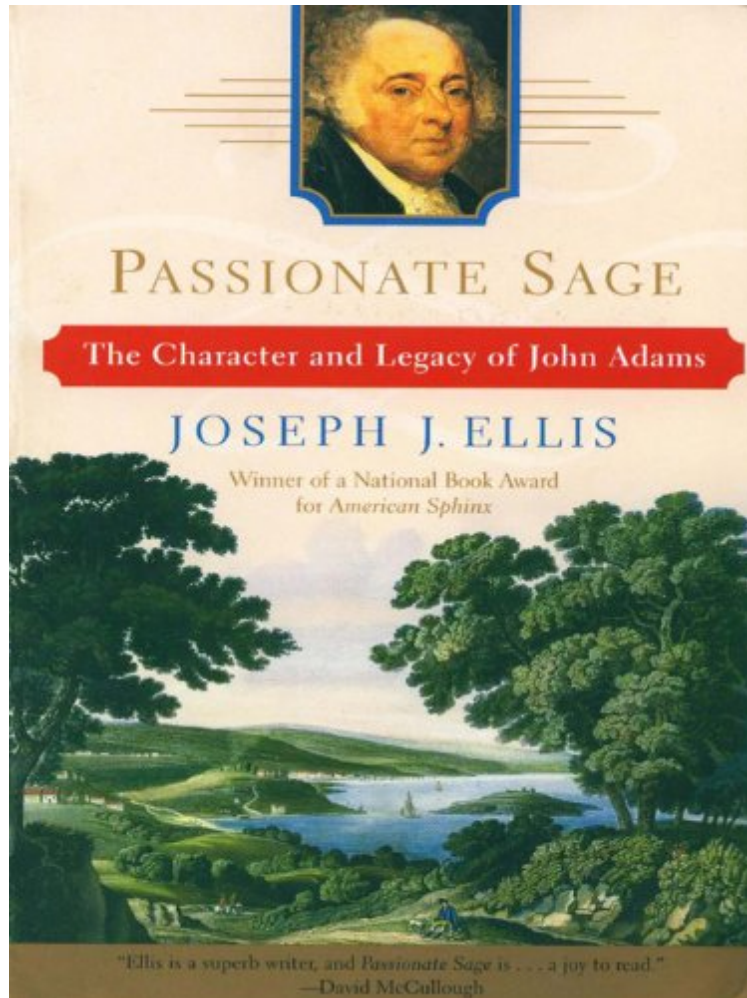


[Ebook pdf] *Passionate Sage: The Character and Legacy of John Adams: Character and Legend of John Adams*

## **Passionate Sage: The Character and Legacy of John Adams: Character and Legend of John Adams**

*Von Joseph J. Ellis*

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**Von Joseph J. Ellis : Passionate Sage: The Character and Legacy of John Adams: Character and Legend of John Adams** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Passionate Sage: The Character and Legacy of John Adams: Character and Legend of John Adams:*

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant, extraordinary work of history.....Von Brooke276Written with wit, charm, and a keen eye for historical detail, this book restores John Adams to his rightful place as one of our most intelligent, prescient forefathers. Dealing primarily with his post-presidential life, the author creates a fascinating image of an aging, yet mentally sound patriarch attempting to rehabilitate his image and settle old scores with former foes. In addition to highlighting the legendary

correspondence with Jefferson (where Adams doubled the epistolary output of Mr. Jefferson), the author also brings to light his lengthy disputes with Mary Wollstonecraft and Mercy Otis Warren. Fortunately, Adams is neither belittled nor attacked with the unfairness of hindsight. Instead, he is presented in the fullness of his complexity; often self-righteous, obsessive, and grouchy, yet always believing that the principles of the Revolution were best served by a national, rather than provincial, approach. Few have disputed Adams' eloquence or dignity and now, thanks to Mr. Ellis, we can finally see that Adams just might be one of the most relevant.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A very good book with three stars on a very tough scale. Von Erik L. Enger (eenger@apmgtsys.com) I enjoyed reading this book very much- on my scale three stars in well worth reading. The book is very much written from the perspective of the end of Adams' life. Though it looks over much of his life it is not a complete biography- more like a series of interconnected shorts. I see this as a positive since it allows one to study a smaller area well rather than try to take in the entire life of the man. I think the book is at its best in allowing one to see and understand the character and nature of a very interesting and difficult to grasp man. Adams is an especially interesting individual with which to do this. The author has digested his subject well and I believe captures a good portion of the nature of Adams- no mean feat. The quality of the writing is quite good though not of that rare, excellent quality. I'd heartily recommend this book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A fascinating overview of John Adams' character Von dspector@hopsut.com I searched this book out after first reading Professor Ellis's outstanding character analysis of Thomas Jefferson in "American Sphinx". "Passionate Sage" was written before the Jefferson book (which won a National Book Award) and, as a critical analysis of John Adams' character, should be regarded as a companion piece to American Sphinx. The two books tell a similar story, but from the very different perspectives of Jefferson and Adams. With a fluent, gripping and readable style uncommon among professional historians, Professor Ellis makes a compelling case that the eccentric and volatile Adams is seriously underappreciated both for his towering contributions to this nation and for his unconventional yet oddly endearing personality. Anyone who likes American history should not miss this book.

Kurzbeschreibung Passionate Sage is [Ellis's] best book. Judith Shulevitz, The New York Times Book A fresh look at this astute, likably quirky statesman, by the author of the Pulitzer Award-winning *Founding Brothers* and the National Book Award winning *American Sphinx*. "The most lovable and most laughable, the warmest and possibly the wisest of the founding fathers, John Adams knew himself as few men do and preserved his knowledge in a voluminous correspondence that still resonates. Ellis has used it with great skill and perception not only to bring us the man, warts and all, but more importantly to reveal his extraordinary insights into the problems confronting the founders that resonate today in the republic they created." Edmund S. Morgan, Sterling Professor of History Emeritus, Yale University. From Kirkus In a meditative and discursive essay (mostly about its subject's long retirement), Ellis (*History/Mount Holyoke; After the Revolution, 1979*) ponders the distinctive personality and achievements of America's endearingly cantankerous second President. While generally accorded a distinguished place in the pantheon of the nation's founders, John Adams has never been credited with the intellect of a Jefferson or the heroism of a Washington, and his presidency usually has been deemed an honorable failure. Ellis views this as unjust but points out a possible reason: Adams's pragmatic and pessimistic philosophy (emphasizing the limitations of America and the importance of tempering freedom with responsibility) was less moving than the idealistic, celebratory outlook of Jefferson and less appropriate to a young nation about to conquer a continent. Adams's rhetoric, moreover--at best plain and uninspired and at worst vituperatively argumentative--suffers in comparison with Jefferson's majestic prose. Ellis nonetheless makes clear that Adams has much to teach modern America, which has discovered limits to its power and is beginning to doubt the myths of American exceptionalism. The author's vivid sketch of the famous Adams-Jefferson correspondence shows his subject's delightful personality, intellect, warmth, and capacity for friendship, as well as his devotion to the Union and to the Federalist cause (which came to an end with the New England Federalists' support for secession during the War of 1812). Ellis comments ruefully on what he views as Adams's unfair relegation to second place in America's memory of its founders (a ranking that Adams himself anticipated), and he proposes that a statue of Adams be erected near the Jefferson Memorial so that, "depending on the time of day and angle of the sun, he and Jefferson might take turns casting shadows across each other's facades." By focusing on Adams's retirement, Ellis doesn't achieve the sweep of a full biography--but he's able to capture the man's appealing spirit, providing new perspective on an unfairly neglected Founding Father. (Photographs) -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From Library Journal Of all the brilliant cast of characters who brought the United States into being, none is more noteworthy or more controversial than John Adams. In this biography, Ellis (*history, Mount Holyoke*) focuses on the last part of Adams's life in an attempt to dissect and illuminate the contradictory nature of this great man. In this detailed yet readable account, the reader is told that "Adams did not just read books. He battled them." One of his favorite authors was Bolingbroke, but he considered Voltaire a "liar." A man like Adams is heard loudly through the centuries; collections of his letters will always be invaluable, but Ellis's work is an appropriate and well-

researched adjunct to the original sources. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries.- Katherine Gillen,  
Mesa P.L., Ariz. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.