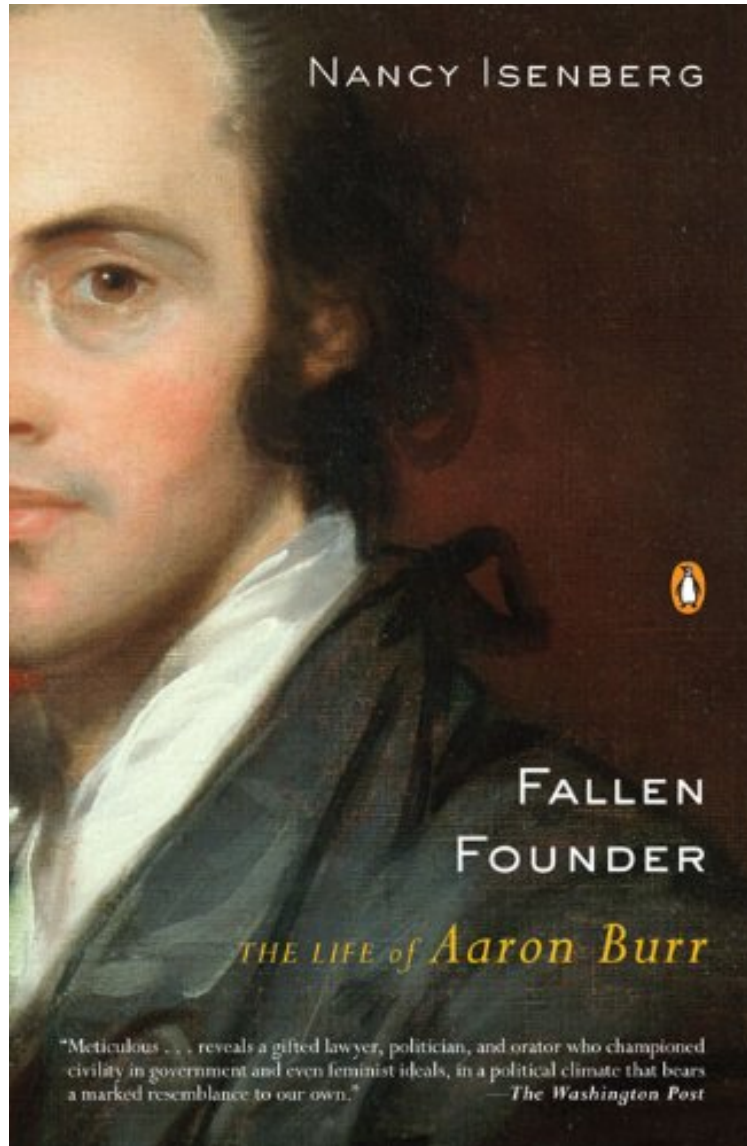


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Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr

Nancy Isenberg

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#162889 in Books Nancy Isenberg 2008-04-29 2008-04-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x 1.22 x 5.46l, 1.08 #File Name: 0143113712560 pages Fallen Founder The Life of Aaron Burr | File size: 40.Mb

Nancy Isenberg : Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great historical balance. By Brian Skillin Great book, one that dares to defy the staid historical telling of the Aaron Burr story. Informative and compelling, this book was a real eye opener for me, and finally brought balance to the historical scales. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nothing wins fewer friends than pragmatism. By Aerete Portrayed as the bad guy of history, Burr is revealed to have been a

careful planner, organizer and by-the-rules player. Those other guys, however, were playing by the 'pirates code'. If you've ever worked with people unwilling to see a problem from another perspective, who were willing to throw over anybody less fanatical to the cause, you'll empathize with Burr. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. the Shadow of the War of Independence By Sean McShee really interesting look at the shadow figure of the generation that fought the war of Independence. Feminist but bad on race, Burr may be the key to understanding that whole period. Also had some very interesting insights on the role of land speculators - they were as sleazy as their current descendents (real estate speculators)

From the author of White Trash, a controversial challenge to the views of the Founding Fathers offered by Ron Chernow and David McCullough Lin-Manuel Miranda's play "Hamilton" has reignited interest in the founding fathers; and it features Aaron Burr among its vibrant cast of characters. With *Fallen Founder*, Nancy Isenberg plumbs rare and obscure sources to shed new light on everyone's favorite founding villain. The Aaron Burr whom we meet through Isenberg's eye-opening biography is a feminist, an Enlightenment figure on par with Jefferson, a patriot, and most importantly a man with powerful enemies in an age of vitriolic political fighting. Revealing the gritty reality of eighteenth-century America, *Fallen Founder* is the authoritative restoration of a figure who ran afoul of history and a much-needed antidote to the hagiography of the revolutionary era.

From Publishers Weekly Does Burr belong in the pantheon of founding fathers? Or is he, as historians have asserted ever since he fatally shot Alexander Hamilton in a duel, a faux founder who happened to be in the right place at the right time? Was he really the enigmatic villain, the political schemer who lacked any moral core, the sexual pervert, the cherubic-faced slanderer so beloved of popular imagination? This striking new biography by Isenberg (*Sex and Citizenship in Antebellum America*) argues that Burr was, indeed, the real thing, a founder "at the center of nation building" and a "capable leader in New York political circles." Interestingly, if controversially, Isenberg believes Burr was "the only founder to embrace feminism," the only one who "adhered to the ideal that reason should transcend party differences." Far from being an empty vessel, she says, Burr defended freedom of speech, wanted to expand suffrage and was a proponent of equal rights. Burr was not without his faults, she concludes, but then, none of the other founders was entirely angelic, either, and his actions must be viewed in the context of his political times. As this important book reminds us, America's founders behaved like ordinary human beings even when they were performing their extraordinary deeds. Illus. (May 14) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In this positive portrayal of the controversial Aaron Burr (1756-1836), Isenberg departs from all previous biographers, deploring their lack of basic research. Although she acknowledges that studying Burr is hampered by the loss of his papers in a shipwreck, Isenberg more than compensates by tapping negative publicity disseminated by Burr's political enemies. Comparing their scurrilous reports with private descriptions of Burr as cultured, well liked, and progressive for the times (Isenberg approves him as a "feminist"), the author argues that Burr's reputation was marred not by genuine defects of character but by political competition. And she details the three episodes on which opinion of Burr rises and falls: his tie with Jefferson for the presidency in the 1800 election, his 1804 duel with Hamilton, and his 1807 treason trial. Making a strong case for revising received wisdom about Burr, Isenberg significantly contributes to the history of the early republic. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Full of insight and new research. An important and engaging account."--New York Times Book "A sterling biography."--Boston Globe "Isenberg offers justice to a maligned man."--Wall Street Journal "Isenberg's meticulous biography reveals a gifted lawyer, politician, and orator who championed civility in government and even feminist ideals, in a political climate that bears a marked resemblance to our own."--Washington Post