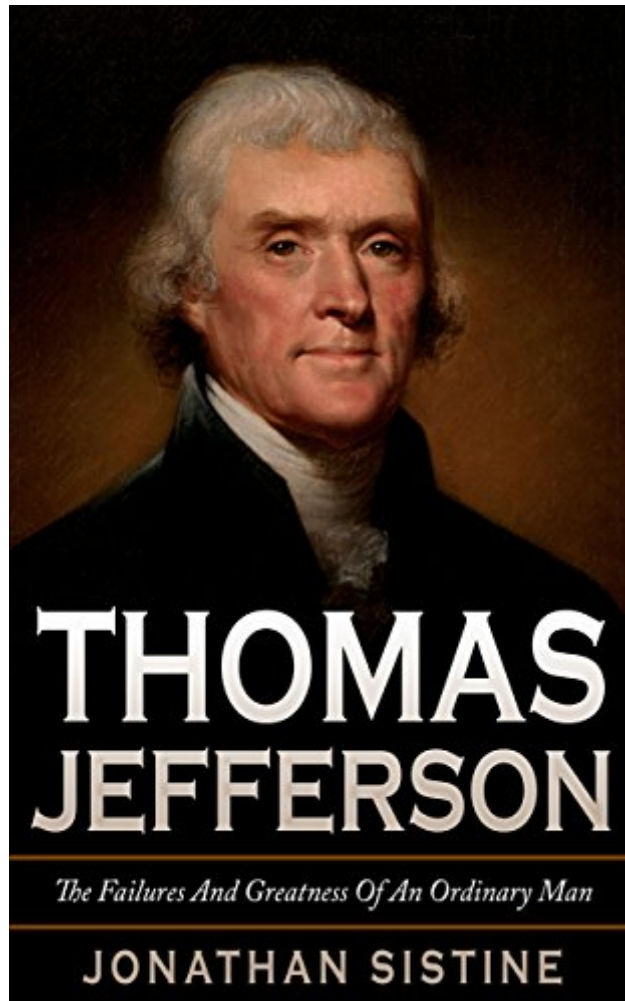


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# Thomas Jefferson: The Failures And Greatness Of An Ordinary Man



## Synopsis

To study Jefferson is to ascend a mountain, its peak awash in veiling mists. He was the embodiment of the Enlightenment man, the perfect synthesis of classicist, scientist, and visionary. How can we hope to understand such a towering figure? The Sage of Monticello, deified in American politics, speaks across the ages like a patriotic Moses, or Buddha, or Christ. Or so his disciples would have us believe. The real Thomas Jefferson was an ordinary man, with all the usual failings. Molded by the culture of the Virginia planter class, he fought against tyranny while oppressing his own slaves. He institutionalized racist attitudes, bickered with his rivals, lusted after other men's wives, and kept his own mixed-race children in bondage. Yet his accomplishments are too spectacular to be denied. The Declaration of Independence, the Louisiana Purchase, he even abolished taxes (for awhile). As a Founding Father, his contributions eclipsed all the rest. Without Jefferson, the American experiment might have ended before it began. So how can we make sense of his personal failings in the context of his great works? *Thomas Jefferson: The Failures and Greatness of an Ordinary Man* looks at Jefferson from the ground up, finding handholds in his love of Greek literature and fine wine, his affection for friends and family, and the compromises he deemed necessary for the survival of the nation. By exploring his relationships, the reader is invited into Jefferson's sanctum sanctorum, to stare unblinking at his complexity and follow truth where it leads.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Amazing story about the big big man, Thomas Jefferson! The way he have changed the world is incredible and I wish I can achieve just 1 percent of what he achieved. However, the book was really good and talked about some really important and awesome things. Great writing as well!

It's always great to read about an inspiring person. This book makes clear that thomas jefferson wasn't some super hero but an ordinary man that had a great life journey and become a special human being on the way

This book really blew my socks off. I love Jefferson, but never really felt I fully understood this important man of mystery until I read this book. I was completely amazed by how this book breaks down the man Jefferson and lays out his life. There are many aspects of Jefferson's life that are worth exploring and this book goes through each of them with enough detail to ensure you can put the pieces together and see this great man for who he was. I particular liked the discussion on his legacy and what we can learn from his life!

VERY DISAPPOINTING, ESPECIALLY SINCE SPENT EXTRA ON AUDIBLE. SHORT AND PRETTY OBVIOUS DISCUSSION ON HIS HYPOCRISY OF OWNING SLAVES WHILE PROMOTING EQUALITY. I LEARNED NOTHING, BUT THE EXCERPTS FROM HIS WRITINGS REGARDING WHITE SUPREMACY WERE INTERESTING

• Thomas Jefferson drafted the declaration of independence yet he took no steps to temper his reliance on the system he criticized • intriguing! The keeping of slaves is an evidence of hypocrisy on the slavery question. The man indeed is a man of conflicting character. A must to read! |.

Life teaches us of beating in successes and failures. Thomas Jefferson is the name of an inspiring personality who lived his life by following his visionaries. He taught us to understand thing even if it

is a towering figure. Life is beautiful, we do not need to be hero for making it a meaningful journey. It is simpler than we think of it, just keep a keen interest of trying more than you need. It's interesting all the way, really a read worthy book indeed.

A great read for history buffs of this era. However, the book has an overwhelming number of misspelled words - too many to think there was an editor or proof reader involved.

Such an Interesting Book about a very interesting and great man, Thomas Jefferson. I really did enjoy reading about the stories of his greatness, however also about the failures to because as always there are lessons to learn from the failures. Overall a great book and I shall definitely recommend it for others to read!

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