

From the *New York Times* bestselling and Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *The Heminges of Monticello* comes a groundbreaking collection of Thomas Jefferson’s writings on race.

Among America’s Founding Fathers, none was more deeply, personally, or controversially entangled with race and slavery than Thomas Jefferson. The man whose Declaration of Independence proclaimed that “all men are created equal” enslaved more than 600 people of African descent even as he acknowledged the injustice of slavery, saw himself as its opponent, and condemned it in his writings. How is this possible? In *Jefferson on Race*, Pulitzer Prize–winning historian Annette Gordon-Reed gathers Jefferson’s most revealing writings about African Americans, slavery, and Native Americans, enabling listeners as never before to directly explore his complex and contradictory thoughts, feelings, and decisions on these subjects—the most hotly debated aspect of his legacy.

These selections come from Jefferson’s public and private writings, letters, and plantation records, as well as accounts by contemporaries, including his son Madison Hemings and three other people formerly enslaved at Monticello. The book documents Jefferson’s ideas about—and self-image in relation to—African Americans, slavery, and Native Americans, as well as his conduct, including interactions with individual Black and Native people. The writings show how Jefferson responded to living in a multiracial slave society while professing progressive ideals, and how his views on race and slavery were shaped by his experiences with enslaved Black people.

Jefferson on Race is essential listening for anyone seeking to understand Jefferson’s conflicted attitudes—and the impact of race and slavery on American history.

Annette Gordon-Reed is a *New York Times* bestselling historian and the Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard University. Her books include *The Heminges of Monticello: An American Family*, which won the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*, and (with Peter S. Onuf) *Most Blessed of the Patriarchs: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination*.

Read by Grover Gardner

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AUDIO

Jefferson on Race



A READER

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