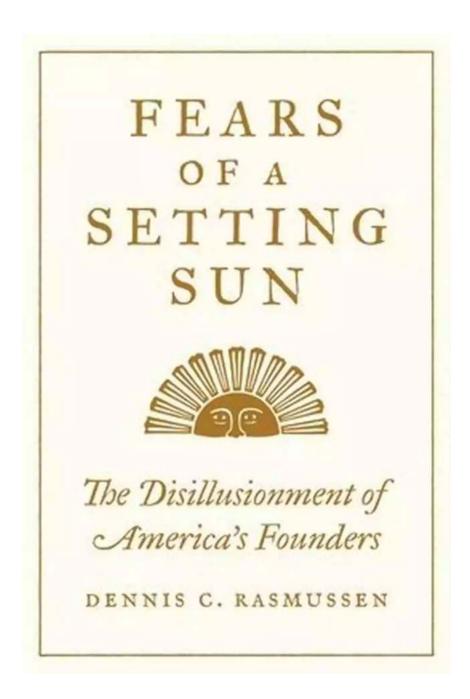
The Disillusionment Of America Founders: Unveiling the Darker Realities Beneath the Idealism

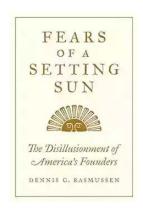


When we think about the founding of America, we often picture a group of valiant individuals unified by their pursuit of freedom and justice. The American

Revolution and the subsequent establishment of the United States are often romanticized as noble and virtuous endeavors. However, beneath the surface, the story of America's founding is not as idealistic as it may appear. Delve deeper into history, and you'll uncover the disillusionment experienced by America's founders.

The Idealism of a New Nation

In the late 18th century, America was a land seeking to break free from the chains of British rule. The founders, such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, were driven by a desire for a nation governed by the principles of democracy and individual freedoms. Their dreams were fueled by the Enlightenment ideals of liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness.



Fears of a Setting Sun: The Disillusionment of

America's Founders by Dennis Carl Rasmussen(Kindle Edition)

4.5 out of 5



The United States Declaration of Independence, penned by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, is a testament to the lofty aspirations of the founders. It boldly claimed that "all men are created equal" and that they are endowed with "certain unalienable Rights." This document represented a beacon of hope for a new nation, one that would serve as a model for democratic governance.

The Dark Realities of America's Founders

However, as with any human endeavor, the founding of America was not without its flaws and contradictions. While the founders spoke of equality and freedom, many of them were slave owners themselves. Despite their rhetoric, they failed to extend these ideals to all individuals, perpetuating a system of oppression and discrimination.

George Washington, revered as the father of the United States, owned hundreds of slaves throughout his lifetime. Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, held similar contradictions. Despite his belief in the rights and liberties of all men, he owned over 600 slaves and fathered children with one of them, Sally Hemings.

Moreover, the founders' vision of a democratic nation was heavily influenced by their own interests and biases. As wealthy landowners, they crafted a constitution that protected their property rights and perpetuated the dominance of the white male elite. Women, Native Americans, slaves, and those without property were effectively excluded from the democratic process, revealing the limitations of the founders' supposed commitment to equality.

Unveiling the Disillusionment

Over time, many of America's founders became disillusioned with the course the nation had taken. In his Farewell Address in 1796, George Washington warned against political factions and the dangers of foreign entanglements. He worried that the spirit of unity and civic virtue, so crucial to the success of the nation, was at risk of being eroded.

Thomas Jefferson, too, expressed his disillusionment as he observed the increasing influence of special interests and the erosion of democratic principles.

In a letter written in 1825, he wrote, "I apprehend that the total abandonment of the principle of rotation in the offices of President and Senator will end in abuse."

The disillusionment of America's founders stemmed from the realization that the very principles they held dear were being manipulated and compromised. The ideals of equality, liberty, and justice were being overshadowed by self-interest and the pursuit of power.

A Continuing Journey Towards a More Ideal America

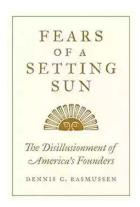
The disillusionment of America's founders should not undermine the significance of their achievements. The establishment of the United States marked an important turning point in human history, and their ideals continue to inspire generations to strive for a more perfect union.

However, it is essential to recognize the darker realities that existed beneath the surface of their idealistic vision. By acknowledging the flaws and contradictions of America's founders, we can better understand the challenges faced by the nation throughout its history.

Today, America is a diverse and complex nation still grappling with issues of inequality and social justice. By learning from the disillusionment of its founders, the United States can continue its journey towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

The founding of America is a tale of both idealism and disillusionment. While the founders expressed noble aspirations for the nation, their actions often fell short of those ideals. By exploring the darker realities of America's founders, we gain a more nuanced understanding of the challenges faced in the pursuit of a truly democratic and equal society.

It is crucial to critically examine the historical narrative and question the myths that have been perpetuated. Only through understanding the disillusionment can America move forward and strive to fulfill the promises made by its founders.



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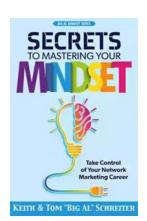
The surprising story of how George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson came to despair for the future of the nation they had created

Americans seldom deify their Founding Fathers any longer, but they do still tend to venerate the Constitution and the republican government that the founders created. Strikingly, the founders themselves were far less confident in what they had wrought, particularly by the end of their lives. In fact, most of them—including George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson—came to deem America's constitutional experiment an utter failure that was unlikely to last beyond their own generation. Fears of a Setting Sun is the first book to tell the fascinating and too-little-known story of the founders' disillusionment.

As Dennis Rasmussen shows, the founders' pessimism had a variety of sources: Washington lost his faith in America's political system above all because of the

rise of partisanship, Hamilton because he felt that the federal government was too weak, Adams because he believed that the people lacked civic virtue, and Jefferson because of sectional divisions laid bare by the spread of slavery. The one major founder who retained his faith in America's constitutional order to the end was James Madison, and the book also explores why he remained relatively optimistic when so many of his compatriots did not. As much as Americans today may worry about their country's future, Rasmussen reveals, the founders faced even graver problems and harbored even deeper misgivings.

A vividly written account of a chapter of American history that has received too little attention, Fears of a Setting Sun will change the way that you look at the American founding, the Constitution, and indeed the United States itself.



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