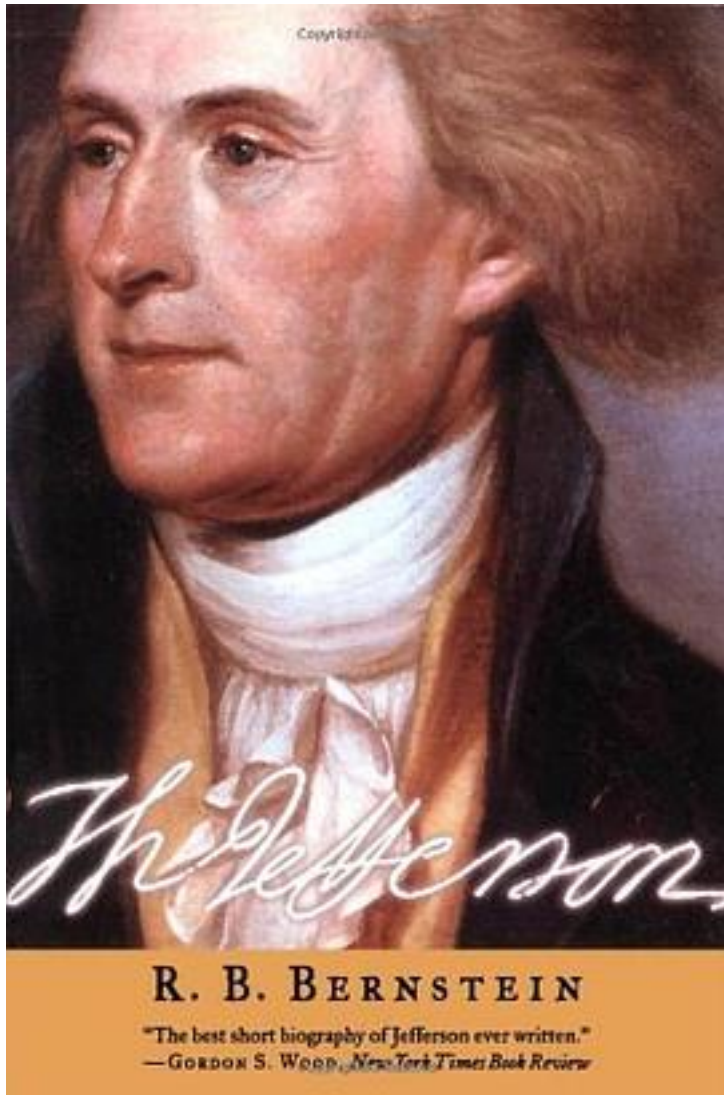


Thomas Jefferson



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著者:Christopher Hitchens

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In this unique biography of Thomas Jefferson, leading journalist and social critic Christopher Hitchens offers a startlingly new and provocative interpretation of our Founding Father. Situating Jefferson within the context of America's evolution and tracing his legacy over the past two hundred years, Hitchens brings the character of Jefferson to life as a man of his time and also as a symbolic figure beyond it. Conflicted by power, Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and acted as Minister to France yet yearned for a quieter career in the Virginia legislature. Predicting that slavery would shape the future of America's development, this professed proponent of emancipation elided the issue in the Declaration and continued to own human property. An eloquent writer, he was an awkward public speaker; a reluctant candidate, he left an indelible presidential legacy. Jefferson's statesmanship enabled him to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase with France, doubling the size of the nation, and he authorized the Lewis and Clark expedition, opening up the American frontier for exploration and settlement. Hitchens also analyzes Jefferson's handling of the Barbary War, a lesser-known chapter of his political career, when his attempt to end the kidnapping and bribery of Americans by the Barbary states, and the subsequent war with Tripoli, led to the building of the U.S. navy and the fortification of America's reputation regarding national defense. In the background of this sophisticated analysis is a large historical drama: the fledgling nation's struggle for independence, formed in the crucible of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, and, in its shadow, the deformation of that struggle in the excesses of the French Revolution. This artful portrait of a formative figure and a turbulent era poses a challenge to anyone interested in American history -- or in the ambiguities of human nature.

作者介绍:

克里斯托弗·希钦斯 (Christopher Hitchens, 1949—2011)，美籍英裔作家。被誉为“这个时代最伟大的演说家”，生前连续三度入选美国《外交政策》杂志与英国《展望》杂志联合评选的“全球百大思想家”。曾长期担任《名利场》杂志、《纪事》杂志、《新政治家》杂志、《纽约时报书评》和《大西洋月刊》等媒体的特约编辑、撰稿人。代表作有《审判基辛格》《致一位“愤青”的信》《有待商榷》《人之将死》等。

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标签

文学

历史

评论

开国元勋里的疑似无神论者，思想废奴派，州权拥护者，法国大革命同情者--Hitch当然夹了不少私货，尤其是第一条。这其实是一部历史评论，我对那段历史的知识不足以让我体会它的好坏。看了那么多的辩论，总算也看了他一本书了。如果中国人出现在同样的历史情境下，除了个人终生集权，还有别的可能吗？

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书评

杰斐逊作为政治家的功绩是没有争议的：《独立宣言》是由他起草的；他是美国第三任总统；在他的任期内，美国从法国那儿并购了路易斯安那，并开始西进，使美国的领土扩大了将近一倍。可是除此之外呢？杰斐逊的事功、言说、理念中还没有别的什么是值得美国以外的人民铭记的？克...

这本书比另一本传记《权力的艺术》好多了，精简且有重点，叙述层次分明，逻辑清晰。读了三本杰弗逊传记了，终于对他的负面印象扭转了一丢丢。这一丢丢大概就是：至少能从之前做错的事儿里学到教训。虚伪还是一样的虚伪（可能有的人会描述为矛盾），虚荣也是一样的虚荣，利己...

读罢希钦斯（hitens）所写杰斐逊传记，深感一个务实的理想主义者的种种矛盾之处，这些矛盾绝大部分是崇高理想与滞后现实间的矛盾，所以杰斐逊经常要妥协，不光是现实需要，更是政治家身份的需要（政治本身就是一门妥协的学问）。不幸的是，他这种妥协在许多美国人眼里成了伪善...

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