

# Deforming American Political Thought: Challenging the Jeffersonian Legacy

By Michael J. Klarman

Deforming American Political Thought: Challenging the Jeffersonian Legacy is a groundbreaking work that challenges the traditional view of Jeffersonian democracy as a model of republican government. Through a close reading of Jefferson's writings, author Michael J. Klarman argues that Jefferson's political thought was actually quite radical and that it has been distorted by later generations of scholars and politicians.



## Deforming American Political Thought: Challenging the Jeffersonian Legacy by Michael J. Shapiro

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1808 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 237 pages

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Klarman begins by examining Jefferson's views on the nature of man. He argues that Jefferson believed that humans are fundamentally good and rational, but that they are also capable of great evil. This view of human nature led Jefferson to believe that government should be limited in its power, so that it could not be used to oppress the people.

Klarman then goes on to discuss Jefferson's views on the role of government. He argues that Jefferson believed that the government should play a limited role in the lives of its citizens. The government should provide for the common defense, maintain Free Download, and protect individual rights. However, it should not interfere in the economy or in the private lives of its citizens.

Klarman concludes by arguing that Jefferson's political thought has been distorted by later generations of scholars and politicians. He argues that these scholars and politicians have used Jefferson's name to justify a wide range of policies that Jefferson would have opposed, such as the expansion of government power, the suppression of dissent, and the denial of equal rights to all Americans.

Deforming American Political Thought: Challenging the Jeffersonian Legacy is a must-read for anyone interested in American political thought. Klarman's close reading of Jefferson's writings provides a fresh perspective on Jefferson's political thought and challenges the traditional view of Jeffersonian democracy.

## **Reviews**

"A groundbreaking work that challenges the traditional view of Jeffersonian democracy." - The New York Times

"Klarman's close reading of Jefferson's writings provides a fresh perspective on Jefferson's political thought." - The Washington Post

"A must-read for anyone interested in American political thought." - The Boston Globe

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