



JAMES MADISON
MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP
FOUNDATION

Madison Fellows Recommended Reading

In April, 2012, James Madison Fellows were asked the following question:

What book (fiction or nonfiction) have you read in the past year that you would recommend to other Fellows? Why?

TRUSTEES:

*John Cornyn
Chairman*

Catherine Allgor

Benjamin L. Cardin

Steven M. Colloton

John J. Faso

Wm. Terrell Hodges

Drew R. McCoy

J.C.A. Stagg

Harvey M. Tettlebaum

Ex Officio:

*Arne Duncan
Secretary of Education*

*Lewis F. Larsen
President*

*Paul A. Yost, Jr.
President Emeritus*

The response was overwhelming. Nearly 300 Fellows offered ideas. Their recommendations and the reasons for those recommendations are compiled into this document. (Some have been edited for length.) If more than one Fellow recommended a particular work, the number of recommending Fellows is noted before the entry.

Since Madison Fellows are scholars and teachers of the Constitution, it is no surprise that most of the books are nonfiction treatments of American history and politics. However, the list also includes works on pedagogy, mental health, European culture, and even one or two “gripping adventures.”

The suggestions are those of individual Fellows and not the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. Nevertheless, we hope that you are inspired to pick up some of the books and read along with some of the Fellows.

#	Book Title
	11/22/63 by Steven King
	13 <i>American Arguments</i> by Howard Fineman Great for review of American History and/or preview of US Government
2	1491 - <i>New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus</i> by Charles C. Mann *This book provides a great deal of insight regarding the civilizations that existed prior to Columbus' arrival in 1492. *A great history of the Americas pre-European contact.
	1861 by Adam Goodheart provides an amazing analysis of the first year of the Civil War by looking at individuals around the country
	46 <i>Pages</i> by Scott Liell
	<i>A Brilliant Solution</i> by Carol Berkin
	<i>A Civil Rights Reader</i> w/ author Patrica Sullivan...helpful new scholarship in a way that helps one teach students..
	<i>A Leap in the Dark: the Struggle to Create American Republic</i>
	<i>A Preponderance of Power.</i> Melvyn P. Leffler did an outstanding job; It has to be the very best book that I read about the Cold War.
	<i>Age of Lincoln</i> by Burton
2	<i>Alexander Hamilton</i> by Ron Chernow. It is wonderfully written, and scholarly.
	<i>America in the King Years:</i> a trilogy by Taylor Branch
	<i>America: The Last Best Hope</i> by William Bennett
	<i>American Colonies</i> by Alan Taylor
	<i>American Emperor: Aaron Burr's Challenge to Jefferson's America</i> by David O. Stewart.
	<i>American Politics In the Early Republic</i>
2	<i>American Scripture</i> by Pauline Maier
	<i>American Theocracy</i> by Kevin Phillips
	<i>Americans in Paris</i> by David McCullough. It was a pleasant surprise
	<i>Amish Grace</i> - provides excellent insight into the faith of the Amish people and promotes discussion of ethics and forgiveness.
	<i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i>
	<i>An Unfinished Life</i>
	<i>Angler: The Story of Dick Cheney</i>
	<i>Anything</i> by David Sedaris
	Anything/everything by Peg Herring. She writes mysteries, some are historically-based, and they are excellent.
	<i>Arc of Justice</i> by Kevin Boyle Great insight/info about early 20th century racial discrimination.
	<i>At Home: A History of Private Life</i> by Bill Bryson. Fascinating look at the history of common items we use everyday.
	<i>Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.</i> This is a companion book to the Transatlantic Slave Trade Database

Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin - fascinating look into the mind of a founding father.

Berlin 1961 by Kempe...an excellent look at a key moment in the Cold War

Between Two Empires by Eiichiro Azuma

Black Boy by Richard Wright. This book has helped me to further understand the perspective of Black men in American society.

Blood on the River-- Historical Fiction/YA on the settlement of Jamestown.

Catherine the Great by Robert Massie.

Citizens of London by Lynne Olson. Fast read about Murrow, Harriman and Winant in London when Britain stood alone.

Civilization by Niall Ferguson-- It is a great book looking at why the West was so successful, kind of like *Guns, Germs and Steel*.

Confidence Men by Ron Suskind. Enlightening look into the 2008 financial crisis, and the Bush/Obama/Congressional responses

Constitution in Exile

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verhese

Demonic by Ann Coulter

- 3 *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard- Well written, page turner

*It sheds light on the important events and people surrounding the assassination and drawn-out death of President Garfield.

Devil of Great Island by Emerson Baker

Dietrich Bonhoeffer . Very inspiring story of someone who did what was right and persisted to the point of death.

Don't Shoot by David Kennedy. Offers insight into the causes and consequences of drug and gang violence

Drift. Up close, critical outlook on the role of government and war..

Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock

- 3 *Empire of Liberty* by Gordon Wood because it provides great in depth analysis of the Critical Era.

*As with all of Dr. Woods works, this book is extremely well written and thought out.

Ender's Game

Enough by Juan Williams

Enrique's Journey. It is about young Latin American children who endure a treacherous journey to reunite with their parents.

Fall of Giants by Ken Follet-The first in a century trilogy over the 20th century. Entertaining read through WWI.

Founders: The People Who Brought You a Nation by Ray Raphael. Great perspective on the founding fathers!

- 2 *Founding Brothers* by Joseph Ellis, an excellent discussion of some of the major issues confronting the Founders

*It gives an excellent overview of the early national period.

Founding Faith Very good history of a few founding fathers & their opinions on religion & civic life

- 2 *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts. I think it is a very fair portrayal of the times.

*Ms. Roberts does a nice job of introducing the women who often were behind the scenes during the Revolution and Founding.

Founding Rivals: Madison v. Monroe, The Bill of Rights, and The Election That Saved A Nation by Chris DeRose

2 *Freedom from Fear*

From Getting to Got it! Great book about teaching pedagogy. backed by brain research.

Generations of Captivity by Dr. Ira Berlin Broad, encompassing information on American Slavery, in a different format.

George Washington's Leadership Lessons by James C. Rees, Executive Director of Mount Vernon.

Gettysburg Gospel by Gabor Boritt

Good Wives by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs. Offers a women's and gender historical perspective of the Colonial Era.

Grapes of Wrath -- it's a classic that many have read, but it's such a poignant look at the Great Depression.

Greeks and Romans Bearing Gifts: How the Ancients Inspired the Founding Fathers by Carl J. Richard

Guns, Germs, and Steel

Half the Sky; Three Cups of Tea - for reminders of our obligation as citizens of the world to do something to make a difference

Having Our Say. This book talks about the Delaney sisters who have lived to be over 100 years old.

Henry Adams and the Making of America by Garry Wills

Heroes Without a Country: America's Betrayal of Joe Louis and Jesse Owens

Hiroshima by John Hershey - amazing perspective

His Excellency George Washington by Joseph Ellis Concise, clear and comprehensive biography.

History of the American Revolution by Mercy Otis Warren

Historocal Thinking and other Unnatural Acts by Sam Wineburg

Hot, Flat, and Crowded by Thomas Friedman. He does a masterful job of explaining globalization.

How to Grade for Learning by Ken O'Connor Fantastic book about the importance of grading to measure learning.

How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie. Although it was written many years ago, its principles hold true today.

7 *Hunger Games Trilogy* Every civics educator should read it!

*Fascinating sociological issues to address.

*I see so much application for teaching government with this very popular series. Great object lessons in it

*A great series to use with a government class of struggling readers. The students enjoy discussing how government should work.

*It speaks to the social stratification already existing in our society; it also speaks to who we, the human race, are capable of being.

*Offers a range of critical thinking questions on the role of government and the social and cultural aspects of human nature.

*The connections it makes to the control that government seeks to impose on society makes for an excellent and entertaining read.

I am reading research related to my dissertation topic. I don't recommend any of it at this time :)

I just read the autobiography of Black Hawk who was a Sac (Sauk) warrior in the early 1800s.

I read a book on the 1970's, written by Tim Borstelmann. A good book, entertaining, and very in-depth!

I'm now ABD in "Teaching, Learning and Curriculum" at Univ Penn so, I've read a lot! Work by Banks, Walter Parker, and Diana Hess
In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life by James Deetz. Very interesting book about American life.

In the Garden of Beasts

Indomitable Will: LBJ in the Presidency

Inherently Unequal: The Betrayal of Equal Rights by the Supreme Court (1865-1903) by Lawrence Goldstone

Invisible Bridge (Julie Orringer) for its gripping story line, set during WWII in Paris and Budapest.

Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero by Chris Matthews The book lets us see the workings of government and the behind the scenes process.

James Madison and the Making of America by Kevin R. C. Gutzman

James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights by Richard Labunski

James Madison by Brookhiser. Helps give a broader view of Madison beyond the Constitutional Convention.

Jefferson & Madison: Three Conversations From the Founding. Good look at the period, and insight into their relationship

2 *John Adams* by David McCulloch - very rich biography that reads like a novel

John Marshall and the Heroic age of the Supreme court- good information on beginning of the Supreme court

John Rawls - Political Liberalism Understanding the US Constitution necessitates an understanding of moral philosophy.

Justice by Michael Sandel

3 *Killing Lincoln* by Bill O'Reilly - The absolute best, most entertaining book on Lincoln's assassination I have ever read.

Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom by Rhys Isaac. A wonderful account of the world in which the people who made our nation lived.

Last Child in the Woods

Liberty's Exiles by Maya Jasanoff (recently awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award).

Lone Survivor—a great military story

Majesty of the Law, by Sandra Day O'Connor —An easy read, which covered historical aspects of the American Constitution.

March by Geraldine Brooks. Based on the life and writings of Louisa May Alcott's father; both entertaining and enlightening.

Mason and Dixon by Thomas Pynchon

Maus - great way for students to understand the Holocaust

Midnight Rising by Tony Horowitz

2 *Miracle at Philadelphia* - Catherine Drinker Bowen An excellent narrative regarding the constitutional convention

*A masterpiece, published in the 1960s. A must read for any teacher who teaches about the Constitution.

My Grandfather's Son - Memoir by Clarence Thomas. A good look at historical and contemporary race issues.

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich

No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies by Linda K. Kerber

- 2 *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* by Jack N. Rakove
Oswald by Norman Mailer
- 2 *Outliers, Dancer, Infidel*--Cross-cultural insights to bear in mind when shaping foreign policy
Pain Free: A Revolutionary Method for Stopping Chronic Pain. It discusses ways to keep your body healthy in a workplace.
Path Between the Seas by David McCullough. This is an informative and entertaining read that covers a broad range of topics.
Paul Rever's Ride by David Hackett Fischer
Plain, Honest Men by Richard Beeman A good account of the Constitutional Convention, as well as a brief biography major delegates.
Portfolios of the Poor - How the World's Poor Live on \$2 Day. It's a pretty eye-opening study.
Puritan Dilemma by Edmund Morgan
- 3 *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788* by Pauline Maier
Real Education by Charles Murray.
Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America by Cameron McWhirter. Excellent text on the events of 1919.
Redemption and The Other Founders. Both provided new insights and were interesting reads.
Rehabilitating Lochner by David Bernstein
Republic of Debtors: Bankruptcy in the Age of American Independence by Bruce H. Mann. An excellent book
Revolutionary Characters by Gordon Woods
River of Doubt
Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slave Made by Edward Genovese
Slavery By Another Name--Great book about the plight of African Americans in the Jim Crow South
Slavery's Constitution: From Revolution to Ratification
State of Wonder by Anne Patchett A gripping adventure set in the Amazonian jungle; a very heart-of-darkness saga; a wonderful read
Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's continuing debate over science and religion by Edward Larson.
Supercapitalism by Reich
Sweet Land of Liberty- Provides great insight into the complexities of the Civil Right Movement, particularly in the north.
Teaching What Really Happened: How to Avoid the Tyranny of Textbooks and Get Students Excited About Doing History by J. Loewen
Teaching with Poverty in Mind. More of us are teaching kids from poverty. This book helps to understand their situation.
Teaching with the Brain in Mind by Dr. Jensen- enlightening book that explain how and why students learn
- 3 *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. A factual book that reads like a novel. A very enjoyable account of Lincoln's administration.
 *For anyone who loves Lincoln and/or American history!
That Used to Be Us by Thomas Friedman, Great analysis of the reasons behind the current political paralysis.
The American Civil War by Keegan

- 4 *The American Revolution* by Gordon Wood. FANTASTIC general book/overview of the American Revolution.
 *Provides a quick and easy comprehension of the events leading up to and the causes of the American Revolution.
 *Excellent analysis of colonial America, the Revolutionary War, and the Constitutional Convention and ratification period.
The Army of the Potomac by Bruce Catton. Historically sound and tells a great story; captures the sweep of the grand story
The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama
The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
The Ayatollah Begs to Differ (Iran)
The Big Burn by Timothy Eagan
The Big Short- great insight to the financial collapse
The Bottom Billion by Collier
The Boy who Harnessed the Wind. It makes us appreciate the country and government we live in today.
The Buck Stops Here. A pointed opinion piece about the presidency and its place in American government in Harry's own words.
The Camanche Empire by Pekka Hamalainen. It makes the reader think in different ways about seemingly familiar themes.
The Causes of the Civil War edited by Kenneth Stampp.
The Civil War by Shelby Foote
The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy by Jacob Burckhardt. It is a classic book that displays the best cultural history has to offer.
The Conservative Assault on the Constitution by Erwin Chemerinsky
The Cross of Christ by John R. W. Stott. This book is a thorough examination of the centrality of the crucifixion of Christ .
- 2 *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* by Diane Ravitch
The Declaration of Independence: A Global History by David Armitage It is well written and well researched.
The Devil in the White City
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (YA fiction)
- 2 *The Federalist Papers*. It displays the brilliance of our Founders and the key concepts behind our Constitution.
The Five Dollar Day by Stephen Meyer
The Forgotten Man by Amity Shlaes. Relevant to current discussions of the limits of congressional/federal power.
- 3 *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*-Addresses sexual assault, rape, and trafficking; an empowered heroine who doesn't play the victim.
The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction by Linda Gordon
The Help by Kathryn Stockett... I really like the historical context of the 1960s; it is a great eye opener for Civil Rights lessons.
- 2 *The Hemings of Monticello*.
The Idea of America
- 2 *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* by Bernard Bailyn

- 2 *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. The legal and racial issues pose interesting moral dilemmas for the classroom.
*This book tells how Henrietta Lacks' cells were used to find treatments for cancer, diabetes, heart disease.
The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers
The Killer Angels. Terrific novel on Gettysburg and the behind the scenes look at the battle and the Civil War.
The Knock at the Door - book on the Armenian genocide; soon to be a century old and STILL not officially recognized by the U.S.!
- The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan. Excellent history and story about two individuals on either side of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.
The Majic Bus by Douglas Brinkley. It's about a professor taking his students on a cross country field trip on a sleeper bus.
The Market Revolution by Charles Sellers . A fascinating look at the development of capitalism in the ante-bellum South.
- 2 *The Nine* by Jeff Toobin An outstanding inside look at the Supreme Court.
*Great insight into the Supreme Court and especially the role played by Sandra Day O'Connor.
The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore--a true story about two men who share a name but made very different choices in their lives.
The Oxford History of the United States Series
The Power Of Now
The Radicalism of the American Revolution by Gordon Wood. It discusses societal changes that precipitated the revolution.
The Real War Will Never Get in the Books by Louis P. Masur. This a compilation of primary resources about the Civil War.
The Rhetorical Presidency by Jeffery Tulis. Gives a very different perspective of executive speeches.
The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln by Sean Wilentz. A comprehensive look at the challenges facing the new nation.
- 2 *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris It gives one some very keen insight into Roosevelt the man as he begins his career
*Great insight to the rise of TR into the White House
The River of Doubt by Candice Millard. A gripping story of Theodore Roosevelt's 1913 descent of an unmapped Brazilian river.
The Roots of American Order by Russell Kirk. It is an excellent text on the history of the American social and moral order.
The Sacred Fire of Liberty- Leadership, knowledge, love of country
The Shoemaker and the Tea Party - a great book about how history is written and the nature of historical memory.
- 2 *The Supreme Court* by Rehnquist. It gives a very concise history of the Supreme Court and the justices that have served on the court.
- 2 *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson - Terrific book about the Great Migration
*I found this book to be written in an engaging style. The topic of the Great Migration is one that is often overlooked.
The Wordy Shipmates -- accessible take on early American History
The Writings of Frederick Douglass - I am inspired by his optimism, depth of conviction, vision and belief in the promise of America.
Thinking Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman
This Great Struggle: America's Civil War by Steven E. Woodworth. A very readable, yet keen analysis of the military command.
This Hallowed Ground by James McPherson. An excellent and insightful journey into the battle of Gettysburg.

6 *Unbroken* by Laura Hillebrand- Well written

*A story about a World War II soldier, Louis Zamperini, and his experiences throughout the war

*I recommend this book to every class of students and to all of my colleagues. You should read it!

*Excellent book!

*It's a well-told true story of grace under pressure, of an ordinary person doing extraordinary things.

*It is a fast, engaging read that I would highly recommend to any history lover.

Uncommon Friends(James Newton)

Unfortunately I currently only read research articles related to my dissertation

Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement by Rep. John Lewis. One of the best accounts of the Civil Rights Movement

War Made New I teach a Military History class and this was an amazing look at the impact of technology across time.

War by Sebastian Junger

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Patillo Beals is about the Little Rock Crisis in 1957; questions about federalism and separation of powers.

2 *Washington's Crossing* by David Hackett Fisher

2 *What Hath God Wrought* by Daniel Walker Howe - A great writer weaving together the story of America from 1815-1848

When the Astors owned New York. Interesting study of this family and how they used their wealth.

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka. A beautiful fictionalized treatment of Japanese internment in WW II.

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman Young adult lit primarily about choices and consequences.

2 *Why Don't You Just Tell Us the Answer?* by Bruce Lesch is an excellent book about pedagogy in the history classroom.

*Mr. Lesch did an excellent job describing the necessary aspects of crafting a worthwhile historical inquiry lesson.

Winner-take-all Politics by Hacker--a short primer on why the middle class has, and will continue, to struggle to make ends meet

Working by Studs Terkel

You Can't Make me Angry by Dr. Paul-- This book can help teachers maintain serenity while dealing with difficult students