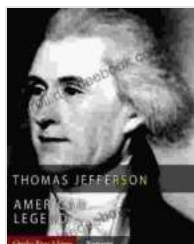


# American Legends: The Life of Thomas Jefferson Illustrated

Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, was a prominent figure in American history. He was a Founding Father, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, and a strong advocate for democracy and individual liberty. Jefferson's life was marked by both triumph and tragedy, and his legacy continues to inspire Americans today.

## Early Life and Education

Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743, at Shadwell, his family's plantation in Albemarle County, Virginia. He was the third of ten children born to Peter Jefferson, a successful planter and surveyor, and Jane Randolph Jefferson.



## American Legends: The Life of Thomas Jefferson (Illustrated) by DAVID B. TWILLEY

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 857 KB  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Jefferson received a classical education at home and at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. He excelled in his studies, particularly in mathematics and philosophy. After graduating from college in 1762, Jefferson returned to Shadwell and began his legal studies.

## **Career in Law and Politics**

Jefferson was admitted to the Virginia bar in 1767 and quickly established himself as a successful lawyer. He also became involved in politics, serving in the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1769 to 1775.

Jefferson was a strong advocate for colonial rights and opposed British policies that he believed were unjust. He played a key role in drafting the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776, which declared that all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

## **The Declaration of Independence**

In 1776, Jefferson was chosen to represent Virginia at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He was appointed to a committee tasked with drafting a declaration of independence from Great Britain.

Jefferson was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, which was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in American history, and it has inspired people around the world in their struggles for freedom and self-determination.

## **The American Revolution**

After the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson returned to Virginia and served as the state's governor during the American Revolution. He faced many challenges during this time, including British invasions and internal dissent. However, Jefferson's leadership helped to keep Virginia united and contributed to the American victory in the war.

## **Service as President**

Jefferson was elected President of the United States in 1800. He served two terms, from 1801 to 1809. During his presidency, Jefferson expanded the country westward with the Louisiana Purchase, and he founded the United States Military Academy at West Point.

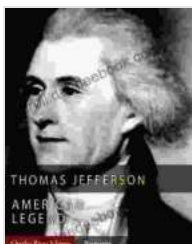
Jefferson was also a strong supporter of education and science. He founded the University of Virginia in 1819, and he helped to establish the American Philosophical Society.

## **Later Life and Legacy**

After retiring from the presidency, Jefferson returned to Monticello, his plantation in Virginia. He spent the rest of his life writing, studying, and gardening. Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson is remembered as one of the most important figures in American history. He was a brilliant thinker, a skilled politician, and a passionate advocate for democracy and individual liberty. Jefferson's legacy continues to inspire Americans today, and his words and ideas are still relevant to the challenges facing our nation.

Thomas Jefferson was a complex and fascinating figure who played a major role in shaping the United States. He was a man of great intellect, passion, and vision. His legacy continues to inspire Americans today, and he is rightly considered one of the most important figures in our nation's history.

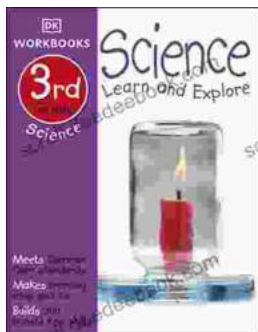


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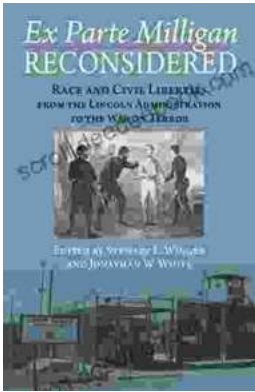
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