them in his personal scrapbooks. In this fascinating new book, historian Robert M. S. McDonald explores how Jefferson, a man with a manner so mild some described it as meek, emerged as such a divisive figure. Bridging the gap between high politics and popular opinion, *Confounding Father* exposes how Jefferson's bifurcated image took shape both as a product of his own creation and in response to factors beyond his control. McDonald tells a gripping, sometimes poignant story of disagreements over issues and ideology as well as contested conceptions of the rules of politics. In the first fifty years of independence, Americans' views of Jefferson revealed much about their conflicting views of the purpose and promise of America. Jeffersonian America

*Confounding Father* is an ambitious, impressively researched, and well-written study that shows how public perceptions of Jefferson were inextricably bound up with the young nation's core values and controversies. A must-read for anyone seeking to understand the sweeping impact of Jefferson's image on early national America and beyond. (Joanne Freeman, Yale University, author of *Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic*) Robert McDonald has undertaken to study the evolution of Jefferson's reputation during his lifetime, and the result is an original and engaging study. This will stand out as a notable contribution to our understanding of Jefferson and his time. A substantial and important work. (Francis Cogliano, University of Edinburgh, author of *Thomas Jefferson: Reputation and Legacy*) Robert McDonald's fascinating study of Thomas Jefferson's efforts to shape his image--and of the ways his fellow Americans saw him in his own time--brings the controversial author of the Declaration of Independence into sharp and illuminating focus. *Confounding Father* is a major contribution to the literature. (Peter S. Onuf, Thomas Jefferson Foundation Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia, coauthor, with Annette Gordon-Reed, of *"Most Blessed of the Patriarchs": Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination*) Thomas Jefferson's contemporaries often acknowledged his quiet, meek, and at times downright awkward disposition, and yet this mild-mannered man became one of the most controversial figures of his time. In *Confounding Father: Thomas Jefferson's*

Image in His Own Time, Robert M.S. McDonald tackles the question of how the quiet Jefferson became such a divisive figure over the span of his public career. (Journal of the American Revolution) This latest installment in the University of Virginia Press 'Jeffersonian America' series fills a vital need so well that its amazing that nobody has attempted such a thing before.... [McDonald] writes with grace, clarity, and skill; his research is deep and wide-ranging... *Confounding Father* is one of the indispensable modern studies of Jefferson and of the politics of the early Republic. McDonald proves that we can still say new and illuminating things about Jefferson and his time, and he does so with extraordinary historical craftsmanship. (Virginia Magazine of History and Biography) As West Point historian Rob McDonald expertly reveals in his profound and original study of the third president, those who loved and hated Jefferson manufactured his image. While Jefferson allowed this to happen especially in the early- to mid-1790s she had not originally sought the position of patriot demigod. Instead, Dr. McDonald writes, Jefferson actually believed that in a republic, the true leader does not seek leadership or power, preferring the private life unless the public demands and confers such honors as political authority.... McDonald's *Confounding Father* is not just a worthy addition to your library it is a must-own. (The Imaginative Conservative) About the Author Robert M. S. McDonald, Professor of History at the United States Military Academy, is the editor of *Sons of the Father: George Washington and His Protgs* (Virginia).