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# Who Was Thomas Jefferson

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The Writings of Thomas Jefferson  
 Thomas Jefferson: Fighter for Freedom and Human Rights  
 Thomas Jefferson's Farm Book  
 American Sphinx  
 Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 Who Was Thomas Jefferson?  
 Thomas Jefferson in His Own Words  
 Notes on the State of Virginia  
 Thomas Jefferson: Writings (LOA #17)  
 Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power  
 The Life and Selected Writings of Thomas Jefferson  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 Meet Thomas Jefferson  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Volume 33  
 Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson  
 The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson  
 Jefferson's Literary Commonplace Book  
 Thomas Jefferson  
 A Picture Book of Thomas Jefferson  
 The Writings of Thomas Jefferson  
 Thomas Jefferson and the New Nation  
 The Wisdom of Thomas Jefferson  
 Life of Thomas Jefferson  
 The Road to Monticello: The Life and Mind of Thomas Jefferson  
 Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power  
 Thomas Jefferson's Scrapbooks  
 Thomas Jefferson  
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 Thomas Jefferson  
 Thomas Jefferson: President and Philosopher  
 The Real Thomas Jefferson  
 The Works of Thomas Jefferson  
 The Inaugural Addresses of President Thomas Jefferson, 1801 and 1805  
 Thomas Jefferson's America  
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 The Life of Thomas Jefferson, Third President of the United States

*Who Was Thomas Jefferson*

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## WOODARD CARLY

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*The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*  
 Transaction Publishers  
 Thomas Jefferson is known by most as the third president of the United States, but his legacy extends much further than that. Born to a wealthy plantation owner, Thomas was the third of nine children. When he was just fourteen, his father died, leaving him half his land, slaves, and wealth. These circumstances allowed Thomas to attend college at the age of sixteen, and later on, to study under one of the top lawyers of the time. His political history is one of great triumph and struggle. Jefferson first practiced law and served in the government as a member of the House of Burgesses, later serving as a member of the Continental Congress,

where he wrote the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson left Congress in 1776 and returned to Virginia to serve in the legislature, and then as Governor of Virginia for two years. He took a brief sabbatical until 1784, when he replaced Benjamin Franklin as minister to France. In 1790, Jefferson became Secretary of State under George Washington and later served as Vice President to John Adams. Jefferson won the presidency in a heated election in 1800. His first term resulted in some notable achievements, including the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, and then his support of the Lewis and Clark expedition. In his second term, he faced difficulties in the domestic and foreign fronts and was most remembered for his effort to remain neutral in the midst of the conflict between France and Britain. In 1809, President Jefferson was succeeded by James Madison. While he

lived out his final seventeen years at his Virginia plantation, Monticello, Jefferson sold his collection of books to the government. Not only did he lay the foundation for the Library of Congress, but he was also the founder of the University of Virginia. Thomas Jefferson passed away on July 4, 1826, just hours before his friend John Adams died on the same date. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and Jefferson was eighty-three years old. Spend some time with this distinguished American and buy the book *Thomas Jefferson - A Short Biography*. 30 Minute Book Series Welcome to the ninth book in the 30-Minute Book Series. Each book in the series is fast-paced, well-written, and accurate, covering the story in as much detail as a short book allows. In less than an hour, you can read or listen to the full book. It is a perfect companion for your

lunch hour, or perhaps a nice distraction on your train ride home from work. About the Author Doug West is a retired engineer, small business owner, and an experienced non-fiction writer with several books to his credit. His writing interests are general, with special expertise in science, biographies, and "How-To" topics. Doug has a Ph.D. in General Engineering from Oklahoma State University.

[Thomas Jefferson: Fighter for Freedom and Human Rights](#) The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson's career is an incredible list of accomplishments. Not just the primary author of the Declaration of Independence and the third US president, he's also the founder of the University of Virginia and the architect of Monticello. This in-depth biography of Jefferson uses his documents and private letters as primary sources to paint a complete portrait of the man and his undeniable impact on a new nation. Historical images, sidebars, and "More to Know" fact boxes add to the appeal of this absorbing book. *Thomas Jefferson's Farm Book* Library of America

Detailed account of this man's remarkable life: as governor of Virginia, years in Paris, as Washington's secretary of state, life in retirement, and more. First draft of the Declaration of Independence is included. *American Sphinx* Scholastic Paperbacks *Thomas Jefferson's Farm Book* chronicles more than fifty years of agriculture, slavery, and light industry on Jefferson's Virginia plantations. The late Edwin Morris Betts embellishes Jefferson's original farm journal with relevant letters, diagrams, and records selected from Jefferson's public and private writings. Organized topically and richly annotated, this wide-ranging volume is the most complete record of plantation activity in early America.

#### **Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson**

Random House Trade Paperbacks  
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times Book Review  
• The Washington Post • Entertainment Weekly • The Seattle Times • St. Louis Post-Dispatch • Bloomberg Businessweek  
In this magnificent biography, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *American Lion* and *Franklin and Winston* brings vividly to life an extraordinary man and his remarkable times. *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* gives us Jefferson the politician and president, a great and complex human being forever engaged in the wars of his era. Philosophers think; politicians maneuver. Jefferson's genius was that he was both and could do both, often simultaneously. Such is the art of power.

Thomas Jefferson hated confrontation, and yet his understanding of power and of human nature enabled him to move men and to marshal ideas, to learn from his mistakes, and to prevail. Passionate about many things—women, his family, books, science, architecture, gardens, friends, Monticello, and Paris—Jefferson loved America most, and he strove over and over again, despite fierce opposition, to realize his vision: the creation, survival, and success of popular government in America. Jon Meacham lets us see Jefferson's world as Jefferson himself saw it, and to appreciate how Jefferson found the means to endure and win in the face of rife partisan division, economic uncertainty, and external threat. Drawing on archives in the United States, England, and France, as well as unpublished Jefferson presidential papers, Meacham presents Jefferson as the most successful political leader of the early republic, and perhaps in all of American history. The father of the ideal of individual liberty, of the Louisiana Purchase, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and of the settling of the West, Jefferson recognized that the genius of humanity—and the genius of the new nation—lay in the possibility of progress, of discovering the undiscovered and seeking the unknown. From the writing of the Declaration of Independence to elegant dinners in Paris and in the President's House; from political maneuverings in the boardinghouses and legislative halls of Philadelphia and New York to the infant capital on the Potomac; from his complicated life at Monticello, his breathtaking house and plantation in Virginia, to the creation of the University of Virginia, Jefferson was central to the age. Here too is the personal Jefferson, a man of appetite, sensuality, and passion. The Jefferson story resonates today not least because he led his nation through ferocious partisanship and cultural warfare amid economic change and external threats, and also because he embodies an eternal drama, the struggle of the leadership of a nation to achieve greatness in a difficult and confounding world. Praise for *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* "This is probably the best single-volume biography of Jefferson ever written."—Gordon S. Wood "A big, grand, absorbing exploration of not just Jefferson and his role in history but also Jefferson the man, humanized as never before."—Entertainment Weekly "[Meacham] captures who Jefferson was, not just as a statesman but as a man. . . . By the end of the book . . . the reader is likely to feel as if he is losing a dear friend. . . . [An] absorbing tale."—The Christian

Science Monitor "This terrific book allows us to see the political genius of Thomas Jefferson better than we have ever seen it before. In these endlessly fascinating pages, Jefferson emerges with such vitality that it seems as if he might still be alive today."—Doris Kearns Goodwin  
*Thomas Jefferson* Courier Corporation  
This work is a new edition of Thomas Jefferson's literary commonplace book, a notebook of his literary and philosophical reading. Unlike the only previous edition, published in 1928, it contains full annotation, pertinent information on the authors and works commonplacéd, and a rationale for dating the entries. Thus it is now possible to show that most of the four hundred seven passages were entered when Jefferson was a young man, between the ages of fifteen and thirty. As such, they reflect the range of his literary interests from his school days to about the time of his marriage and involvement in politics. As one of the few surviving documents from Jefferson's early years, this notebook assumes special importance as a source of insight into the least known period of his life. In the introduction the editor presents reasons for thinking that the commonplace book was more to Jefferson than a literary sampler and was in some respects a deeply personal notebook with direct connections to the emotional events and preoccupations of his formative years. In addition to the text and annotation, the book contains a register of authors and an illustrated essay on Jefferson's handwriting that provides the rationale for assigning approximate dates to the entries of the commonplace book. Originally published in 1989. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.  
[Who Was Thomas Jefferson?](#) Lulu.com  
Did you know that John Adams had to coax Thomas Jefferson into writing the Declaration of Independence? It's true. The shy Virginia statesman refused at first, but then went on to author one of our nation's most important and inspiring documents. The third U.S. president, Jefferson was also an architect, inventor, musician, farmer, and—what is certainly the most troubling aspect of his life—a slave

owner. Finally, here's a biography for kids that unveils the many facets of this founding father's remarkable and complicated life.

**Thomas Jefferson in His Own Words**  
Yearling

Thomas Jefferson designed his own tombstone, describing himself simply as "Author of the Declaration of Independence and of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia." It is in this simple epitaph that R.B. Bernstein finds the key to this enigmatic Founder--not as a great political figure, but as leader of "a revolution of ideas that would make the world over again." In *Thomas Jefferson*, Bernstein offers the definitive short biography of this revered American--the first concise life in six decades. Bernstein deftly synthesizes the massive scholarship on his subject into a swift, insightful, evenhanded account. Here are all of Jefferson's triumphs, contradictions, and failings, from his luxurious (and debt-burdened) life as a Virginia gentleman to his passionate belief in democracy, from his tortured defense of slavery to his relationship with Sally Hemings. Jefferson was indeed multifaceted--an architect, inventor, writer, diplomat, propagandist, planter, party leader--and Bernstein explores all these roles even as he illuminates Jefferson's central place in the American enlightenment, that "revolution of ideas" that did so much to create the nation we know today. Together with the less well-remembered points in Jefferson's thinking--the nature of the Union, his vision of who was entitled to citizenship, his dread of debt (both personal and national)--they form the heart of this lively biography. In this marvel of compression and comprehension, we see Jefferson more clearly than in the massive studies of earlier generations. More important, we see, in Jefferson's visionary ideas, the birth of the nation's grand sense of purpose.

**Notes on the State of Virginia** Random House Books for Young Readers

This short but richly detailed memoir by Thomas Jefferson offers a rare autobiographical glimpse into the fascinating mind of this Founding Father during the tumultuous events of his remarkable public career. In addition to being America's third President, Jefferson was Minister to France during the early stages of the French Revolution, wartime Governor of Virginia, Washington's Secretary of State and Vice President during the John Adams administration. This new edition of the *Autobiography* includes an essay on Jefferson by historian Elbert Hubbard.

*Thomas Jefferson: Writings (LOA #17)*  
Oxford University Press

"Jefferson is the central figure in American history, and...he may yet prove to be the central figure in modern history." So stated noted historian Henry Steele Commager. *The Real Thomas Jefferson* lets you meet the man as he really was--rather than as interpreted by historians. The book tells much of his exciting story in his own words. You will meet a man who- lost his wife when she was only 33, and lost four children before the age of three. created the masterpiece of his life, the Declaration of Independence, at the young age of 33. served as governor of war-torn Virginia and once escaped British capture by only minutes. was one of the geniuses behind the American Constitution, even though he was serving in France during the Constitutional Convention. was a true Renaissance man, skilled in farming, scientific experimentation, practical invention, economics, political philosophy, and statesmanship. nearly lost his first presidential election to Aaron Burr, a scoundrel who later may have committed treason. The second part of this book brings together the most important and insightful passages from Jefferson's writings, conveniently arranged by subject. Book jacket.

**Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power**  
National Geographic Books

The definitive life of Jefferson in one volume, this biography relates Jefferson's private life and thought to his prominent public position and reveals the rich complexity of his development. As Peterson explores the dominant themes guiding Jefferson's career--democracy, nationality, and enlightenment--and Jefferson's powerful role in shaping America, he simultaneously tells the story of nation coming into being.

*The Life and Selected Writings of Thomas Jefferson* Citadel Press

Presents the life and accomplishments of the third president of the United States.

**Thomas Jefferson** Lerner Publishing Group

"While President Jefferson's addresses are well known, the extent to which they were published and distributed, and the responses to them by both individuals and governments, has not previously been considered. In a world where the new republican government of the United States represented a major departure from the dominant monarchical governments of Europe, the recognition given to Jefferson's inaugural addresses in Europe and elsewhere is of considerable significance. His addresses were widely published in newspapers and journals not

only in the United States and Canada, but also in Great Britain, France, Italy, and other European states, as well as later republished in South America."

*Meet Thomas Jefferson* Penguin

In this unique biography of Thomas Jefferson, leading journalist and social critic Christopher Hitchens offers a startlingly new and provocative interpretation of our Founding Father. Situating Jefferson within the context of America's evolution and tracing his legacy over the past two hundred years, Hitchens brings the character of Jefferson to life as a man of his time and also as a symbolic figure beyond it. Conflicted by power, Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and acted as Minister to France yet yearned for a quieter career in the Virginia legislature. Predicting that slavery would shape the future of America's development, this professed proponent of emancipation elided the issue in the Declaration and continued to own human property. An eloquent writer, he was an awkward public speaker; a reluctant candidate, he left an indelible presidential legacy. Jefferson's statesmanship enabled him to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase with France, doubling the size of the nation, and he authorized the Lewis and Clark expedition, opening up the American frontier for exploration and settlement. Hitchens also analyzes Jefferson's handling of the Barbary War, a lesser-known chapter of his political career, when his attempt to end the kidnapping and bribery of Americans by the Barbary states, and the subsequent war with Tripoli, led to the building of the U.S. navy and the fortification of America's reputation regarding national defense. In the background of this sophisticated analysis is a large historical drama: the fledgling nation's struggle for independence, formed in the crucible of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, and, in its shadow, the deformation of that struggle in the excesses of the French Revolution. This artful portrait of a formative figure and a turbulent era poses a challenge to anyone interested in American history -- or in the ambiguities of human nature.

Thomas Jefferson Vintage

In this special illustrated edition of the #1 New York Times bestselling *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham, young readers will learn about the life and political philosophy of one of our Founding Fathers. This book is a must-read for President's Day! Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States. He was one of the authors of the Declaration

of Independence. But he was also a lawyer and an ambassador, an inventor and a scientist. He had a wide range of interests and hobbies, but his consuming interest was the survival and success of the United States. This book contains a note from Meacham and over 100 archival illustrations, as well as sections throughout the text about subjects such as the Boston Tea Party, the Library of Congress, and Napoléon Bonaparte. Additional materials include a time line; a family tree; a Who's Who in Jefferson's world; sections on Jefferson's original writings and correspondence, "inventions," interests, places in Jefferson's world, finding Jefferson in the United States today, additional reading, organizations, and websites; notes; a bibliography; and an index. This adaptation, ideal for those interested in American presidents, biographies, and the founding of the American republic, is an excellent example of informational writing and reflects Meacham's extensive research using primary source material. Praise for *Thomas Jefferson: President and Philosopher* "A solid resource for young people intrigued by Jefferson." -Booklist "Comprehensive and engaging."

-Scholastic Instructor "There is a surprising paucity of books about Jefferson at this level and this handsome, well-written, and engaging volume fills that literary gap." -Horn Book "Wonderfully written and crafted... Entertaining for both kids and adults alike." -KidsReads.com  
[The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Volume 33](#) Oxford University Press, USA  
 While in office from 1801-1809, Thomas Jefferson created homemade scrapbooks of hundreds of poems about national pride, family, and romantic love. He gave the books as gifts to his granddaughters and for nearly 200 years it was believed the girls had compiled the collections themselves.

[Autobiography of Thomas Jefferson](#)  
 Modern Library

"The Papers of Thomas Jefferson is a projected 60-volume series containing not only the 18,000 letters written by Jefferson but also, in full or in summary, the more than 25,000 letters written to him. Including documents of historical significance as well as private notes not closely examined until their publication in the Papers, this series is an unmatched source of scholarship on the nation's third president"--Publisher's description.  
**The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson**

Gareth Stevens Publishing LLLP  
 A short biography of Thomas Jefferson covers such topics as his life as a Virginia gentleman, his passionate belief in democracy, his defense of slavery, his relationship with Sally Hemings, and his contributions to America as a writer, inventor, and party leader.

**Jefferson's Literary Commonplace Book** Oxford University Press

When Thomas Jefferson was young, Virginia was still a colony of England. Jefferson thought that many English laws and taxes were unfair, so he studied hard to become a lawyer and help make better laws. Soon he and others came to believe that the colonies should become a new country, and Jefferson was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence. As the third president of the United States, he focused on exploring the country and making it grow. His fairness and love of learning made him one of the most beloved presidents of all time.

[Thomas Jefferson](#) Lawrence : University Press of Kansas

T This fascinating storytelling biography also presents real-life portraits of Washington, Adams, Madison, Franklin, Monroe, Hamilton , and Lafayette.

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