

Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation, by Joseph Ellis

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1. Answer the following questions after completing each chapter. Answers should be handwritten and may be in the form of a bulleted list or complete sentences. These will be turned in on the first day of school. No late work will be accepted.

Preface: The Generation

1. According to Ellis' preface, what is so phenomenal about the founding of the United States?
2. What is the paradox of the revolutionary era?
3. What are the criticisms of the Constitutional Convention?
4. What are the liabilities of the United States that made it difficult to build a nation?

Chapter 1: The Duel

1. According to Ellis' explanation, why did Hamilton and Burr duel in the first place?
2. -Describe the rules of *code duello*
3. One of the themes that we will be following throughout the text is the issue of character. How does the duel between Burr and Hamilton relate to the issue of character?
4. Why was Hamilton justified in his fears of Burr?

Chapter 2: The Dinner

1. What were the two issues at stake in this chapter?
2. What were the obstacles for each issue?
3. Why Madison and most Virginian's dislike assumption?
4. What was the economic status of the fledging United States?
5. Whose approval did Madison and Jefferson seek for moving the capitol to the Potomac?
6. What role did Madison play? Hamilton? Jefferson?
7. How did the Compromise of 1790 illustrate the disagreement among the leaders of the revolutionary era?
8. What problems arose that later led to the Civil War?

Chapter 3: The Silence

1. What were some of the initial arguments made for the prohibition of slavery (in spite of the ban on congressional discussions until 1808)?
2. Why is this chapter entitled "The Silence"?
3. Why was the abolition of slavery very unlikely at this time? Give four specific reasons.
4. Why wasn't slavery included in the final draft of the Declaration of Independence?

Chapter 4: The Farewell

1. One of the themes of Founding Brothers is that of "character". According to Ellis, what was so extraordinary about George Washington? Include not only his political accomplishments, but also his character.
2. What were the main points that Washington wanted to make in his farewell address? Why did he address these issues?
3. What does Ellis say about Jefferson's reaction to Washington's position?
4. What was the paradox of the early Republic that was embodied by Washington?

Chapter 5: The Collaborators

1. Who was the "odd couple" of the revolution? Why?
2. Why was the "great collaboration" destined to become the "great competition"?
3. What problems did Adams face in his presidency?
4. What were the Alien and Sedition Acts 1798?
5. Why did Jefferson and Madison believe Adams and the Federalists were capturing the government from the American people?
6. What were the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions?
7. Why did Jefferson's views on the French Revolution change?

Chapter 6: The Friendship

- Contrast the final thoughts of Jefferson and Adams on the revolution. Which one is most commonly in history books? Why?
- When did Jefferson and Adams die? Why might this be appropriate?

2. **Concisely answer the questions below using short answer format and handwritten.** *This will be turned in on the first day of class with no late work accepted.

Ch. 1: "The Duel"

-Discuss the significance of the duel as it related to the young, fledgling nation.

Ch 2: "The Dinner"

-Account for the "sharp differences" dividing the leadership of the revolutionary generation.

Ch 3: "The Silence"

-Contrast the arguments of the North and the South on the issue of slavery.

Ch. 4: "The Farewell"

-Explain what Washington had in mind when he composed the Farewell Address.

Ch. 5: "The Collaborators"

-Ellis indicates that "the truly effective centers of power were located in two political partnerships based on personal trust." Explain and discuss this statement.

Ch. 6: "The Friendship"

Adams and Jefferson had a conflicting vision of the American Revolution. Explain the essentials of this difference. Discuss an analogy in today's world.

3. **Using the DEJ / DCN format, Include five (5) quotes from the book.** Include the page number and explain the significance of each quote in 3-5 sentences. Quotes must represent one of the following non-fictional elements. Concise responses will be handwritten and turned in on the first day of class with no late work accepted.
- author's purpose
 - author's bias
 - most compelling or memorable passage
 - author's tone
 - author's audience
 - author's point of view
 - impact of text elements (facts, statistics, anecdotes)
 - how the text changed your perspective / opinion

