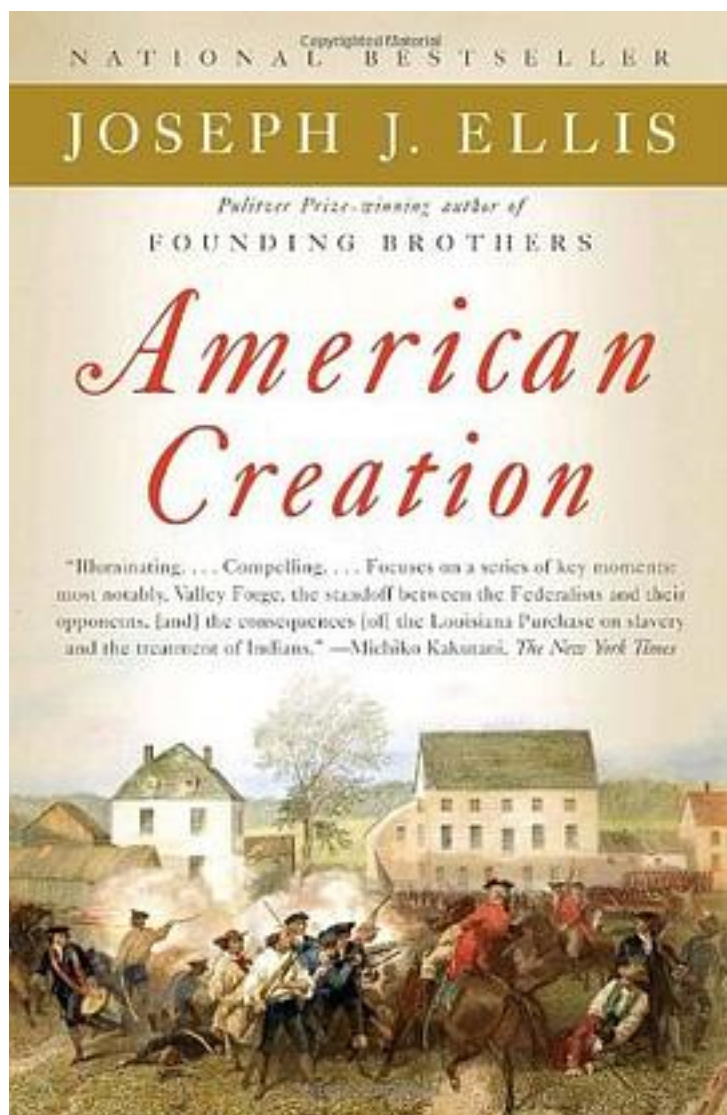


# American Creation



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著者:Joseph J. Ellis

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From the prizewinning author of the best-selling *Founding Brothers* and *American Sphinx*, a masterly and highly ironic examination of the founding years of our country. The last quarter of the eighteenth century remains the most politically creative era in American history, when a dedicated and determined group of men undertook a bold experiment in political ideals. It was a time of triumphs; yet, as Joseph J. Ellis makes clear, it was also a time of tragedies—all of which contributed to the shaping of our burgeoning nation.

From the first shots fired at Lexington to the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the negotiations for the Louisiana Purchase, Ellis guides us through the decisive issues of the nation's founding, and illuminates the emerging philosophies, shifting alliances, and personal and political foibles of our now iconic leaders—Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, and Adams. He casts an incisive eye on the founders' achievements, arguing that the American Revolution was, paradoxically, an evolution—and that part of what made it so extraordinary was the gradual pace at which it occurred. He shows us why the fact that it was brought about by a group, rather than by a single individual, distinguished it from the bloodier revolutions of other countries, and ultimately played a key role in determining its success. He explains how the idea of a strong federal government, championed by Washington, was eventually embraced by the American people, the majority of whom had to be won over, as they feared an absolute power reminiscent of the British Empire. And he details the emergence of the two-party system—then a political novelty—which today stands as the founders' most enduring legacy.

But Ellis is equally incisive about their failures, and he makes clear how their inability to abolish slavery and to reach a just settlement with the Native Americans has played an equally important role in shaping our national character. He demonstrates how these misjudgments, now so abundantly evident, were not necessarily inevitable. We learn of the negotiations between Henry Knox and Alexander McGillivray, the most talented Indian statesman of his time, which began in good faith and ended in disaster. And we come to understand how a political solution to slavery required the kind of robust federal power that the Jeffersonians viewed as a betrayal of their most deeply held principles.

With eloquence and insight, Ellis strips the mythic veneer of the revolutionary generation to reveal men both human and inspired, possessed of both brilliance and blindness. *American Creation* is a book that delineates an era of flawed greatness, at a time when understanding our origins is more important than ever.

作者介绍:

约瑟夫·J. 埃利斯 (Joseph J. Ellis)

美国著名历史学家和畅销书作家，撰写了一系列脍炙人口的美国建国史作品。他的《杰斐逊传：美国的斯芬克斯》和《奠基者：独立战争那一代》分别荣获美国国家图书奖和美国普利策历史奖。

埃利斯早年就读于威廉玛丽学院和耶鲁大学。他曾在美国军中服役并在西点军校任教，军衔达到陆军上尉。埃利斯目前执教于马萨诸塞大学。

埃利斯主要研究美国殖民地和建国时代的历史，是该领域的权威学者和历史普及作家，为广大历史读者打开了了解美国建国史的窗口。《福布斯》杂志曾盛赞埃利斯的读者声望，称他是“历史学家中的罗杰·费德勒”。

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美国历史

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## 书评

【无机客 译】

假若历史许可延长“一年”的定义，那么自1775年4月在莱克星顿和康拉德的枪声开始，到1776年7月《独立宣言》正式通过的十五个月，毫无争议地称得上是美利坚历史上最因果相承和最不可思议的一年。它因果相承，是因为在这个时刻，北美独立和一个独立自主的美利坚合...

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---J·埃利斯的六本关于美国独立战争书籍的简评

前段时间买了约瑟夫·J·埃利斯的六本关于美国独立战争书籍，分别是《革命之夏:美国独立的起源》、《奠基者:独立战争那一代》、《美国创世记:建国历程的胜利与悲剧, 1775-1803》、《缔造共和:美利坚合众国的诞生, 1783-1789...

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在《美国创世记》一书中，作者讲述了六个故事，这些故事选自1775—1803年间，在美国独立前后、制宪建国以及共和国初创时期的几个关键节点上发生的重大历史事件，有的事件对后世、对世界具有持续的影响，有的对北美大陆的前途具有扭转乾坤的重大意义，有的对之后的南北战争、种...

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