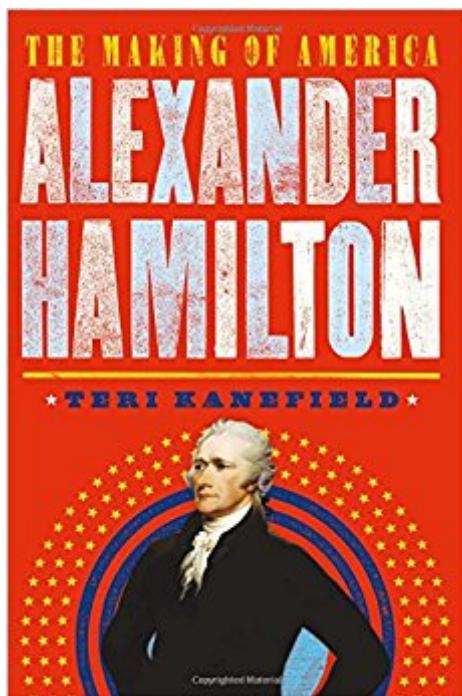


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# Alexander Hamilton: The Making Of America



## Synopsis

The America that Alexander Hamilton knew was largely agricultural and built on slave labor. He envisioned something else: a multi-racial, urbanized, capitalistic America with a strong central government. He believed that such an America would be a land of opportunity for the poor and the newcomers. But Hamilton's vision put him at odds with his archrivals who envisioned a pastoral America of small towns, where governments were local, states would control their own destiny, and the federal government would remain small and weak. The disputes that arose during America's first decades continued through American history to our present day. Over time, because of the systems Hamilton set up and the ideas he left, his vision won out. Here is the story that epitomizes the American dream—a poor immigrant who made good in America. In the end, Hamilton rose from poverty through his intelligence and ability, and did more to shape our country than any of his contemporaries. Related subjects and concepts discussed in the book include: Law and Legal Concepts Due process Bill of Rights Freedom of Speech and the Press Originalism / nonoriginalism (theories of Constitutional interpretation) Government Checks and Balances Democracy Electoral College Republic Financial Concepts Capitalism Credit Inflation Interest Mercantilism Securities: Stocks and Bonds Tariffs Taxes Miscellaneous Demagogues Dueling Pastoralism

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

"The strength of the book is the generous use of Hamilton's own words...A solid introduction to a charismatic founding father." (Kirkus)"A great addition to upper elementary and middle school libraries...students will crave this title." (School Library Journal)"Thoroughly researched and cited, this book is accessibly written and full of valuable information...Hamilton's intelligence, ceaseless drive, and penchant for speaking his mind come across, giving readers a clear view of Hamilton's character and his role in creating America." (Booklist)"Kanefield is a capable nonfiction writer, organizing an eloquent review of Hamilton's life while balancing the perspectives of his adversaries and skeptics... the story is told easily, making a founding father accessible to young readers the way Lin-Manuel Miranda has done on Broadway." (VOYA)

Teri Kanefield is a lawyer and writer. Her books for children have won numerous awards and distinctions, including the Jane Addams Peace Award in the Older Readers category. She lives with her family in San Francisco, California.

Kids friendly and full of good historical information for young readers.

I love history. It amazes me how much I really do not know, especially about American History. Teri Kanefield has once again done an exceptional job of bringing history to life. Her book about Alexander Hamilton opened my eyes to a man I realized I really knew nothing about. He starts off life in another country, poor, abandoned and making his own way in life. When given the opportunity to come to America he jumps at the chance. His mind for learning amazed me. I had no idea how much influence he had in shaping what we now call the United States of America. He married a woman who came from a wealthy family with the understanding that he was poor and would probably always be that way. She loved the man he was and agreed to the marriage. He put so much into this country. Through reading this book you get a well-rounded picture of the man and his love for this country. You get a first-hand look at how much he was willing to sacrifice for it. I learned what an elegant writer he was. For the history lover, this is a must read book. This is a book that will definitely go on my shelves. It is a book that I want my students to read. It is a book I will recommend to our History department as a valuable resource. Teri has included some of his writings in the back of the book. More importantly was the timeline and endnotes she included. Such

a valuable resource, yet it held my attention and I read it in one sitting. This is a must read book. This book will be published in March of 2017. I received a copy to facilitate my review. The opinions expressed here are my own.

Alexander Hamilton is much in the news lately, particularly with the Broadway play in such demand, and the current political atmosphere. This young adult biography is approximately 200 pages and includes a birth-to-death account of the life of this extraordinary founding father. It covers many important topics, such as mercantilism, checks and balances, tariffs, and, of course, the Federalist papers and the Constitution. It is filled with drawings, paintings and portraits, as well as clearly labeled title pages with Alexander Hamilton quotes beneath. Visually appealing, well-paced, and simplistic enough to hold the interest of young readers, it is also a pleasant recap for adults. [historical-fiction.com](http://historical-fiction.com)

Good summary of Hamilton's viewpoints and life. A bit short and it casts everyone who didn't agree with him as a villain, but still a worthwhile read.

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