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## The Disease of Liberty

Thomas Jefferson, History, & Liberty  
A Philosophical Analysis

M. Andrew Holowchak



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# The Disease of Liberty

*Thomas Jefferson, History, & Liberty: A Philosophical Analysis*

SERIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

*A continually stimulating and comprehensive study of Jefferson's political thought in light of his conception of history and the proper writing of history. Holowchak has a philosophic eye as well as a masterful grasp of the primary and secondary sources.*

**Donald Livingston**  
Retired Prof. of Philosophy,  
Emory University

### About the author

**M. Andrew Holowchak, Ph.D.** is a professor of philosophy and history, and editor of 'The Journal of Thomas Jefferson's Life and Times.' He is author/editor of over 65 books and over 270 published essays on topics such as ethics, ancient philosophy, science, psychoanalysis, and critical thinking. His current research is on Thomas Jefferson—he is acknowledged by many scholars to be the world's foremost authority on the thinking of Jefferson—and has published 27 books and over 200 essays on Jefferson. Like Jefferson, he has a passion for "putting up and pulling down," but his putting up and pulling down is not architectural, but done on a landscape or in a garden. He also enjoys lifting weights, bike riding, conferencing, and talking about Thomas Jefferson.

### Summary

Liberty for Jefferson was 'the' driving force of human history and a realizable state of the human organism and of a society of men. Study of history and anthropology showed that humans were moving from the barbaric independence suffered in primal hordes, which lived inefficiently on lands, to a more economical, human-friendly use of land in social settings, demanding laws for order. Those laws, historically, favored the powerful few to the detriment of the hoi polloi. As a pupil of the Enlightenment, Jefferson argued that all humans were by nature equal, and thus, deserving of as much civic liberty as a reason-oriented and sciences-loving society, a Jeffersonian republic, could guarantee them. This book, philosophical, explains how such a society was possible, given Jefferson's conception of the nature of man, and how the realization of one such society could lead, through contagion, to a global community of such societies. There are a large number of books that cover Jefferson's political ideology (e.g., Gordon Wood's 'Empire of Liberty' and Adrienne Koch's 'The Philosophy of Thomas Jefferson')—too many to limn—but none that gets at the philosophical implications of TJ's views on liberty. This book, examining TJ as a natural scientist and philosophy, examines and situates him in the manner of other great political ideologists of his day—e.g., Hume and Kant.

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**SUBJECTS** History, Political Science and International Relations

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