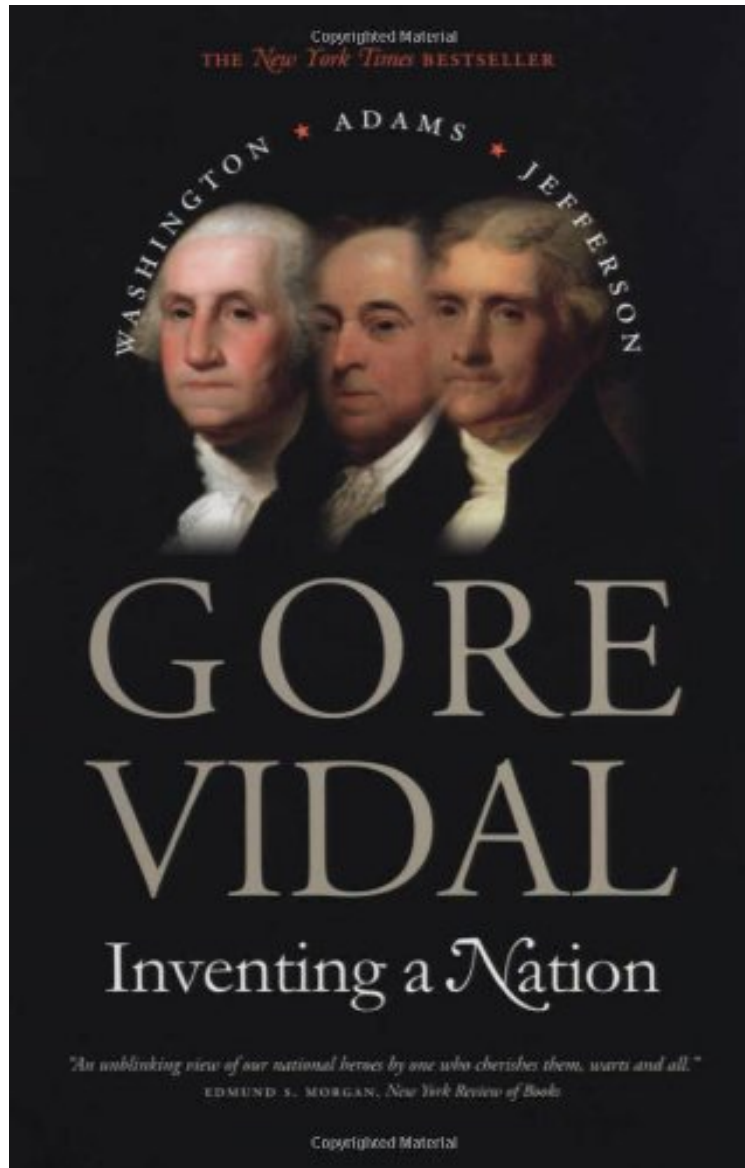


[FREE] Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson (Icons of America)

Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson (Icons of America)

Gore Vidal

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#875785 in Books imusti 2004-08-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.10 x .60 x 5.50l, .50 #File Name: 0300105924208 pagesYale University Press | File size: 41.Mb

Gore Vidal : Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson (Icons of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inventing a Nation: Washington, Adams, Jefferson (Icons of America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerVery interesting approach of the beginning of the principles of the US0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy dlhFascinating story of first four presidents with condemnation of Alexander Hamilton. Unusual take.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well, it's by Gore Vidal after allBy Paul F. BrooksThe following comments are for the unabridged audio book version of "Inventing a Nation". Of particular interest is a fascinating afterword spoken by author Gore Vidal. In this relatively short book, I noted that the page count of the print version is 198; Gore Vidal attempts to place his literary arms around the efforts of those three principal actors in our early national drama Washington, Adams and Jefferson. This is by all accounts a book of non-fiction but I find his style very similar to his fictional prose - extremely fascinating and sometimes very frustrating. That comment is based upon my limited reading of his historical fiction: "Burr", "1876" and "Lincoln". Trust Vidal to highlight some the historical oddities that can challenge our uninformed assumptions: Washington gallantly waiver his salary as commander of the Continental Army but after the war submitted his bill for personal expenses of \$100,000. Our bloody enemies, the mercenary Hessians, married local girls Western Pa and Delaware hence the many German family names found in those areas. Vidal broaches the rumor the Hamilton was Washington's illegitimate son. After all GW did visit the Bahamas once. The anti-Catholic Pope-hating Yankee Protestants thought an invasion of Canada in 1776, led by the redoubtable Benedict Arnold, would be a resounding success. After all would not the Popish Frenchmen rally around the New Englanders against the British oppressors? Vidal has a keen facility for discerning the eccentricity of human nature. His insightful observations breath life into the Founding Fathers. A fascinating read or listen, recommended.

Gore Vidal, one of the master stylists of American literature and one of the most acute observers of American life and history, turns his immense literary and historiographic talent to a portrait of the formidable trio of George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. In *Inventing a Nation*, Vidal transports the reader into the minds, the living rooms (and bedrooms), the convention halls, and the salons of Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and others. We come to know these men, through Vidals splendid and percipient prose, in ways we have not up to now their opinions of each other, their worries about money, their concerns about creating a viable democracy. Vidal brings them to life at the key moments of decision in the birthing of our nation. He also illuminates the force and weight of the documents they wrote, the speeches they delivered, and the institutions of government by which we still live. More than two centuries later, America is still largely governed by the ideas championed by this triumvirate. Pure Vidal. . . . *Inventing a Nation* is his edgy tribute to the way we were before the fall. Los Angeles Times Book Review [Vidal offers] details that enliven and . . . reflections on the past that point sharply to today. Richard Eder, New York Times An engaging [and] . . . unblinking view of our national heroes by one who cherishes them, warts and all. Edmund S. Morgan, New York Review of Books [Vidals] quick wit flickers over the canonical tale of our republics founding, turning it into a dark and deliciously nuanced comedy of men, manners, and ideas. Amanda Heller, Boston Sunday Globe This entertaining and enlightening reappraisal of the Founders is a must for buffs of American civilization and its discontents. Booklist Gore Vidal . . . still understands American history backwards and forwards as few writers ever have. David Kipen, National Public Radio