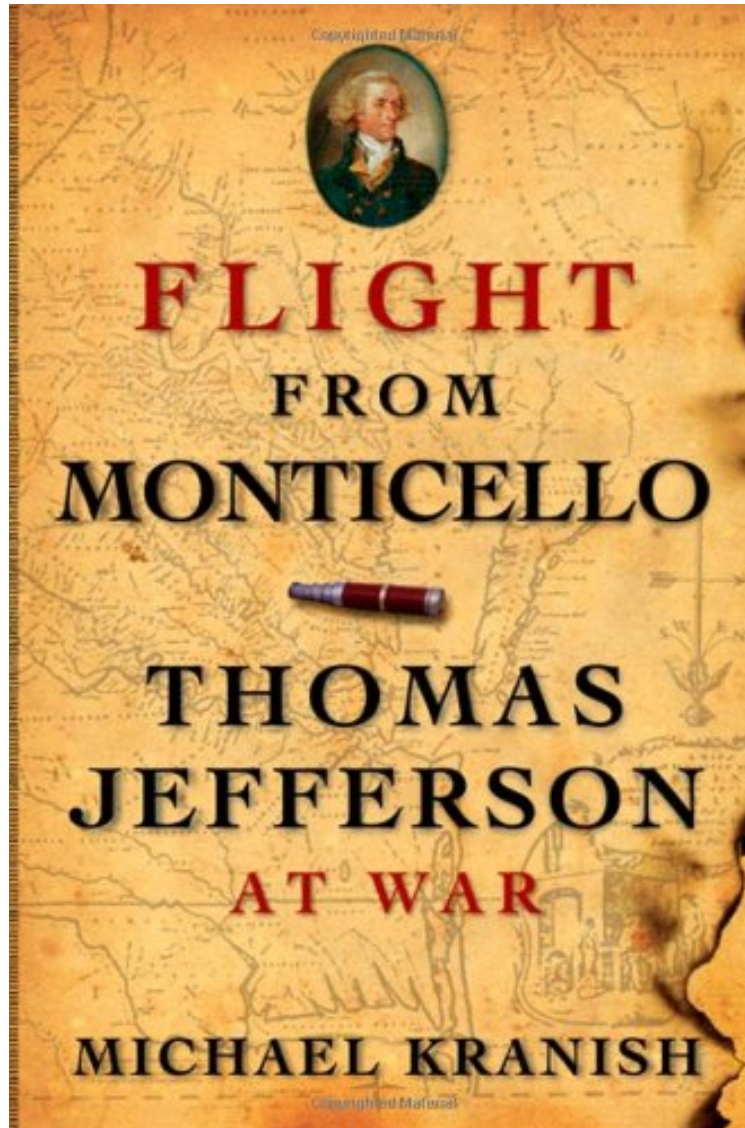


[Download pdf] Flight from Monticello: Thomas Jefferson at War

## Flight from Monticello: Thomas Jefferson at War

*Michael Kranish*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1131406 in Books 2010-02-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.50 x 1.40 x 9.20l, 1.60 #File Name: 0195374622400 pages | File size: 75.Mb

**Michael Kranish : Flight from Monticello: Thomas Jefferson at War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flight from Monticello: Thomas Jefferson at War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By Paul CreasyVery readable and quite informative. I learned quite a few things about such a little discussed incident in American history. I also learned that the state government of Virginia was as dysfunctional then as it still is now. Jefferson comes off well in this account. Patrick Henry comes off poorly. Benedict Arnold is actually worse than I already thought. Highly recommended.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Much more than a book about JeffersonBy SomersentJefferson has always been

my favorite "Founding Father" because of his complexity. I have more than two dozen books about or by him -- but this one reveals more of his personality than any other I have read. But it's more than another book about Jefferson. It's really a concise and very compelling telling of the Revolutionary War story in Virginia, a piece of US history not often written about. We hear all about Washington's escapades in New York and New Jersey, Paul Revere's ride to infamy, Valley Forge and the like ... but the war in Virginia was a tricky business. And Michael Kranish captures it perfectly. Jefferson's early life and his relationships with all the famous names of his time is covered in the first two of the four sections of the book. But then, strangely, he almost disappears in the third section. And there's good reason for that. As Virginia's Governor at the time of the British invasion, Jefferson had little power but tremendous responsibility. Kranish brings out the frustrations Jefferson felt, but lets the story be told through the men who were actually in charge of the fighting. And what a great job he has done! Just one example is what Benedict Arnold did after his aborted attempt to kidnap Washington and hand the fort of West Point to the British. Most people think that he immediately escaped to the UK. Kranish details the opposite and shows the Arnold Americans don't want to hear about, the guy who commanded the British naval forces as they pushed the Virginians from the coast. He was not a nice chap but he was more than just a traitor. This is a great and truly interesting read. It should be part of a high school history curriculum. Reading this book would give even the most jaded student an exciting trip through our country's first years.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Marquis de Lafayette, Benjamin Harrison, Bartholomew James, Josiah Atkins, etc. By Cabin Dweller Revolutionary history is exponential with its exploration. Just as I read Dostoevsky to find 19th century Russians could think my thoughts, all of these men, and Mary Willing Byrd, can be taken out of historical context and placed in that image I have of Washington walking across a room at night to the melody of Secret Duo, putting down the fire and sipping a modest glass of Madeira. Jefferson, according to author Michael Kranish, defended himself from dereliction of duty while governor by repeating he had no military qualifications. He wrote in a room beside the dying Martha, ready to attend to her dying needs at a moments notice. He was, of all things, strolling in his garden, when he received notification that Arnold was heading up the James and perhaps not stopping at Richmond. The animosity between Jefferson and Henry is no surprise, since Alexander Hamilton and John Adams have already established Jefferson's irascible stubbornness with contemporaries, but having been attacked personally when clearly Jefferson was not at fault for the British Invasion or the lack of militia support leaves Jefferson looking extremely mortal and accessible. Henry is wrong and evil-spirited and spiteful, though not less interesting for it. Jefferson can be defended, since his sixth child born led not only to his wife's death but to her death while his murder seemed coolly imminent. Kranish writes that Jefferson ran for House of Delegates only to refute all charges against his wartime conduct, only to have no opposition left face-to-face in state government.

When Thomas Jefferson wrote his epitaph, he listed as his accomplishments his authorship of the Declaration of Independence and the Virginia statute of religious freedom, and his founding of the University of Virginia. He did not mention his presidency or that he was second governor of the state of Virginia, in the most trying hours of the Revolution. Dumas Malone, author of the epic six-volume biography, wrote that the events of this time explain Jefferson's "character as a man of action in a serious emergency." Joseph Ellis, author of *American Sphinx*, focuses on other parts of Jefferson's life but wrote that his actions as governor "toughened him on the inside." It is this period, when Jefferson was literally tested under fire, that Michael Kranish illuminates in *Flight from Monticello*. Filled with vivid, precisely observed scenes, this book is a sweeping narrative of clashing armies--of spies, intrigue, desperate moments, and harrowing battles. The story opens with the first murmurs of resistance to Britain, as the colonies struggled under an onerous tax burden and colonial leaders--including Jefferson--fomented opposition to British rule. Kranish captures the tumultuous outbreak of war, the local politics behind Jefferson's actions in the Continental Congress (and his famous Declaration), and his rise to the governorship. Jefferson's life-long belief in the corrupting influence of a powerful executive led him to advocate for a weak governorship, one that lacked the necessary powers to raise an army. Thus, Virginia was woefully unprepared for the invading British troops who sailed up the James under the direction of a recently turned Benedict Arnold. Facing rag-tag resistance, the British force took the colony with very little trouble. The legislature fled the capital, and Jefferson himself narrowly eluded capture twice. Kranish describes Jefferson's many stumbles as he struggled to respond to the invasion, and along the way, the author paints an intimate portrait of Jefferson, illuminating his quiet conversations, his family turmoil, and his private hours at Monticello. "Jefferson's record was both remarkable and unsatisfactory, filled with contradictions," writes Kranish. As a revolutionary leader who felt he was unqualified to conduct a war, Jefferson never resolved those contradictions--but, as Kranish shows, he did learn lessons during those dark hours that served him all his life. Take a look at pictures from *Flight from Monticello* (Click on images to enlarge) Thomas Jefferson by John Trumbull, from life, 1787-1788. Courtesy of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation/Monticello. Jefferson's diary entry for June 4, the day he fled Monticello just before the enemy arrived, says, British horse came to Monticello. Courtesy of the Library of Congress. View from Monticello, looking toward Charlottesville, 1827, by Jane Pitford Braddick Peticolos. Courtesy of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation/Monticello. Thomas Jefferson's sketch of the first version of Monticello. Jefferson was in the midst of building this early iteration of his mansion when the British invaded. Courtesy of the Thomas Jefferson

Foundation/Monticello. Fry-Jefferson Map, of Virginia and Maryland, co-drawn by Thomas Jefferson's father, Peter Jefferson. Courtesy of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation/Monticello.

From Publishers Weekly No great figures are now without multiple biographies, so why not slice up their lives into smaller subjects? Since that seems to be the current way, we're lucky to have a serious slice like this one. Kranish (a Boston Globe reporter and coauthor of John F. Kerry) focuses on Jefferson's much criticized yearlong governorship of Virginia during the last throes of the American Revolution. The British had invaded Virginia, the state militia was weak, and regular forces had not yet arrived. So Jefferson and the state legislature had to flee westward to avoid capture. By the time American forces, aided by the French, had forced a showdown at Yorktown in 1781, Jefferson's term in office had ended. Yet many held him responsible for Virginia's near disaster. That's allowed critics ever since to assail his behavior as cowardly and incompetent. Without making his book an open argument for the defense, Kranish relates the historical context and musters the facts that absolve Jefferson of the charges against him. It's hard to see how a stronger case could be made. Fluid prose makes the book readable; solid research makes it dependable. 21 bw illus., 1 map. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Crisply written and well documented, this book is popular history at its best and will appeal to a wide readership. Highly recommended." -- Library Journal "This is edge-of-your-seat history, meticulously researched and laid out, but written with such high drama and cinematic clarity that even well-known events of America's Revolutionary War are made to seem suspenseful-as if this time their outcomes might be different." -- ForeWord "Students of Jefferson's life will want to read *Flight From Monticello*." -- Newsweek "...superb narrative of the high-minded Virginian's turbulent wartime years." -- Wall Street Journal "...a readable and surprisingly fresh take on Jefferson, the Revolutionary War, and Colonial Virginia...this is solid, entertaining history that debunks some myths while conveying the fog of war." -- Boston Globe "Thomas Jefferson's wartime conduct as governor of Virginia haunted him down the decades, and Michael Kranish has now brought this critical episode in American history to vivid life. Anyone interested in the Revolutionary War, in Jefferson, or in the formation of political character will find Kranish's book both delightful and instructive." --Jon Meacham, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *American Lion* "My admiration for *Flight from Monticello* knows no bounds. Michael Kranish, one of America's best reporters, draws a brilliant portrait of Thomas Jefferson in turmoil. His analysis of Jefferson's strategic blunders is pioneering. Only Dumas Malone equals Kranish in dissecting Jefferson the Virginian. Highly recommended!" --Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America*, and *The Great Deluge* "Michael Kranish has written a vivid and compelling account, with wonderful illustrative and often unfamiliar anecdotes, including descriptions of Benedict Arnold's wearing a British general's uniform and riding along the Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg, and Jefferson's last-minute escape from Banastre Tarleton's troops. *Flight from Monticello* is an exciting account of a little-known but important chapter of revolutionary history." --Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, director International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, professor at the University of Virginia, fellow of the Royal Historical Society "Flight From Monticello succeeds superbly well in opening a new window on Thomas Jefferson during the Revolution. In this period of his life, he proved to be an incompetent military leader, poor planner and touchy and defensive Virginian. Kranish's suspenseful narrative illuminates Jefferson's shortcomings, and with great sympathy and skill reveals why this crucial moment of his life forever haunted America's favorite Renaissance Man." --Jonathan Alter, author of *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope* About the Author Michael Kranish is a reporter in the Washington bureau of *The Boston Globe*. He is the co-author of the New York Times bestseller *John F. Kerry: The Complete Biography*, described by Michiko Kakutani as "a fascinating portrait...a harrowing, pictorial narrative."