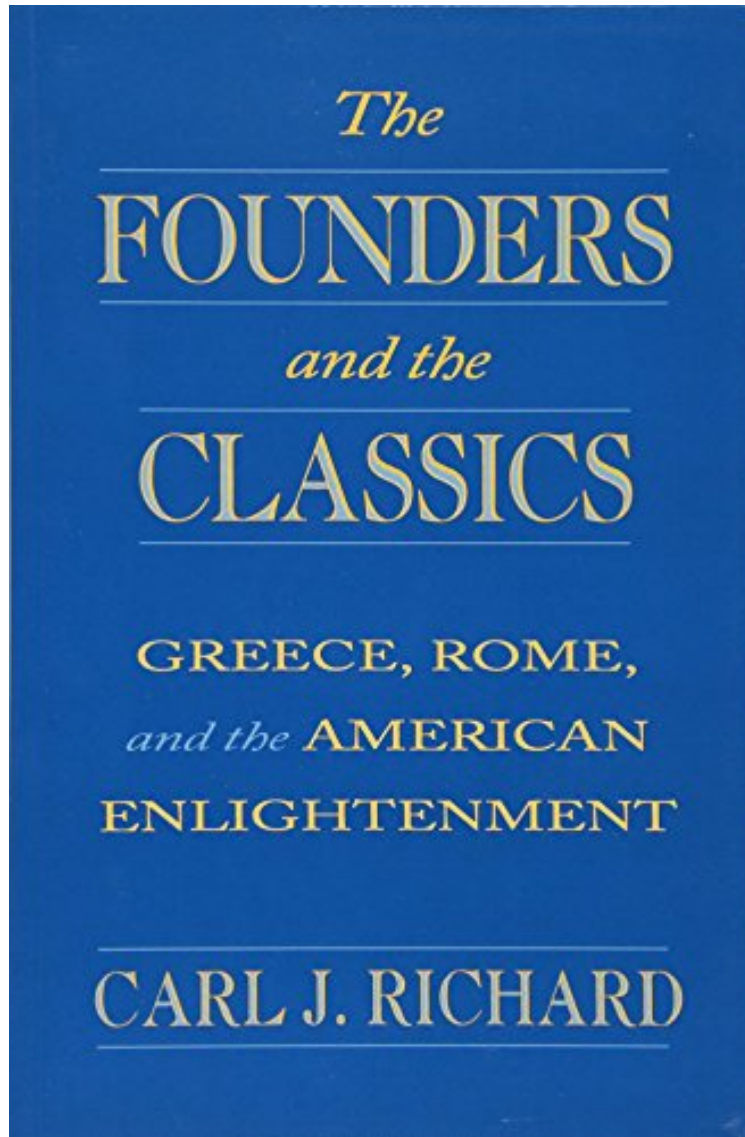


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The Founders and the Classics: Greece, Rome, and the American Enlightenment

Carl J. Richard

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Carl J. Richard : The Founders and the Classics: Greece, Rome, and the American Enlightenment before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Founders and the Classics: Greece, Rome, and the American Enlightenment:

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FoucachonI can't praise this book enough! Carl Richard does a fantastic job of drawing parallels between the founders and the Roman classics. Not only did our founders know and love the classics (as he points out), but it influenced their lives and how they thought in very tangible way!The story of Washington and Cincinnatus is a prime example. Washington was so influenced by this 5th century Roman who famously gave his power (of dictator) back to the senate, that Richard points out that Washington refused to surrender during the worst parts of the American War for Independence lest he forfeit the privilege of laying down his power after the war.Here is what is probably my favorite quote from the book:"An astonished western world agreed with the judgement of George III. Unable to believe that any military leader would voluntarily surrender such power, the king scoffed that if Washington resigned his commission, He will be the greatest man in the world. The king's confusion epitomized his inability, throughout the Revolutionary conflict, to comprehend the enormous emotional power which classical republican ideals wielded over American minds (p. 71).Highly recommend this book! If you love the classics, and the history of our founders, this may be your new favorite book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Our great Founding Fathers were not the only ones in Philadelphia ...By THOMAS JENSENOur great Founding Fathers were not the only ones in Philadelphia during that hot summer of 1787. They had with them the age of the Greeks, Roman, and European Enlightened thinkers. In this great work, Dr. Richard gives us a rich and exciting read of the great ancients whose works still give us the moral and natural laws we live by today.A must own text for those that cherish our great Constitutional debates and the origination of some of the evolved thoughts coming to Philadelphia in 1787, but, originating as far back as 2,000 years ago.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy A. GobeauWonderful.

Is our Greek and Roman heritage merely allusive and illusory? Or were our founders, and so our republican beginnings, truly steeped in the stuff of antiquity? So far largely a matter of generalization and speculation, the influence of Greek and Roman authors on our American forefathers finally becomes clear in this fascinating book-the first comprehensive study of the founders' classical reading. Carl J. Richard begins by examining how eighteenth-century social institutions in general and the educational system in particular conditioned the founders to venerate the classics. He then explores the founders' various uses of classical symbolism, models, "antimodels," mixed government theory, pastoralism, and philosophy, revealing in detail the formative influence exerted by the classics, both directly and through the mediation of Whig and American perspectives. In this analysis, we see how the classics not only supplied the principal basis for the U.S. Constitution but also contributed to the founders' conception of human nature, their understanding of virtue, and their sense of identity and purpose within a grand universal scheme. At the same time, we learn how the classics inspired obsessive fear of conspiracies against liberty, which poisoned relations between Federalists and Republicans. The shrewd ancients who molded Western civilization still have much to teach us, Richard suggests. His account of the critical role they played in shaping our nation and our lives provides a valuable lesson in the transcendent power of the classics.

This is a well-conceived, solidly researched, and ably argued book about the influence of the classics in the the political thought of the founding fathers...This work will be required reading for historians interested in the ideological origins of the American republic. It makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the intellectual complexities of the period. (Frank Ninkovich *The Historian*)An admirable book...Richard has done an impressive amount of scholarly detective work. (Roger Kimball *Wall Street Journal*)A detailed and fascinating exposition of the classical traditions that gave the United States's founding generation so many political models and ideas. (Mortimer Sellers *Washington Post Book World*)Richard's study offers intriguing glimpses into the minds of the founders through the lens of their classical learning, and the volume fairly bursts with engaging testimony...The force of the book's revelations and the charm of its matter win the day. (D. M. Hooley *Religious Studies*)From the Back CoverIs our Greek and Roman heritage merely allusive and illusory? Or were our founders, and so our republican beginnings, truly steeped in the stuff of antiquity? So far largely a matter of generalization and speculation, the influence of Greek and Roman authors on our American forefathers finally becomes clear in this fascinating book - the first comprehensive study of the founders' classical reading. Carl J. Richard begins by examining how eighteenth-century social institutions in general and the educational system in particular conditioned the founders to venerate the classics. He then explores the founders' various uses of classical symbolism, models, "antimodels", mixed government theory; pastoralism, and philosophy, revealing in detail the formative influence exerted by the classics, both directly and through the mediation of Whig and American perspectives. In this analysis, we see how the classics not only supplied the principal basis for the U.S. Constitution but also contributed to the founders' conception of human nature, their understanding of virtue, and their sense of identity and purpose within a grand universal scheme. At the same time, we learn how the classics inspired obsessive fear of conspiracies against liberty, which poisoned relations between Federalists and Republicans. The shrewd ancients who molded Western civilization still have much to teach us, Richard suggests. His account of the critical role they played in shaping our nation and our lives provides a valuable lesson in the transcendent power of the classics.About the AuthorCarl J. Richard is Professor of History, University of

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