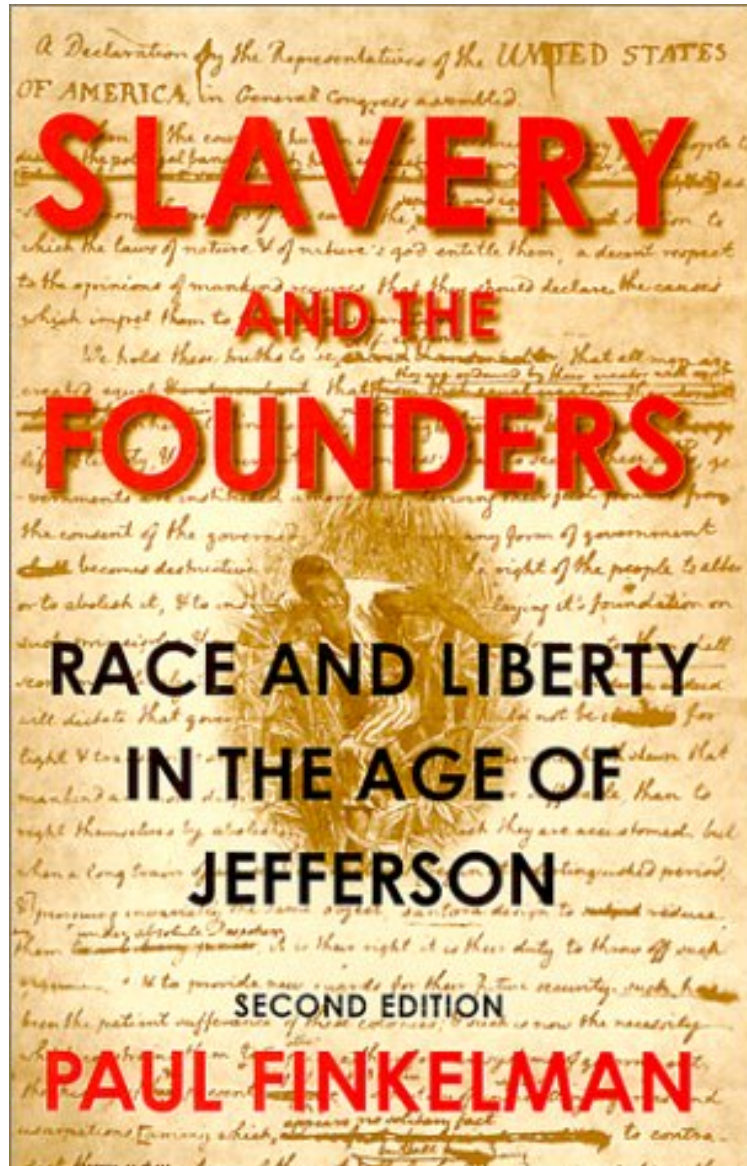


# Slavery and the Founders: Race and Liberty in the Age of Jefferson

Paul Finkelman

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**Paul Finkelman : Slavery and the Founders: Race and Liberty in the Age of Jefferson** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slavery and the Founders: Race and Liberty in the Age of Jefferson:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. New information I didn't knowBy John B. WaltersAfter reading I found another book to read, Thomas Jefferson by John Boles. I felt I had to since Finkelman came down hard on

Jefferson. After reading both I am convinced that Jefferson was trapped into continuing to have slaves as he was deep in debt. After his death all but five slaves were sold as was the furnishings and the entire estate. Many times in his life he spoke in favor of stopping but to no avail. Two things stood out for me. The first was that slavery was a very important fact of life as the Founders were drafting a Constitution. Had they tried to stop it there would have been no new country created. Secondly, I was amazed to realize that slavery existed in all of the original colonies. As we grew slaves were also in Illinois and Indiana. It took 20 years or more to eliminate the practice in the North. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Interesting. By Amanda Carr-Wilcoxson. Well researched and nice use of primary sources. This is a great view of slavery among the founding fathers. It offers a new perspective to Jefferson. Instead of the benevolent slave master, Finkelman presents Jefferson as a willing slave owner and a person who believes in (and helps create) the biological justifications for slavery. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book as vital to history as history is to itself. By Charles M. Marsteller. So, how did the Founding Fathers who owned slaves personally deal with the moral dilemma of slavery? The answer goes to the heart of the man. Washington freed his slaves (at the death of his wife Martha who, no doubt while eating her soup, decided to emancipate prematurely) and gave them land, near Mt. Vernon, with the means to establish a farm. Even Franklin found himself compromised as a slave owner, but treated them as members of family. Jefferson--his star is falling as he failed to free his slaves, viewing them as property. Worse, some were his own children--left in bondage upon his death, much less freeing them in life. This book of history is as vital to history as history is to itself. PS. When GW freed his slaves at the death of his dear wife Martha, he created a policy externality...clearly, knowing this could be risky to her health, Martha had to immediately free the slaves as George fully intended she ultimately do--with nearby land and the means to farm. This makes for an impressive example for students of economics and public policy when they learn the meaning of "externalities".

A study of the attitudes of the founding fathers toward slavery. This revised text examines the views of Thomas Jefferson reflected in his life and writings and those of other founders as expressed in sources such as the Constitution, the Constitutional Convention and the Northwest Ordinance.

"A searing indictment of the hypocrisy of the Founders on slavery and the self-imposed blinders of their biographers".-- The Journal of American History