

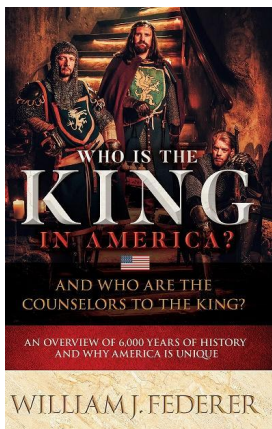
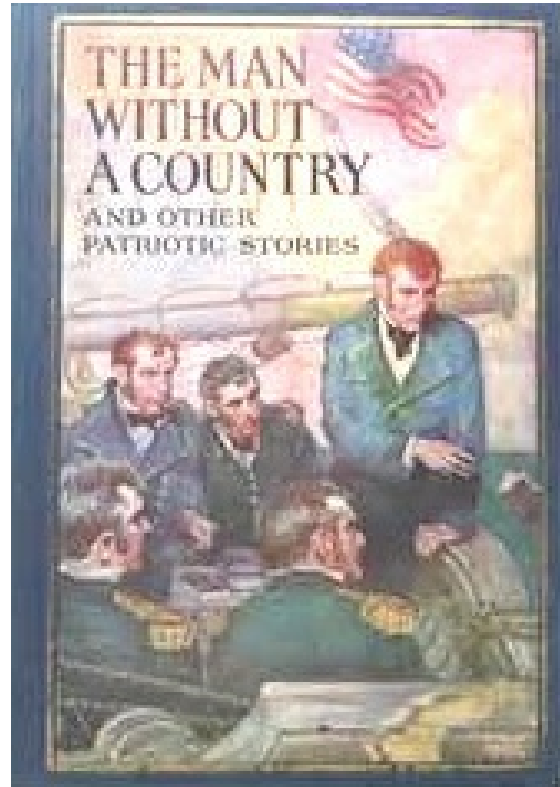
American Minute with Bill Federer Fall from Vice-President to Treason, "The Man without a Country," Aaron Burr

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Aaron Burr's main political opponent was **Alexander Hamilton**.

Hamilton, along with Franklin and Jefferson, helped found the **Bank of North America** in 1781 ...
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In 1784, **Alexander Hamilton** also founded the **Bank of New York**, which later merged with **Mellon Bank**.

Bank of New York stock were the **first shares** traded on the **New York Stock Exchange**.

In 1789, **Hamilton** became the **first U.S. Secretary of**

the Treasury.

His **Bank of New York** provided the U.S. Government with its first **loan**, used to **pay the salaries** of members of **Congress** and the **President**.

In 1791, **Hamilton** arranged for the **Bank of North America** to be replaced by the **Bank of the United States**.

Hamilton and **Federalist leaders** were concerned that if the United States Government showed **financial instability**, **foreign countries** may be lured to interfere in American politics.

Jefferson and **Madison** opposed **Hamilton's plan** as it **concentrated too much power** into the hands of too few.

In 1791, **Aaron Burr** defeated the first U.S. Senator from New York, **Major General Philip Schuyler**, who was **Alexander Hamilton's father-in-law**.

Burr was a **U.S. Senator** for six years till he ran for President in 1796, coming in fourth behind **John Adams**, **Thomas Jefferson**, and Thomas Pinckney.

In 1798, during a threatened "**quasi-war**" with France, **President John Adams** asked retired **George Washington** to serve as **Commanding General** of U.S. forces.

Washington agreed.

Burr applied for a brigadier general's commission but **Washington** rejected him, writing:

"By all that I have known and heard, **Colonel Burr** is a brave and able officer, but the question is whether he has not equal **talents at intrigue**."

In 1799, **Burr** founded **Manhattan Water Company** to bring **fresh water** into **New York City**.

With no financial accountability, **Burr** raised two million dollars for the project, but **only used one hundred thousand for supplying water to the city**, using hollow tree trunks for pipes.

The rest of the money, **Aaron Burr** used to start **The Manhattan Bank**, which later merged with Chase, to compete with **Hamilton's Bank of New York**.

Burr used his Bank's resources to influence politics toward **Jefferson's Democratic-Republican Party** in opposition to **Hamilton's Federalist Party**.

Originally there were **no political parties** in the United States.

In the 1790s, **the first two political parties began to take shape**:

- **Hamilton's Federalist Party;**
- **Jefferson's Democrat-Republican Party.**

President Washington saw the early development of **political parties** and **warned** in his Farewell Address, 1796:

"Let me now ... warn you in the most solemn manner against the **baneful effects of the spirit of Party** ... having its roots in the **strongest passions of the human mind** ...

The alternate **domination of one faction over another**, sharpened by the **spirit of revenge natural to Party dissension**, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the **most horrid enormities**, is itself a

frightful despotism ...

Disorders and miseries ... ill founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection ...

opens the doors to **foreign influence and corruption**, which find a facilitated **access to the Government** itself through the channels of **party passions.**"

Burr turned the social club **Tammany Hall** into the **infamous New York political machine.**

As a member of the New York State Assembly, 1798-1799, **Burr** worked on behalf of a **foreign company**, the Holland Land Company, to pass legislation **allowing aliens to hold and convey lands in America.**

John Barker Church, brother-in-law of Alexander Hamilton, **accused Burr of taking a bribe from the Holland Company.**

Burr challenged Church to a **duel**, September 1799, though both fired and missed.

Burr's Tammany Hall political machine was able to get more New York City assembly members elected than **Hamilton, giving Burr's party control of New York's state legislature.**

Presidential elections at this time in U.S. history had **each Congressional District** chose an elector who cast two **electoral votes.**

Whichever candidate received the **most electoral votes** would be **President** and whoever received the **second most votes** would be **Vice-President.**

Rather than **each Congressional District elector** being able to **cast their vote independently**, **Burr** convinced

New York's legislature to change this to a "**winner-take-all**" **policy**, where the political party receiving the majority would get **ALL the states' electoral votes** as a block.

Other states soon followed this policy.

In the divisive and smear-filled campaign of 1800, **Federalist** candidates **John Adams** and **Charles Pinckney** were defeated by **Democratic-Republican** candidates **Thomas Jefferson** and **Aaron Burr**.

When the **electoral votes** were counted, there was an **unprecedented dilemma**.

Burr and **Jefferson** both received **exactly the same number of electoral votes** - 73 each.

Everyone assumed that **Aaron Burr** would defer to **Jefferson** being the **President** and him being the **Vice-President**.

Burr, though, did not immediately concede.

He was suspiciously quiet, rumored to be working behind the scenes, using intrigue to maneuver himself into being the **President**.

This resulted in the **House of Representatives** having to **break the electoral tie, with each state getting one vote**.

Rumors circulated that **Burr**, through Federalist Congressman James Bayard, **attempted to bribe** Rep. Samuel Smith and Rep. Edward Livingston **with political appointments if they voted for him**.

Though **Hamilton** was the leader of the **Federalist Party**, he **intensely opposed Burr**.

Hamilton embarked on a feverish **letter writing campaign**, stating that **Jefferson** was "**by far not so dangerous a man.**" This convinced **several Congressmen to switch and vote for Jefferson, or cast a blank ballot.**

The result was **Jefferson** becoming the **3rd U.S. President** and **Burr** being **Vice-President.**

Jefferson distrusted **Burr** as elusive and unreliable.

When **Jefferson** was preparing to run for re-election in 1804, he let it be known that he did not intend to keep **Burr** on as **running-mate** for his **second term.**

Burr then ran for **Governor of New York**, and **lost**, due once again to opposition spread by **Hamilton.**

Burr challenged **Hamilton** to an illegal duel on July 11, 1804, where he shot and killed him.

Burr was indicted for murder by a coroner's jury in New York and by a grand jury in New Jersey.

Killing **Hamilton** instantly ended **Burr's** political career.

The **former Vice-President** was now a **persona non grata**,

He fled and roamed west, traveling to **New Orleans, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee**, even staying with **General Andrew Jackson** in **Nashville.**

Burr conceived of a plan to acquire land from the Spanish government, including part of the **Louisiana Territory**, and colonize it as his own empire.

British diplomat Anthony Merry claimed **Burr** intended to take some of the land from **Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase** and:

“effect a **separation of the western part of the United States** from that which lies between the Atlantic and the mountains in its whole extent.”

When word of this reached **Jefferson**, he put out a warrant for **Burr's arrest**.

He was captured in **Natchez**.

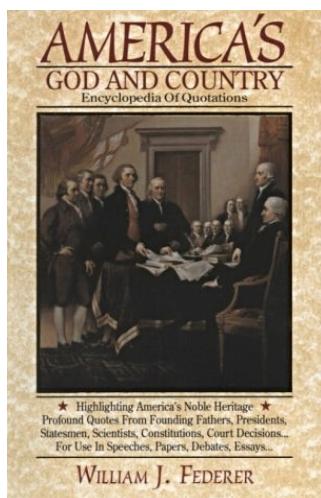
Jefferson insisted **Burr** be indicted for **treason** and threw the entire weight of the government against him, but **Chief Justice John Marshall** determined there was not enough evidence to convict him.

In 1808, **Burr** fled creditors by sailing to **England**.

He lived there four years till he was ordered out.

Napoleon refused to let him into **France**.

Burr finally returned to **New York**, but to avoid creditors he used his mother's maiden name, "**Edwards**."



[America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations](#)

Aaron Burr went from **Vice-President** to pariah, as unpopular as **Benedict Arnold**.

He was infamously portrayed in **Edward Everett Hale's** novel, ***The Man Without a Country***, 1863.

In the novel, **Hale** created a **fictitious character** named **Philip Nolan**, who developed a friendship with **Aaron Burr**, and joined in **Burr's conspiracy**.

Nolan was arrested and tried for **treason** as an **accomplice of Burr**.

When his sentence was pronounced, **Philip Nolan** exclaimed:

"D--n the United States! I wish I may never hear of the United States again!"

In the novel, the judge ordered **Philip Nolan's** wish fulfilled, that for the rest of his life he would **sail the world's seas on Navy ships** and **never set foot or hear the name of his former country again**.

Sailors were forbidden to discuss or even mention the **United States** to him.

Toward the end of the novel, ***The Man Without a Country***, **Edward Everett Hale** wrote that a visitor met **Philip Nolan**:

"But he could not stand it long ... he beckoned me down into our boat ... he said to me:

'Youngster, let that show you what it is to be without a family, without a home, and without a country.

And **if you are ever tempted** to say a word or to do a thing that shall **put a bar** between you and your family, your home, **and your country**, pray **God** in his mercy to take you that instant home to his own heaven ..."

The character, **Nolan**, continued:

"Stick by your family, boy ... and for **your country**, boy,"

and the words rattled in his throat, '**and for that flag,**' and he pointed to the ship, 'never dream a dream but of **serving her as she bids you,** though the service carry you through a thousand hells.

... No matter what happens to you, no matter who flatters you or who abuses you, **never look at another flag,** never let a night pass but you **pray God to bless that flag.**

Remember, boy ... the **Country** Herself, **your Country,** and that you belong to her as you belong to your own mother.

Stand by Her, boy, as you would stand by your mother, if those devils there had got hold of her to-day!"

Edward Everett Hale was born April 3, 1822.

He was the grandnephew of Revolutionary hero **Nathan Hale**, who stated before being hanged, September 22, 1776:

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for **my country.**"

Edward Everett Hale entered **Harvard** at age 13 and later taught at the prestigious **Boston Latin School.**

He published over 50 books, **opposed slavery** and was the **pastor of Boston's South Congregational Church** for 45 years.

In 1903, **Edward Everett Hale** became **Chaplain of the United States Senate.**

He wrote:

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I should do and, with the help of God, I will do."

Trying to understand how unique the United States is, British author **G.K. Chesterton** traveled the country, then wrote the book *What I Saw In America* (1922).

In the chapter titled "**What is America,**" he penned:

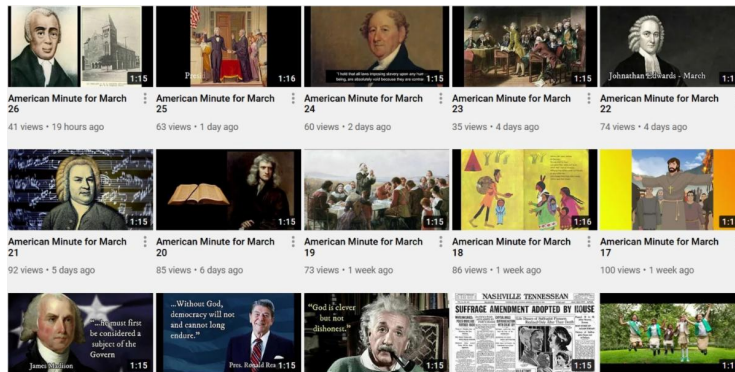
"America is the **ONLY NATION IN THE WORLD** that is founded on creed.

That creed is set forth ... in the Declaration of Independence ... that all men are equal in their claim to justice."

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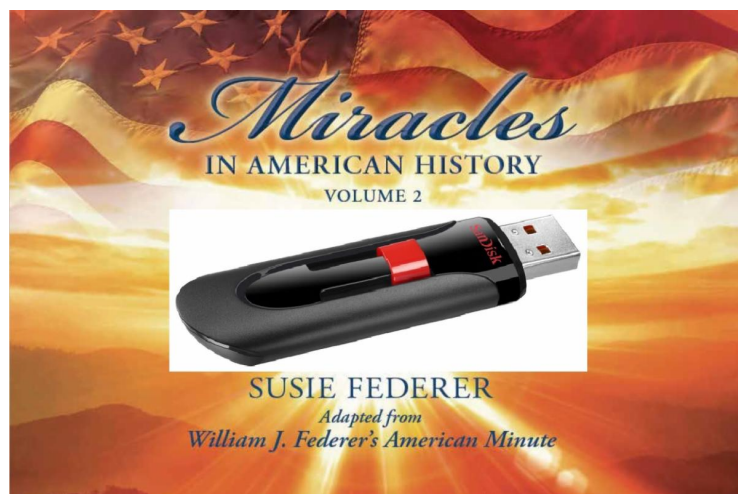
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