

What books did Jefferson value? And what in particular did he value about books? What books do we value? What do we value about them?

How did Jefferson regard the role (and desirable size) of government? How would he have regarded our federal government and its roles and size? Why does “big government” necessarily mean abdicating responsibility for our own welfare? Does our government function principally to do the will of the people? How do we know?

Are we sheep under the care of wolves? (See p. 35.). What is the “siren song of the welfare state”? Does our government “take us for granted”? Evidence? Are we willing to surrender the NEA, NPR, Smithsonian, National Parks, NSF, NIH, and other agencies in order to regain self-reliance and self-respect and smaller government?

On p. 39 we learn of Jefferson’s diet, drink, sleep, illness (or lack thereof). As a result of that description, why does Jenkinson call Jefferson either a “pragmatic idealist” or a ‘practical utopian”?

Have we sold our liberty to achieve security? To achieve an imaginary security? What price? What result? Is liberty necessarily “a messy business”? Explain.

What does Jenkinson mean, on p. 44, by saying “Jeffersonians should never be more afraid than when government offers to provide increased security by way of increased authority”?

How have we cheapened and democratized “violence and terror” so that millions of Americans expect government to “do whatever it will take to provide for . . . basic security and standard of living”? What is the “siren song of security, order, and the status quo”?

Consider our children’s and grandchildren’s marriages: how likely was it that these we love might marry a blockhead, a scoundrel, an abuser, a brawler—still about 14 to 1?

How does Jefferson’s decalogue (only five items listed on p. 50) create optimism? How might Jefferson fit into an Austen novel—and which one?

Apparently borrowing from Dr. Pangloss in Voltaire’s *Candide*, Jenkinson says Jefferson believed he lived in the “best of all possible times” and worlds,

providentially designed by a benign Newtonian God. What do we think about that? For Jefferson? For our times and world?

Jefferson's ideas about freedom of thought, free ideas in the marketplace, leans heavily on Milton's statements in *Areopagitica*. Do we believe in absolute freedom of thought? Do our neighbors' ideas and words do us no injury? How do various media, including internet, purvey ideas that previously might have suffered censorship? Can we trust the marketplace of ideas to sort the good from the wicked or even the mediocre? Evidence? Do we trust our neighbors' and fellow citizens' reason and good will? Why or why not?

Have we enslaved ourselves to the superficial and faddish? Have we sought to become ovine? Evidence?

Have political correctness, multiculturalism, democratization, and ethical relativism resulted in "sedition, corrosive cynicism, character assassination, disclosure of industrial secrets, disclosure of weapons design, theft of intellectual property, pornography, hate speech, unrestrained dogmatics, or exploitation of the powerless"? Evidence?