

JAMES MADISON – “father of the U.S. Constitution” and Champion of Religious Freedom

by Dr. Catherine Millard © 2022

A group of history-loving Americans and myself recently took a guided tour of *Montpelier*, home of founding father, James Madison, “father of the U.S. Constitution.” Beginning at the “**David M. Rubenstein Visitors’ Center**,” we were aghast at the Department of Interior, National Park Service Interpreter’s 45-minute, scripted commentary focusing upon slavery – contrary to what had been presented as a tour of James and Dolley Madison’s life and legacy to the nation. Various participants noted the high entrance fee for this interpretative tour of *Montpelier* in order to acquire knowledge of James Madison’s rich contributions in the establishment of the American Republic.

In addition, James and Dolley Madison, James Monroe, le Marquis de Lafayette (George Washington’s close friend, and Revolutionary War hero), and other distinguished founding-era figures were ridiculed in hardboard-style caricatures seated around the Dining Room table. Their heroism, gallantry and distinction in “pledging their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor” to secure America’s freedoms, was thus discredited – particularly in the eyes of students visiting this home each year. Being familiar with French history and customs, I realized that the inaccurate, insulting caricature of le Marquis de Lafayette would be offensive to any French patriot visiting *Montpelier*. Moreover, the Department of Interior, National Park Service has unlimited funds to accurately portray, from numerous original paintings, the true, distinguished likenesses of these renowned American and French personages.

Dolley Madison, described by eye-witness accounts at the “Church of the Presidents”^{*} opposite the White House, as “gracious, distinguished and regal in manners and attire,” also fell prey to a defamatory caricature. The only exemption to the rule was a servant’s hardboard-style image standing to the side, who took center stage in the Interpreter’s lecture.

At the close of the tour, a member of our group asked the question, “Well, what was James Madison famous for? Your entire tour has majored upon slavery.” Originally from overseas, this patriotic American visited *Montpelier* to learn about James Madison’s contributions in the establishment of her adopted country – not about slavery, an institution enforced under British rule, which Madison opposed throughout his life.

Montpelier’s “**Guidelines for Visitors**” brochure encapsulates the Department of Interior, National Park Service’s emphasis upon slavery, as follows:

“*Montpelier* is a memorial to James Madison & the Enslaved community...*Montpelier* is more than the home of one of America’s Founding fathers. It’s a place where we can learn how our Constitution affects our everyday lives. It’s an ongoing archaeological dig that tells us more about daily life in the 18th and early 19th centuries. It’s a place to examine the institution of slavery in the Founding Era, celebrate the humanity of *Montpelier’s* enslaved people, and confront the legacies

of slavery in today’s world...”

The above re-framing and re-interpretation of James Madison’s noble legacy was a result of billionaire Chairman of the *Council on Foreign Relations* and self-pronounced “philanthropist-patriot,” David M. Rubenstein, who gave \$10 million in 2014 to the *Montpelier Foundation*^{**} for the inception of the “**Rubenstein Initiative**” at James Madison’s *Montpelier*: “a five-year plan to refurbish and interpret the *Montpelier* Mansion and reconstruct the South Yard, the enslaved community site adjacent to the mansion.”

“**David M. Rubenstein Initiative**” at *Monticello*

Upon arrival at Thomas Jefferson’s *Monticello*,^{**} to which Rubenstein gave \$20 million in 2013 and 2015, respectively, to restore former slave quarters, and re-interpret/rewrite and defame Jefferson’s noble legacy – visitors are greeted at the David M. Rubenstein Visitors’ Center and Bookstore, with a false, defamatory exhibit on Thomas Jefferson.

“**David M. Rubenstein Initiative**” at *Mount Vernon*

World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community member and speaker, Rubenstein’s \$10 million gift in 2013 to George Washington’s

Mount Vernon^{**} resulted in rewritten interpretative scripts, plaques and literature focusing upon slavery, denigrating Washington’s superlative role as “the father of his country.”

“**David M. Rubenstein Initiative**” at the *National Archives*

Media Mogul billionaire Rubenstein gave \$13.5 million in 2013 to the National Archives Foundation^{**} of the *National Archives* to construct and implement his prominent “**David M. Rubenstein Record of Rights Gallery**” facing the new, sub-level visitors’ entrance, featuring exhibits and screens of modern-day violent Civil Rights Protests merging interchangeably with paintings of the Founding Fathers, the Declaration of Independence and Constitution by Barry Faulkner. Faulkner’s historic mural paintings are affixed to the wall above the three original Charters of Freedom on permanent display in the 2nd floor’s Main Rotunda. Furthermore, the National Archives Bookstore, adjacent to “**David M. Rubenstein’s Record of Rights Gallery**,” promotes his revisionist books and those of his leftist “master historians,” so-named by him.

All of the above “Rubenstein Initiatives” prominently bear his name: **DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN** – representing the rewriting, re-framing, re-interpretation and defamation of America’s founding fathers – his primary victims being vulnerable parents, teachers and students, millions of whom visit these historic sites annually. Moreover, the

^{*}President and Mrs. James Madison worshiped at the “Church of the Presidents” – St. John’s Episcopal Church on Lafayette Square, opposite the White House, where their pew, now called “The Presidents Pew” still stands. This church (circa 1816) was designed by Architect of the Capitol, Benjamin Henry La Trobe for the spiritual needs of U.S. Presidents, from James Madison onwards.

^{**} Tax Exempt 501(c)3 Foundation.



MONTPELIER, home of James Madison, “father of the United States Constitution,” and his wife, Dolley. Orange County, Virginia. (Illustrator: Helen Weir.)

latter are being subjected to his revisionist books, and those of other racist-oriented authors whom Rubenstein promotes as “master historians,” including Jon Meacham (Chairman of *Monticello*, and member of the *Council on Foreign Relations*). These widely-promoted books are a lucrative trade conducted at the “**David M. Rubenstein Visitors’ Centers**,” and the National Archives’ Bookstore, indoctrinating multitudes of Americans into false, defamatory history. This is called, “Psychopolitics – The Art and Science of manipulating masses of minds of people without their knowing it,” of which Rubenstein is a master.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the “David M. Rubenstein Initiative”

Chairman of China’s *Tsinghua University* in Beijing from 2013-2016, to which he gave funds, David M. Rubenstein’s trump card in the defamation of America’s founders, by replacing their incomparable words, deeds and heroism with interpretative tours and cleverly-written exhibits accusing them of racism, “white supremacy” and bigotry – quite in keeping with the “critical race theory” forcibly injected into government schools – is his \$10 million donation in 2019 to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial through the National Park Foundation*. The latter describes itself as “raising private funds to help PROTECT more than 84 million acres of national parks.” Rubenstein is quoted by the *Washington Post*, a Marxist newspaper, as stating, “Hopefully what we’ll be able to do is make the experience of visiting the Jefferson Memorial even better than it has been.” The article describes the Department of Interior, National Park Service’s 1998 Exhibits and Bookstore on the basement-level of the Jefferson Memorial as “antiquated” and needing restoration, which is false. This state-of-the-art Exhibit portraying Thomas Jefferson, and other founding fathers as products of the French Enlightenment, or, French Revolution’s “Reign of Terror,” and its adjacent Bookstore was in perfect condition. Being in the lower, basement-level of the Memorial, however, it did not attract the large numbers of viewers anticipated by the Department of Interior, National Park Service Exhibit writers – which starkly contrasted with Thomas Jefferson’s original Biblical writings inscribed upon the walls of the upper, main-level Rotunda. The **Thomas Jefferson Memorial “David M. Rubenstein Initiative”** is quoted by the *Washington Post* as “creating a new exhibit area on the main level near the 19-foot-tall bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson.”

This encroaching “new exhibit” will most certainly follow the identical pattern of “Rubenstein’s *Monticello* Initiative,” under the “**DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN THOMAS JEFFERSON AND SLAVERY MEMORIAL VISITORS’ CENTER**” in our nation’s capital – destroying Thomas Jefferson’s noble character and fame inscribed within the Jefferson Memorial’s Main Rotunda: Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence (1776); his Statutes for Religious Freedom (1786), forerunner to the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment; his 1779 Anti-Slavery Bill, terminating the importation of slaves; his historic 1816 letter, and his words of wisdom to



The Main Rotunda of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington, D.C. – now targeted and endangered. The central bronze statue of Jefferson holding his Declaration of Independence is encircled by five wall-inscribed Jeffersonian writings on America’s God-endowed self-government, honoring Almighty God nine times. The Declaration of Independence, foremost document of the nation’s liberty, is engraved on the wall, to the right. Photograph: John W. Wrigley © 1990.

founding father Benjamin Rush, M.D. – boldly engraved upon the inner walls which honor this great statesman and his God-endowed creed of self-government.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission chose the five afore-named Jeffersonian writings, which glorify Almighty God nine times, as “the most reflective of Jefferson’s views on democracy and his advocacy of a system of government that would allow citizens to govern themselves,” prior to the Memorial’s 1943 Bicentennial Inauguration.

The “**David M. Rubenstein Initiative**” and the “**David M. Rubenstein Thomas Jefferson Memorial Visitors Center, Museum, Exhibits and Bookstore**,” patterned after *Monticello*’s “Rubenstein Initiative,” is aimed at striking down America’s greatest founding father with anti-patriotic, racist-oriented museum instruction and its ensuing school programs, materials and curricula and **must be immediately STOPPED**. Its goal, successfully implemented at *Monticello*, *Montpelier*, *Mount Vernon* and the *National Archives*, is to “re-educate” millions of unwary parents, teachers and impressionable students visiting their Jefferson Memorial annually, with anti-patriotic, Marxist propaganda against the author of the Declaration of Independence. I quote:

“Wall Street Billionaire David M. Rubenstein has a long record of trying to depict himself as a patron of the arts and culture to distract from his dangerous record.”

What “dangerous record” is this writer referring to? *The Council on Foreign Relations*, of which Rubenstein is Chairman, was founded in 1921 by Edward Mandell House, whose aim was to destroy the liberties and sovereignty of the United States for a world government. David M. Rubenstein’s book, “How to Lead – Teaching and promoting wisdom from the world’s greatest C.E.O.’s, Founders and Game Changers” features his “visionaries,” Jeff Bezos (Founder/Owner of Amazon, and owner of the *Washington Post* after the 45th President’s election to office); Bill Gates; Oprah Winfrey, and billionaire Warren Buffett. The latter “visionary” who has amassed a fortune of over \$60 billion at age 92, describes himself as an “agnostic.” Rubenstein’s other books powerfully discredit and debase America’s founding fathers, together with the titles of his “master historians.” A June 30, 2022 article states that,

“Rubenstein is also good friends with Joe Biden, who spent last Thanksgiving at Rubenstein’s Nantucket compound.”

In keeping with the “David M. Rubenstein Initiative,” *Montpelier*’s “**Guidelines for Visitors**” brochure directs participants to their Exhibits A-H under the heading,

MERE DISTINCTION OF COLOR

*Tax Exempt 501(c)3 Foundation.

which majors upon slavery, to include, “What is slavery?” (Exhibit C) and “Color Through a Child’s Eyes” (Exhibit H), indoctrinating millions of future leaders-in-training with the federal government’s anti-American, anti-Founding Fathers, anti-patriotic revisionary rhetoric, in lieu of teaching James Madison’s outstanding statesmanship as a Founding Father of *this nation under God*.

My presentation/talk on James Madison’s true identity from original hand-written documents of American history subsequently took place in Orange, Virginia. It is hereunder reprinted:

“From Princeton University Archives’ Manuscript Library, we learn that James Madison’s character was greatly influenced by his teacher, Reverend Thomas Martin, who lived with the family at *Montpelier* after becoming pastor of ‘the Brick Church,’ St. Thomas Parish, preparing him for ministry.

In 1769, at age 18, Madison enrolled in the College of New Jersey at Princeton, studying under a dynamic Christian patriot – the Reverend John Witherspoon, Doctor of Divinity, President of the College, and only preacher-signer of the Declaration of Independence. Madison mastered the writings of the Great Revival in Scotland, headed by Witherspoon, and listened to his biblical sermons.

Reverend Witherspoon told Thomas Jefferson ‘that in the whole career of Mr. Madison at Princeton, he had never known him to do or say any indiscreet thing.’

James Madison was trained to be a minister and preacher of the Gospel. However, he took up the call to serve his country during the American Revolution. He is rightly called ‘the father of the United States Constitution,’ as he played a key role in its framing.

Madison graduated from Princeton College in 1771, spending an additional year at the college to study Hebrew under Dr. Witherspoon. Returning to *Montpelier*, he continued his biblical studies, along with law. Although he did not select the Christian ministry for his life’s work, his study and thorough knowledge of the Bible formulated his views and principles in government.

James Madison and Thomas Jefferson – ‘Champions of Religious Freedom’

In 1780, James Madison was elected as a delegate to the Continental Congress, working tirelessly to secure a strong central government. In 1785 he led the opposition to a Bill for the establishment of Religion by law. Both Madison and Jefferson, called the “Champions of Religious Freedom” stood against legislation that would require citizens to be taxed for the support of something which they may be opposed to in conscience. In this case, it was the support of the teachers of the Christian Religion of one sect, selected by the government. Madison was outraged at this affront to Christianity. He was apparently in the minority, as he states here in his acclaimed work entitled, ‘**A Memorial and Remonstrance, presented to the**



Marble statue of James Madison, “father of the U.S. Constitution.” The James Madison Memorial Building, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Photograph: © Christian Heritage Ministries.

General Assembly of the State of Virginia, at their Session in 1785, in consequence of a Bill brought into that Assembly, for the Establishment of Religion by Law.’

Not only was the bill not beneficial to Christianity, but the passage of such a bill was based upon ignorance, rather than faith in God. As he clearly shows, Christianity not only does not need the help of the State for support, but such help would result in a weakening of the church:

...Because the establishment proposed by the bill is not requisite for the support of the Christian Religion. To say that it is, is a contradiction to the Christian Religion itself; for every page of it disavows a dependence on the power of this world; it is a contradiction to fact, for it is known that this religion both existed and flourished, not only without the support of human laws, but in spite of every opposition from them; and not only during the period of miraculous aid, but long after it had been left to its own evidence and the ordinary care of Providence: nay, it is a contradiction in terms; for any religion, not invented by human policy must have pre-existed and been supported, before it was established by human policy; it is,

moreover, to weaken in those, who profess this religion, a pious confidence in its innate excellence, and the patronage of its Author; and to foster in those, who still reject it, a suspicion that its friends are too conscious of its fallacies, to trust it to its own merits...

Madison then goes on to explain that this has been proven repeatedly though the 15 centuries of Christianity prior to the Protestant Reformation. What have been its fruits, asks Madison?

...pride and indolence in the clergy; ignorance and servility in the laity: in both, superstition, bigotry and persecution. Inquire of the teachers of Christianity for the ages in which it appeared in its greatest lustre; those of every sect point out the ages prior to its incorporation with civil policy...what influence, in fact, have ecclesiastical establishments had on civil society? In some instances, they have been seen to erect a spiritual tyranny on the ruins of the civil authority; in more instances, have they been seen upholding the thrones of political tyranny; in no instance have they been seen the guardians of the liberties of the people...

Madison: ‘Christian Forbearance, Love and Charity Mutually Prevailing’ prior to Bill

The adverse effects of this law in the future could be seen by Madison, even in the initial discord it currently brought to the Christian church, as he writes:

...The very appearance of the bill has transformed that “Christian forbearance, love and charity,” which of late mutually prevailed, into animosities and jealousies, which may not soon be appeased. What mischiefs may not be dreaded, should this enemy to the publick quiet be armed with the force of law?...Because the policy of the bill is adverse to the diffusion of the light of Christianity. The first wish of whose, who ought to enjoy this precious gift, ought to be, that it may be imported to the whole race of mankind. Compare the number of those who have as yet received it, with the number still remaining under the dominions of false religions and how small is the former! Does the policy of the bill tend to lessen the disproportion? No; it at once discourages those who are strangers to the light of truth, from coming into the regions of it; and countenances, by example, the nations who continue in darkness in shutting out those who might convey it to them...

Madison’s Leading Role in the Constitutional Convention

Madison took a leading role in the Constitutional Convention of 1787. His clearly defined and outlined views on government formed the basis for the “Virginia Plan” providing a framework for our U.S. Constitution.

Fellow delegate, and founding father, George Mason was one of the principle framers of the Constitution, fighting furiously for its adoption.

George Mason’s Refusal to Sign the Constitution after Congress struck out the “Anti-Slavery Clause”

It was James Madison, however, who wrote the following report concerning Mason’s refusal to sign it after the anti-slavery clause had been struck out by Congress:*

This infernal traffic originated in the avarice of British merchants. The British government constantly checked the attempts of Virginia to put a stop to it. The present question concerns not the importing States alone, but the whole Union...Slavery discourages arts and manufactures. The poor despise labor when performed by slaves. They prevent the emigration of whites, who really enrich and strengthen a country. They produce the most pernicious effect on manners. Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. They bring the judgment of Heaven on a country. As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities He (George Mason) lamented that some of our eastern brethren had, from a lust of gain, embarked in this nefarious traffic... He held it essential in every point of view, that the General Government should have power to prevent the increase of slavery.

After the Constitution was adopted, James Madison was instrumental in its acceptance by the states. Along with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, he wrote a series of articles, called the *Federalist*, which helped to educate the public in respect to the new form of government. Madison was a member of the Virginia

Convention which met to deliberate the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. His brilliant analysis and powerful argument brought about more than any other delegate, its safe procurement.

Madison and Jefferson: “Separation of Church and (from interference by) the State”

Both James Madison and Thomas Jefferson spoke out against an established state-controlled church, such as the Anglican church in Virginia, which had forced all citizens to attend its services, pay tithes, and which had persecuted all other Christian churches such as the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Mennonites, Huguenots, Quakers, etc., who could not hold their own services, nor could they preach the Gospel without permission from the Anglican Church. Jefferson put a stop to this religious persecution by Act of Congress, with his document: *Statutes for Religious Freedom* in Virginia, abolishing the Anglican state-controlled church and replacing it with Freedom of Religion – that is, freedom of different Protestant churches, as above mentioned, to worship in their own way without being persecuted and punished.

This is the original meaning of the “Establishment Clause” in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which reads:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

James Madison had this clause put into the Constitution, in order that the government would never again force citizens to attend a state-controlled church, such as the Anglican Church in Virginia had been. This is the true meaning of the phrase, ‘Separation of Church (from interference by) the State.’ Now, all the different Protestant Christian denominations could worship God according to the tenets of the Bible, and preach the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ wherever they wished.”

James Madison and “The James Madison Memorial Building” of the Library of Congress

In contrast to *Montpelier’s* “interpretative tour,” James Madison would be pleased with the Library of Congress building that bears his name. He was more a user than a collector of books, valuing books more for the knowledge they imparted than for their beauty or lavish decoration.

In 1783, as a member of the Continental Congress, he drew up a list of books “proper for the use of Congress.” Though never acted on by the Continental Congress, Madison’s list contained the seeds for the idea of a “Library of Congress.” And later, as President, Madison worked to obtain for Congress and the nation, Thomas Jefferson’s superb personal collection of books to replace those that were burned in the Capitol by the British in the War of 1812-1814.

The James Madison Memorial Building (2nd Annex of the Library of Congress) was officially dedicated on April 24, 1980. Ten quotations from the writings of James Madison, called “father of the U.S. Constitution,” adorn the walls of the Madison Building. Two quotations, concerning knowledge, liberty and learning, are located on each side of the main entrance of the building on Independence Avenue. Eight others are incised in the teakwood panels of the James Madison Memorial Hall just inside the entrance. Here is the text for a number of these quotations:

*Congress struck out the Constitution’s Anti-slavery Clause due to Georgia and South Carolina refusing to sign it as written, thereby lacking two, of the thirteen United States signatures needed for its adoption.

To the left of the main entrance:

KNOWLEDGE WILL FOREVER GOVERN
IGNORANCE: AND A PEOPLE WHO MEAN TO
BE THEIR OWN GOVERNORS, MUST ARM
THEMSELVES WITH THE POWER WHICH
KNOWLEDGE GIVES

To the right of the main entrance:

WHAT SPECTACLE CAN BE MORE EDIFYING OR
MORE REASONABLE, THAN THAT OF LIBERTY
& LEARNING, EACH LEANING ON THE OTHER
FOR THEIR MUTUAL & SUREST SUPPORT?

From left to right around James Madison Memorial Hall:

LEARNED INSTITUTIONS OUGHT TO BE
FAVORITE OBJECTS WITH EVERY FREE PEOPLE.
THEY THROW THAT LIGHT OVER THE PUBLIC
MIND WHICH IS THE BEST SECURITY AGAINST
CRAFTY & DANGEROUS ENCROACHMENTS ON
THE PUBLIC LIBERTY.

THE HAPPY UNION OF THESE STATES IS A
WONDER: THEIR CONSTITUTION A MIRACLE:
THEIR EXAMPLE THE HOPE OF LIBERTY
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THE ESSENCE OF GOVERNMENT IS POWER;
AND POWER, LODGED AS IT MUST BE IN
HUMAN HANDS, WILL EVER BE LIABLE TO
ABUSE.

EQUAL LAWS PROTECTING EQUAL RIGHTS
ARE...THE BEST GUARANTEE OF LOYALTY &
LOVE OF COUNTRY.

AS A MAN IS SAID TO HAVE A RIGHT TO HIS
PROPERTY, HE MAY BE EQUALLY SAID TO
HAVE A PROPERTY IN HIS RIGHTS.

and,

THE SAFETY AND HAPPINESS OF SOCIETY ARE
THE OBJECTS AT WHICH ALL POLITICAL
INSTITUTIONS AIM, AND TO WHICH ALL SUCH
INSTITUTIONS MUST BE SACRIFICED.

James Madison's noble legacy, prior to its defamation and re-interpretation in 2014 resulting from the "David M. Rubenstein Initiative"—needs to be restored urgently to his home, *Montpelier*, teaching future generations his true identity and renown as "father of the United States Constitution" and "Champion of Religious Freedom" in order to arm Americans with "the power which knowledge gives."

The "David M. Rubenstein Thomas Jefferson and Slavery Memorial Visitors Center, Museum, Exhibits and Bookstore Initiative" in the capital city of the United States must be IMMEDIATELY STOPPED.

It is time for Americans to stand up and defend their God-endowed liberty.