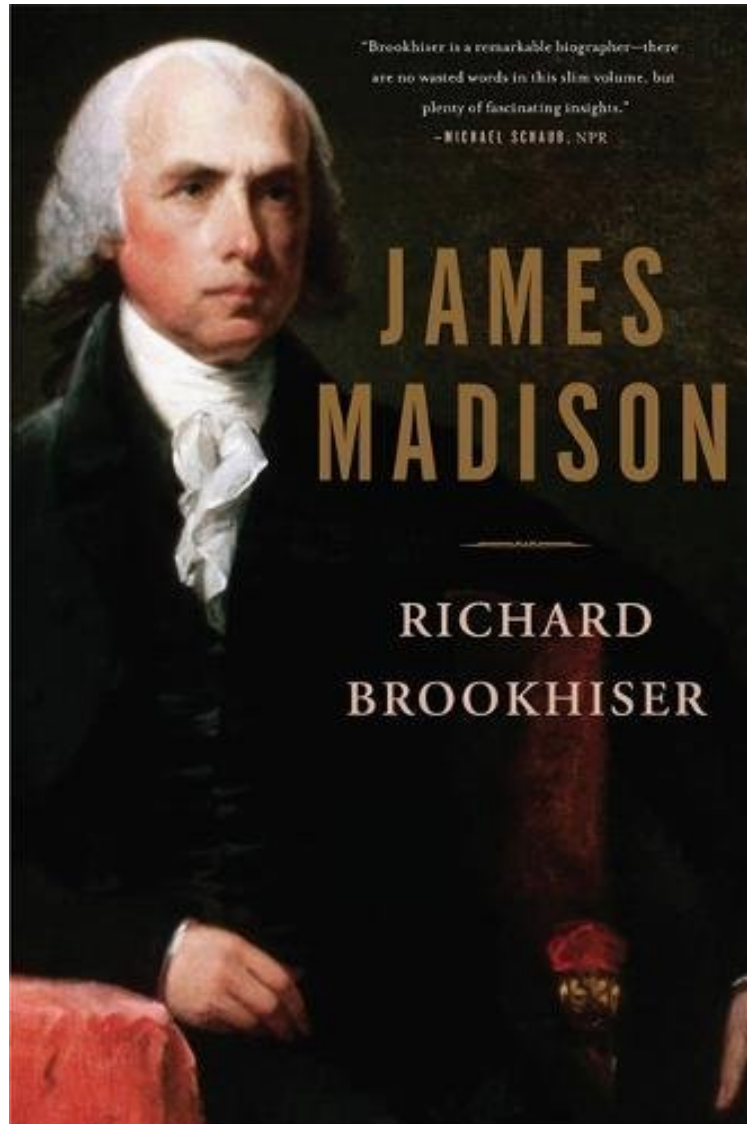


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## James Madison

*Richard Brookhiser*

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#677247 in Books Richard Brookhiser 2013-05-28 2013-05-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .88 x 5.50l, .66 #File Name: 0465063802304 pages James Madison | File size: 79.Mb

**Richard Brookhiser : James Madison** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised James Madison:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A look at our 4th President from 10,000 feet. By Paul Brookhiser's "James Madison", presents a high overview of the man who said, "If men were angels no government would be necessary." The 4th president was the middle part of the Virginia tri-fecta that held the office during the first quarter of the 18th century. The treatment of Madison as a framer of the constitution feels sufficient. I also learned that our 4th

president was a political animal who would go to great lengths to knee-cap opponents through unreliable proxies in the press. Precursor to Fox News? Much of the book charges at a pace that feels a little brisk. I didn't get a sense of who Madison the man was and also felt the same about one of our more famous first ladies Dolley. The War of 1812 was a major event during his administration but again more detail and analysis would have been helpful. At 250 pages the book feels a little thin. 9/20141 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Lot of Sail; Needs More BallastBy PaulThis is good biography, but rather short and not that detailed. Of course, it can't be at 250 pages. Madison was certainly very important in the making of the Constitution, but his elevation above all others is a stretch for me. Yes, he attended the meetings at a time when delegates came and went, he was there faithfully. The author contends that the four great writers of the founding were Jefferson, Franklin, Paine and Gouverneur Morris. I disagree with that statement. John Dickinson was left out, as he usually is because he did not sign the Declaration of Independence, but prior to the revolution, Dickinson with his Letters from a Farmer was widely read and he earned the title of penman of the period. Then he claims that Hamilton was not a great writer....well, almost anyone familiar with Hamilton knows of his tremendous capability in putting his thoughts on paper on a variety of subjects. The best of the book is that it points out that the Republicans were able to dominate the White House for a generation. With Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe serving two terms each in succession, the Republican party controlled the national government for 24 years, and effectively presided over the death of the Federalist party. As Brookhiser points out, Madison was important to Jefferson in developing party politics and was very good at it. As for his presidency, the declaration of war against England was not popular and it even caused some in New England to consider leaving the Union and aligning with Great Britain, which would have been disastrous for America. Madison also went to war without a national bank to help with the financing, and while there were some naval victories on the Great Lakes (and even more dramatic victories on the high seas, which are largely absent from the book), the war was not a resounding success. Washington was burned by the British and Madison's selection of people in the war effort and his cabinet was disastrous. His rare exception was Albert Gallatin. Brookhiser is a good historian, but this biography of Madison is lacking. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great readBy enthusiastI'm so glad I read this book. It gave me a new perspective on the founding of our country. James Madison did so much to give us our current government. I wish everyone in high school had to read this.

James Madison led one of the most influential and prolific lives in American history, and his story although all too often overshadowed by his more celebrated contemporaries is integral to that of the nation. Madison helped to shape our country as perhaps no other Founder: collaborating on the Federalist Papers and the Bill of Rights, resisting government overreach by assembling one of the nation's first political parties (the Republicans, who became today's Democrats), and taking to the battlefield during the War of 1812, becoming the last president to lead troops in combat. In this penetrating biography, eminent historian Richard Brookhiser presents a vivid portrait of the Father of the Constitution, an accomplished yet humble statesman who nourished Americans' fledgling liberty and vigorously defended the laws that have preserved it to this day.

History Wire Brookhiser presents a prodigiously researched, warts-and-all study of Madison, as he interacted not only with the Virginia dynasty' but with such major players as Albert Gallatin, Aaron Burr, and Alexander Hamilton. Washington Independent of Books Richard Brookhiser's new biography of Madison shares [John] Adams's deeper insight into Madison's achievements. It is a short, readable account of Madison's remarkable political career from a good and perceptive writer. Newark Star-Ledger [Brookhiser] offers a new perspective on Madison as the father of American politics, an often overlooked part of his legacy. Brookhiser's Madison is more than just constitutional scribe and protectorate of liberty. He's the alchemist behind, if not the inventor of, the sometimes ugly business of politics. Joseph J. Ellis, author of First Family: Abigail and John Adams Brookhiser brings his succinct style to bear on the only founder more elusive than Jefferson. The result is a distinctive portrait of Madison as America's original man for all seasons. Akhil Reed Amar, author of America's Constitution: A Biography Exactly what one would expect from Rick Brookhiser: another witty, wise, and elegant account of another American icon. The most vivid portrait of Madison to date, with a keen eye for the Virginian's achievements as a politico and a frank assessment of the slavery question a topic on which previous Madison biographers have disappointed almost as much as did Madison himself.