

# APUSH READING GUIDE

Richard Hofstadter, *The American Political Tradition*  
Chapter 2: "Thomas Jefferson: The Aristocrat as Democrat"



**Pre-reading: Read AMSCO, p. 142-143 (Hofstadter is mentioned in the historiographical essay.)**

According to Hofstadter, what *mythology* surrounds Jefferson and his Republican party?

How did the generations of historians that preceded Hofstadter frame the conflict between Jefferson and Hamilton?

How are sarcasm and irony present in Hofstadter's chapter title and in his first pages (25-26)?

What details does Hofstadter give us about Jefferson's youth?

According to Hofstadter, how significant were Jefferson's reforms in Virginia (e.g., primogeniture)?

How does Hofstadter describe Jefferson's views on slavery?

According to Hofstadter, did Jefferson ever develop a systematic political theory (31)?

What class did Jefferson view as a threat to society?

## **PROPERTY**

40-42 Did the Federalists represent a *propertied interest*?

Property vs. Non-Property?   **OR**    Different kinds of property?

According to Hofstadter, how significant was this conflict between different kinds of propertied interest?

## **HAMILTON CHOOSES JEFFERSON**

Election of 1800 – Hamilton chooses Jefferson over Burr... why (44)?

As president, did Jefferson dismantle the Hamiltonian system (44)?

"Trimming the Edges" of Federalism (45)

What things did the Republicans scrap or change from the Federalist program (45-46)?

## **IV – FOREIGN POLICY**

### **Jefferson as Pacifist**

According to Hofstadter, how successful was Jefferson's foreign policy?

### **EMBARGO**