



Meet the Founding Fathers: What They Thought About Government, Taxation and Individual Liberties



Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams and Madison all had strongly held beliefs about the power and role of government, its presence in the lives of citizens and how the nation should proceed going forward. This lecture series delves into the statements and mindset of the Founding Fathers, delivering insights into what they felt about centralized authority, political power ... and their likely views about America today.

Lecture Outline:

- The foundations for our republic- skepticism of royal power and centralized authority
- George Washington- a moderate among many competing factions
- Alexander Hamilton- insightful strategist for what allows a nation to function and prosper
- Thomas Jefferson- idealistic proponent of liberty for all with strong distrust of industry
- Benjamin Franklin- street-savvy, practical sage providing guidance and temperance
- John Adams- tied to the “roots of liberty” while realizing the shortcomings of democracy
- James Madison- sharp legal mind who switched allegiances after creating the Constitution
- The great debate- centralized authority or greater powers for individuals and states
- The U.S. Constitution- its strengths and weaknesses, ironies and challenges
- What the Founding Fathers would think today



Gene Pisasale is an historian and author who lives in Kennett Square, Pa. He’s written nine books, conducts an ongoing lecture series and contributes a column titled “**Living History**” to media outlets in the Philadelphia area. Gene earned a Master’s Degree summa cum laude in American history at American Public University. He began his career as a petroleum geologist after earning a Master’s Degree in petroleum geology from The University of Texas at Austin. He later worked as an energy analyst and portfolio manager in the investment and banking industries after earning an MBA Finance from San Diego State University, the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certifications. Gene is an approved

Speaker and Visiting Scholar at the Delaware Humanities Forum and has presented his lectures at a wide range of venues, including **Fort McHenry** in Baltimore, **Brandywine Battlefield Park** and **The Union League** in Philadelphia. If your group has guest speakers, he welcomes inquiries for lecture presentations, book signings and other events.

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