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Madison & Jefferson

by Andrew Burstein & Nancy G. Isenberg

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Most Americans get their history from flawed sources, substituting patriotic celebration of the “founding moment” for honest accounts of the partisanship of the Revolutionary Age. The federal Constitution was not simply the “Grand Compromise” that textbooks have long claimed. American history is more complicated (and more interesting) than that. Our book *Madison and Jefferson* details the real conduct of politics surrounding the early years of the American republic. Presidents Madison and Jefferson had the most important political friendship in U.S. history, and they had to learn to compete in an ill-mannered political world. In most histories, the elder figure