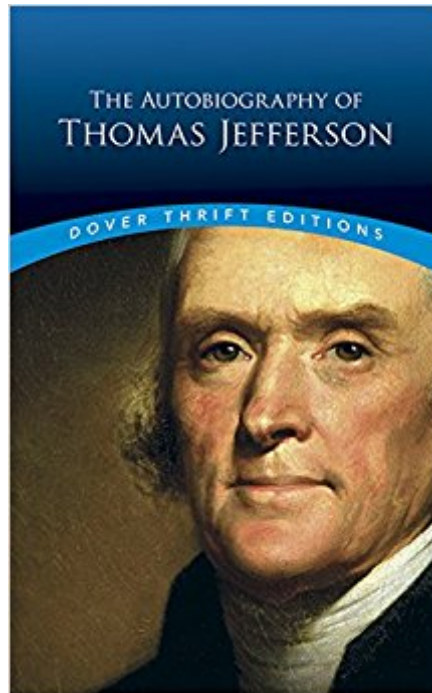




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The Autobiography Of Thomas Jefferson (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

During his remarkable lifetime, Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) served his country in many capacities, including as the third President of the United States. But ultimately, this gifted individual – an accomplished architect, naturalist, and linguist – wished to be remembered primarily as the writer of the Declaration of Independence. In this autobiography, begun in 1821 when the author was 77, Jefferson touches fleetingly upon his early years before focusing on the period during which he wrote the Declaration. This edition features a fascinating first draft of the document, in addition to Jefferson's comments on the Articles of Confederation. Other highlights include his firsthand observations on the early stages of the French Revolution, obtained while serving as Minister to France, as well as insights from his many other public roles: wartime Governor of Virginia, Washington's Secretary of State, and Vice President during the John Adams administration. This brief memoir provides a rare opportunity to share the reflections of a Founding Father as written in his own words.

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Customer Reviews

Architect, author, inventor, naturalist, and linguist – Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) would have been an extraordinary man even if he hadn't been the third President of the United States. A powerful advocate of liberty, this Founding Father is primarily remembered as the author of the Declaration of Independence.

I had no idea this existed! Jefferson's attempted autobiography is unfinished and short, but it does contain some detailed first hand analysis of both the 2nd Continental Congress and the early days of the French Revolution. It's really interesting hearing about those historical events from Jefferson's point of view. I'm kind of blown away to get to hear his actual words on the events he lived through.

I like the ability to find out what Jefferson really believed in his own words. So much misinformation created by his political enemies muddies the history of a great American. I would recommend this book for anyone who really wants to know the truth about Jefferson and his life, beliefs, policies, etc. Then you can see clearly through the fog of lies and deception spread by political enemies.

Early life and family life missing; he writes very little about his upbringing and relatives. His list of grievances concerning the rule of George 3rd are many and his lawyerly skill in helping to frame the constitution in consultation with the heads of the other colonies (states) is gone into at length. I thought his sojourn in France (he was Francophile) during the storming of the Bastille, when he was ambassador, the most interesting part. Again little mention of Monticello his plantation home. Still, at the price, good value.

Difficult to read since the idiom of that day seems a bit alien today. Also, Jefferson is a bit wordy. A lot of his recollection is travelog in nature. Doesn't take away from his genius.

If you are looking for an autobiography, you will be disappointed. This is a chronicle by Jefferson, but not much about biography. Probably good for researchers.

I recently read this book as I continue my education of America's founders. This work is quite short; Jefferson made it for his own reference as he aged and the interest of his descendants; this book was not originally for public release. This book was published after his death and does not cover the last few years of his life. Mr. Jefferson-quite possibly our greatest president-briefly recounts the main events of his life summarizes some of his achievements, experiences during the American Revolution, and his first hand view of the beginning of the French Revolution. This book was not quite as interesting to me as Jefferson's "Notes On The State Of Virginia". I would recommend this book to those who desire to learn more about the United State's founding history.

Good read for any student of history

4 star

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