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ANNOTATION

This bachelor thesis deals with whether the contemporary depiction of Founding Fathers differs in any way from how they are depicted in primary sources. The first chapter serves as an introduction to the cultural context of the American Revolution. In the following chapter analysis of primary sources involving two Founding Fathers, Alexander Hamilton a Thomas Jefferson, is carried out. The final chapter contains an analysis of works from the contemporary United States in which the Founding Fathers can be found.

KEYWORDS

Founding Fathers, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, contemporary depiction

NÁZEV

Obraz Otců zakladatelů v současné americké kultuře

ANOTACE

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá tím, zda se vyobrazení otců zakladatelů v současné americké kultuře nějak liší od toho, jak jsou popsáni pomocí primárních zdrojů. První kapitola slouží jako úvod do kulturního kontextu období americké revoluce. Následující kapitola je věnována analýze primárních zdrojů dvou vybraných otců zakladatelů, konkrétně Alexandra Hamiltona a Thomase Jeffersona. V poslední kapitole je provedena analýza současných děl, ve kterých se tyto dvě historické postavy vyskytují.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA

otci zakladatelé, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, současné vyobrazení

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0 INTRODUCTION

Founding Fathers are arguably the most influential figures in the history of the United States. If it was not for them there might not have been any United States at all. After signing the Declaration of Independence, one of the most important documents in the history of the U.S., they managed to lead a new nation in the War of Independence against the British Empire and secure the freedom of their people. They were the ones who established the first national laws and what later became the government of the US. At the same time, they were among the first people who got to live the American dream.

Since they play such a crucial part of the United States history they tend to be depicted a lot in contemporary American culture. They appear in books, movies, academic papers, documentaries and even in pop culture. The most notable example from recent history is the musical *Hamilton: An American Musical* which was composed by Lin Manuel Miranda. The musical was met with worldwide success.

The goal of this thesis is to determine whether the way in which the Founding Fathers are depicted changed or not. First of all, a cultural context will be explained to provide information about the time period in which the Founding Fathers lived. At the end of the first chapter, two Founding Fathers will be chosen for further analysis. Initially, the analysis was meant to be carried out on three Founding Fathers but comprehensiveness of the topic showed that for an extent of a bachelor thesis it is more fitting to limit the analysis to just two of the Founding Fathers.

Then, in the second chapter, an analysis of primary sources will be carried out to establish a baseline of the personal traits of the chosen Founding Fathers. Primary sources that will be studied include letters, personal notes, and portraits. After analyzing the primary sources an analysis of two contemporary depictions will be done to provide a variety.

Lastly, a conclusion will be drawn out to determine whether the way in which the Founding Fathers are depicted nowadays changed from the way they depicted themselves.

1 CULTURAL CONTEXT

1.1 WHO IS A FOUNDING FATHER

The term Founding Father was coined by Senator from Ohio Warren G. Harding when he delivered a keynote address to the Republican National Convention of 1916. He used this term several times during his rise to political power, most notably during his 1921 inaugural address on the steps of the U. S. Capitol.¹ “Standing in this presence, mindful of the solemnity of this occasion, feeling the emotions which no one may know until he senses the great weight of responsibility for himself, I must utter my belief in the divine inspiration of the Founding Fathers.”² is the precise quote from the inaugural address which was met with a lot of criticism.³

Formerly the term Fathers was used to describe who we now consider the Founding Fathers. Claire Puccia Parham, the author of the book *From Great Wilderness to Seaway Towns*, explains that the first settlers of the original royal colonies have been throughout the history described as the founders.⁴ By this definition, anyone who inhabited the land of the first thirteen colonies before the Declaration of Independence would be considered a Founding Father.

Not everyone agrees with this definition. There are several interpretations of who can be considered a Founding Father. The difference between those definitions is how broadly or narrowly they describe the term. In the year 2015 the website All things liberty, Journal of the American Revolution, surveyed several of the most influential American historians of our time to find out which figures they see as the Founding Fathers.

Thomas Fleming, one of the most distinguished and productive historians of our time, defined the term as such: “By consensus, most historians limit the narrow definition to six. Washington, Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Madison. A broader definition would include many worthwhile individuals, such as Sam Adams, John Hancock, Joseph Warren, Nathanael Greene, etc.”⁵ The most important piece of information from this quote is that most

¹ “The Founding Fathers and Warren G. Harding,” Faith and History, accessed March 07, 2019, <https://faithandamericanhistory.wordpress.com/2015/06/22/the-founding-fathers-and-warren-g-harding-2/>.

² “Inaugural Address of Warren G. Harding,” Yale Law School, accessed March 07, 2019, http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/harding.asp.

³ Jill Lepore, prologue to *The Whites of Their Eyes: The Tea Partys Revolution and the Battle over American History* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 2011).

⁴ Claire Puccia Parham, *From Great Wilderness to Seaway Towns: A Comparative History of Cornwall, Ontario, and Massena, New York, 1784-2001* (State University of New York Press, 2004), 7.

⁵ “How Do You Define ‘Founding Fathers’,” Journal of the American Revolution, All Things Liberty, accessed January 07, 2019, <https://allthingsliberty.com/2015/12/how-do-you-define-founding-fathers/>.

historians came to an agreement that these six historical figures should always be considered when talking about the Founding Fathers.

Benjamin L. Carp, Professor of American History at Brooklyn College and author of *Rebels Rising: Cities and the American Revolution*, *Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America*, in the same article for *All things liberty* explains that the term was historically used to describe first settlers of North America, the framers of the Declaration of Independence and the founding generation that led the United States from the Declaration of Independence onward. Then he analyses the term in more detail and states that over time the term has become an elitist one and that it rather acknowledges elite leaders over the thousands who contributed to the political mobilization of the rebellion, the war effort, and the establishment of the nation. Another thing that he mentioned when explaining the term Founding Fathers is that the term is rather sexist. He claims that it fails to recognize the contributions of women.⁶

The most significant piece of information from B. Carp's definition of the term Founding Father is that the meaning has changed over the time. It started as a broad expression but over the time it has become an elitist term. His statement, that the term is sexist, can be agreed on in two different layers. First one is the semantic layer, the word father excludes all women, therefore when talking about Founding Fathers we in a way always exclude women. The other layer rests in who we usually consider as the founders of the United States. Even if we were to change the term to Founding People, for example, it would still probably not change the way in which we think about who deserves this title.

B. Carp in the same article for *All things liberty* explains that even though women were not able to fight or hold office at the time of the American Revolutionary War they still played a crucial role in the process of making the thirteen colonies an independent state.⁷ One of the best examples of important women throughout the process of building a new nation is Abigail Adams who was the wife and closest advisor of John Adams (one of the six men that are always considered to be among the Founding Fathers), as well as the mother of John Quincy Adams, who was the sixth president of the United States. According to today's terms, she would be considered the first second lady and the second first lady of the United States, someone who was this close to both of the first two presidents definitely had a huge impact on the history of

⁶ All Things Liberty, "Founding Fathers."

⁷ All Things Liberty, "Founding Fathers."

the nation. This fact can be backed up by her extensive correspondence with John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Martha Washington, among many others.

For the purpose of this thesis, the definition mentioned by T. Fleming will be used. Mostly because the term is narrow and precisely sets the boundaries of who is a Founding Father and who is not. It also follows the consensus agreed on by most historians.

1.2 THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM

As mentioned in the previous chapter Founding Father is an elitist term and all of these elite people played a huge role in the early development of the newly formed United States. To play a big role in the development of the new nation in 18th-century one had to be a part of a political party.

After the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and winning the War of Independence, after the battle of Yorktown on September 3rd, 1783, it was time for the leaders of the thirteen states to create laws for the newly formed nation. Arguably the most important document of the United States history is the Constitution and it was while ratifying this document when the Great Debate emerged. According to Constitution Facts, there were two sides to the Great Debate: the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.⁸ Having different views on the fundamentals of how the United States should function set in motion the process of creating the two-party political system that still in use in the United States to this day.

The two parties that formed in the early years of the now nation were the Federalist Party and the Democratic-Republican Party. The Federalist Party represented the opinions of Federalists which were the support of strong national government and urban living. On the other hand, the Democratic-Republican Party wanted more power for each of the states and supported a rural type of life.⁹

All of the six Founding Fathers mentioned in the previous chapter played a big role in drafting the constitution and most of them were the Continental Congress Delegates who ended up signing the United States Constitution.

⁸ “The Great Debate,” Constitution Facts, U.S. Constitution Website, accessed February 12, 2019, <https://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-articles-of-confederation/the-great-debate/>.

⁹ “Federalist Party,” United States History, accessed February 15, 2019, <https://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h445.html>.

Mentioning this is relevant because not all of the Founding Fathers had the same opinions, therefore, they were members of different parties. Joining a party meant that in most cases you agree with the opinions the party represents. At different periods of time, being labeled Federalist or Anti-Federalist, had negative connotations. Even though it is not black and white anymore some people still show prejudice towards members of those parties.

1.3 ELECTION OF 1800

The fourth United States presidential election, which took place in the year 1800 and is most of the time refer to as the revolution of 1800.

Jeffrey L. Pasley of the University of Missouri-Columbia in his thesis on the political culture of Early Republic described the Revolution of 1800 as another event, alongside the declaration of independence and drafting the United States Constitution, in the early history of the United States that helped to shape the nation.¹⁰

A choice between the Democratic-Republican and the Federalist Party representative had to be made and such a choice would play a key role in the future development of a state in its early form.

John E. Ferling in his book *Adams versus Jefferson* outlines the main goals of each of these parties involved in the revolution of 1800. He claims that the Federalist Party was in favor of a strong central government and close relations with Great Britain while the Democratic-Republican Party favored decentralization and creation of state governments, at the same time they attacked the taxes proposed by the Federalists.¹¹

It only makes sense that less than three decades after the declaration of independence people would not want to go back to the same values that they had to live under when the colonies were still a subject of the King George III of the United Kingdom.

At the same time Ferling, in his previously mentioned book *Adams versus Jefferson*, mentions that the Democratic-Republicans criticized Alien and Sedition Acts. He further explains that these acts were passed by the Federalist government of John Adams to make it harder for immigrants to become citizens.¹² The Democratic-Republicans did a good job of

¹⁰ Jeffrey L. Pasley, "A Revolution of 1800 After All: The Political Culture of the Earlier Early Republic and the Origins of American Democracy," Pasley Brothers, published December 02, 2000, accessed March 14, 2019, <http://www.pasleybrothers.com/jeff/writings/Pasley1800.htm>.

¹¹ John Ferling, *Adams vs. Jefferson: The Tumultuous Election of 1800* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), 109.

¹² Ferling, *Adams vs. Jefferson*, 111.

distancing themselves from the Federalists but most people attribute the victory on the Democratic-Republican Party to another factor.

Ferling and other historians agree that the main problem the Federalists had to face in the election of 1800 were not their political goals but the fact that they were disorganized and suffered from the split of their votes between two major leaders John Adams and Alexander Hamilton. Lastly, Ferling mentions that the jockeying for electoral votes and smear campaigns created by both parties made the election resemble the elections that we are familiar with in our contemporary society.¹³

This resulted into a very close victory for the Republican-Democratic party. It should be noted that before the ratification of the 12th Amendment in 1804, each member of the Electoral College had to cast two votes, there was no distinction between the votes for president and vice president.¹⁴ That is the reason why Jefferson was elected the vice president after losing the election of 1796 to John Adams.

Both parties decided to go through with a different strategy for the 1800 election. Constitutional Rights Foundation in its publication *Bill of Rights in Action* released an article called *The Troubled Elections of 1796 and 1800* in which they explain the fundamental differences between each of those elections. They describe that in the 1800 election both parties formally nominated tickets with two representatives. Those representatives were Jefferson and Burr for Democratic-Republican Party and Adams and Pinckney for the Federalist Party. Each party then decided that one of their electors would abstain one of their votes so that their preferred presidential candidate would win.¹⁵

The Democratic-Republican Party won the vote but failed to execute the plan of abstaining a vote which resulted into both Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr ending up with 73 electoral votes. This tie forced the House of Representatives into a contingent election.

The Center for Legislative Archives explains that each state delegation would cast one vote but since the Federalists controlled most of the House of Representatives the first 35 ballots ended up with a tie. After the 35th vote Alexander Hamilton, who had a personal grudge against

¹³ Ferling, *Adams vs. Jefferson*, 18.

¹⁴ "The Constitution: Amendments 11-27," National Archives and Records Administration, accessed March 14, 2019, <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/amendments-11-27>.

¹⁵ "THE TROUBLED ELECTIONS OF 1796 AND 1800," Constitutional Rights Foundation, Fall 2016, accessed February 13, 2019, <http://www.crf-usa.org/images/pdf/TheTroubledElectionsof1796and1800.pdf>.

Aaron Burr, convinced some members of the Federalist Party that Jefferson was a safer choice.¹⁶

This resulted into the election of Thomas Jefferson in the 36th ballot. At the same time, the election showed a flaw in the system that the Founding Fathers were not able to predict while drafting the first legal documents for the United States. Which prompted the ratification of the 12th amendment which prevented similar scenarios from occurring in the future.

1.4 CHOOSING THE SUBJECTS

For this thesis, two Founding Fathers were chosen for further analysis. The names of others may appear throughout the paper, but will only be mentioned if they are relevant in relation to the Founding Fathers chosen for analysis.

The first Founding Father that was chosen for the analysis is Alexander Hamilton. He was one of the founders of the Federalist Party, which was already mentioned in the chapters above. Ron Chernow, one of the most recognized historians of revolutionary period and the author of Alexander Hamilton's biography, mentions in the preface to the book that Hamilton earned the title Founding Father not only by funding the Federalist Party but also by founding the nation's financial system, the United States Coast Guard, and the New York Post newspaper.¹⁷

Hamilton devoted most of his life to the development of newly formed United States. He, alongside James Madison and John Jay, published 88 essays that were supposed to convince the states to ratify the new U.S. Constitution. This series of articles and essays named The Federalists, nowadays known as The Federalist Papers, prove his devotion since he was the author of the majority of these essays.¹⁸

His achievements were not the only reason why he was chosen for the analysis. The other reason why he was chosen is his recent rise in popularity thanks to the award-winning musical which was inspired by the previously mentioned biography by Ron Chernow.

The second Founding Father that will be analyzed in this thesis will be Thomas Jefferson. Throughout his life, he spent countless hours by writing letters to John Adams another man who proudly holds the unofficial title Founding Father. These letters are an

¹⁶ "Tally of Electoral Votes for the 1800 Presidential Election," National Archives and Records Administration, accessed March 14, 2019, <https://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/1800-election/1800-election.html>.

¹⁷ Ron Chernow, preface to *Alexander Hamilton* (New York: Penguin Books, 2005).

¹⁸ "The Federalist Papers," Avalon Project – Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy, accessed February 16, 2019, http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/fed.asp.

important piece of American history and to this day are subject of many academic papers and discussions not only that but in many schools, they are considered compulsory reading.

Lester J. Cappon who is the editor of Adams-Jefferson Letters which were first published in 1959 in two volumes, describes the book as a dialog of the highest plane achieved that spanned over a half a century. He states that it involved government, philosophy, religion, and family griefs and joys.¹⁹ Adams-Jefferson letters are a unique document in this regard. They provide a look into the life of presidents who started as very good friends and then became estranged, which resulted in the omission of their correspondence between the years 1801 and 1812.

Ben Fellows in his article for HistoryHit explains that it was their mutual friend Dr. Benjamin Rush who in 1812 convinced them to begin writing again.²⁰ After their reunion in 1812, they continued writing letters to each other until their death on 4 July 1826, which was coincidentally exactly fifty years after the Declaration of Independence. Adams, who was at the time 90 and seven years younger Jefferson died just hours apart. The website Finding Dulcinea posted an article on July 4, 2014, about events that happened on this date. One of the events presented were the deaths of Adams and Jefferson. The article quoted a journal entry by John Quincy Adams, who returned home 13 days after his father's death, it said: "About one afternoon he said 'Thomas Jefferson survives,' but the last word was indistinctly and imperfectly uttered. He spoke no more."²¹ These were the last words his father John Adams said without knowing that Thomas Jefferson passed just hours before him.

¹⁹ John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, *The Adams-Jefferson Letters: The Complete Correspondence Between Thomas Jefferson and Abigail and John Adams*, ed. Lester J. Cappon (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012), 23.

²⁰ Ben Fellows, "The Friendship and Rivalry of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams," HistoryHit, accessed February 12, 2019, <https://www.historyhit.com/the-friendship-and-rivalry-of-thomas-jefferson-and-john-adams/>.

²¹ John Quincy Adams, *Diaries*, ed. David Waldstreicher (New York: Library of America, 2017).

2 DEPICTION BASED ON PRIMARY SOURCES

There are several resources of tangible information about the Founding Fathers. Those mainly consists of their personal notes, correspondence, portraits as well as their personal possessions. Thanks to modern technology most of them are easily accessible to a wide range of people.

An analysis of those primary sources of information will be carried out in this chapter.

2.1 HAMILTON'S WRITINGS AND NOTES

Unlike other Founding Fathers, for example Thomas Jefferson, John Adams or George Washington, there is no complete collection of primary sources that include Alexander Hamilton. Therefore, when someone wants to analyse them they must look into several sources. One of the best places to search information in, when you are researching Alexander Hamilton, are the National Archives of United States especially section named Founders Online. These archives not only let you search for information by the names of the Founding Fathers and the period the primary sources come from, but they also by keywords which makes it researching convenient. At the same time, the national archives provide a transcription of the documents which can be really helpful since the original documents can sometimes be hard to read as shown on an example of Hamilton's notes in appendix 7.1.

There are very few sources about Alexander Hamilton's childhood. One of the first entrances in the national archives which involves him is a letter sent by him to Edward Stevens on November 11, 1769. The website *Discarding Hamilton* describes Edward Stevens as one of Hamilton's closest boyhood friends and schoolmate. Stevens was a son of Thomas Stevens into whose home Hamilton was taken after the death of his mother.²²

In this letter mentioned in the previous paragraph, Hamilton wrote "Ned my Ambition is prevalent that I contemn the grov'ling and condition of a Clerk or the like, to which my Fortune &c. condemns me and would willingly risk my life tho' not my Character to exalt my Station." He concluded the letter with "I wish there was a War."²³ According to Wendi Maloney, a graduate of University of Wisconsin and writer-editor of the U.S. copyright office,

²² "The Birthday of Edward Stevens, Alexander Hamilton's 'Dear' Friend," *Discovering Hamilton*, accessed on March 20, 2019, http://discoveringhamilton.com/edward-stevens-birthday/#_ftn2.

²³ "From Alexander Hamilton to Edward Stevens, 11 November 1769," National Archives and Records Administration, accessed January 16, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-01-02-0002>. [Original source: *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton*, vol. 1, 1768–1778, ed. Harold C. Syrett. New York: Columbia University Press, 1961, pp. 4–5.]

this shows how passionate was Alexander Hamilton about escaping his impoverishment and improving his social status and that he knew that war would probably be the biggest opportunity to do just that.²⁴

This letter not only shows how ambitious Hamilton was but at the same time it displays how eloquent he was if the fact that this letter was written when he was between the age of 12 and 14, since the exact date of his birth is not known, is taken into account.

It was already mentioned in chapter 1.4 that Hamilton was a hard-working individual. Lee Etta McAdams, a graduate of the University of North Texas, proved this in her master's thesis called *The Influence of Alexander Hamilton upon the Administration of John Adams*. She analysed texts which were published anonymously but are known to be written by Hamilton. McAdams focused mainly on texts *A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress* and *The Farmer Refuted from the Calumnies of Their Enemies* and came to a conclusion that the texts showed a grasp of the issues, knowledge of British and American government, and great argumentative power.²⁵

The papers *A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress from the Calumnies of Their Enemies* and *The Farmer Refuted* contained 14,000 and 35,000 words respectively.²⁶ Therefore, it is shocking that a seventeen-year-old Hamilton was able to write them. On the other hand, Hamilton proved time and time again that his communication skills were extraordinary which will be proven again in a later part of this chapter.

Another source of primary information that involves Alexander Hamilton are his personal notes. These notes are available as a scanned document in the online database of the Library of Congress, but to make it more convenient to the reader the creators of the Avalon Project, established by Yale Law School, transcribed Hamilton's personal notes into a digital document.

American historian Worthington Chauncey Ford, in his thesis named *Alexander Hamilton's Notes in the Federal Convention of 1787*, states that unfortunately several of these

²⁴ Wendi Maloney, "New Online: Alexander Hamilton Papers," Library of Congress, August 29, 2017, accessed February 16, 2019, <https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2017/08/new-online-alexander-hamilton-papers/>.

²⁵ Lee Etta McAdams, "The Influence of Alexander Hamilton upon the Administration of John Adams," (MA, University of North Texas, 1952), 9-12.

²⁶ "The Farmer Refuted, &c., [23 February] 1775," Founders Online, National Archives, version of January 18, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-01-02-0057>. [Original source: *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton*, vol. 1, 1768–1778, ed. Harold C. Syrett. New York: Columbia University Press, 1961, pp. 81–165.]

notes are very rough and do not contain a certain date, place or descriptive heading. But then he goes on to explain that thanks to the content of some of these notes they can be assigned to a certain day or event.²⁷

Ford in the rest of his paper for *The American Historical Review* looks in depth into the notes that he believed to be connected to the Constitutional Convention. He states that these notes add something to that was previously known about the Constitutional Convention on two different levels. In the thesis, he uses the term general and individual value. He states that the general value lies in the outlines of speeches that were not recorded by James Madison but more importantly he explains that the personal value is much greater.²⁸

When Ford explains the exact facts that make Hamilton's notes important, and he does that by comparing his notes to the notes written by James Madison. Ford points out that Madison's notes were colourless and neutral and that his influence in the Convention was small since he did not speak out loud that much. Ford discloses that this makes Madison a good recorder of the Convention but gives very little representation of his frame of mind. On the other hand, Hamilton had been different. During the Constitutional Convention, Hamilton proposed a reform of state which would make the United States lean more towards monarchy. This position, according to Ford, could not be acceptable neither by the Convention nor by the people of the United States. To the notes from the speeches from the Convention Hamilton added his own notes and remarks which, as stated in Ford's thesis, is something a very good reported, like Madison, would not do.²⁹

As mentioned in the previous paragraph Hamilton proposed a political reform. He wanted a federal government which to many people involved in the Constitutional Convention, resembled British monarchy. Ford in the previously mentioned paper makes a side by side comparison of Hamilton's and Madison's notes which just further proves his point that Hamilton's notes were more comprehensive and involved more of Hamilton's personal opinions.

For example when discussing the National Government both Hamilton's and Madison's notes mentioned Charles C. Pinckney's comment that State Legislatures should not partake in the National Government, but Hamilton adds that "A free government to be preferred to an absolute monarchy not because of the occasional violations of *liberty* and *property* but

²⁷ Worthington Chauncey Ford, *Alexander Hamilton's Notes in the Federal Convention of 1787*, (*The American Historical Review* 10, no. 1, 1904), 97.

²⁸ Ford, *Hamilton's Notes 1787*, 97.

²⁹ Ford, *Hamilton's Notes 1787*, 98.

because of the tendency of the Free Government to interest the passions of the community in its favour beget public spirit and public confidence.”³⁰

Notes like these provide more insight into what was going on inside Hamilton’s head throughout the Constitutional Convention at the same time they show that he was not a monarchist as some of his contemporaries suggested.

Another piece of primary information that is often talked about when discussing Alexander Hamilton is a letter written by him on January 16, 1801, addressed to James A. Bayard, who was also a member of the Federalist Party and a representative of Delaware in the contingent election of 1800. As mentioned in chapter 1.3 the election of 1800 ended up with a tie and it was up to the House of Representatives to choose a president in a contingent election. And since the House of Representatives was mostly controlled by the Federalist it was up to them to choose one of the representatives of Democratic-Republican Party.³¹

Most federalist, including Bayard, saw Burr as a less extreme version of Jefferson. In the letter itself Hamilton listed pros and cons for both Jefferson and Burr but in the conclusion of his letter Hamilton writes this “If the Antifederalists who prevailed in the election are left to take their own man, they remain responsible, and the Federalists remain free united and without stain, in a situation to resist with effect pernicious measures. If the Federalists substitute Burr, they adopt him and become answerable for him. Whatever may be the theory of the case, abroad and at home (for so from the beginning will be taught) Mr. Burr will become in fact the man of our party.”³² Which ultimately proposes the idea that the election of Aaron Burr would in a way make him a Federalist candidate since he was not the primary candidate chosen by the Democratic-Republican Party.

This letter was written by Hamilton shortly before the 36th ballot took place. This ballot was the one that broke the deadlock and resulted in Jefferson’s victory in the election.³³ Therefore, Hamilton could be considered the one who in the end decided the election of 1800 since it was, most likely, his letter that changed the opinion of James A. Bayard. This not only shows how important Hamilton and his decisions were for the course of the U.S. history but at

³⁰ Ford, *Hamilton's Notes 1787*, 100.

³¹ National Archives and Records, “Tally of Electoral Votes.”

³² “From Alexander Hamilton to James A. Bayard, 16 January 1801,” National Archives, version of January 18, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-25-02-0169>. [Original source: *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton*, vol. 25, July 1800–April 1802, ed. Harold C. Syrett. New York: Columbia University Press, 1977, pp. 319–324.]

³³ Ferling, *Adams vs. Jefferson*, 175-180.

the same time, it displays that he was a man who was willing to cooperate with someone with different opinions than him for his good and the good of the Federalist Party.

Alexander Hamilton was involved in one of the first sex scandals in American history. The affair started in the summer of 1791 and it involved Alexander Hamilton and Maria Reynolds. The affair ended when Hamilton was fed up by James Reynolds', who was the husband of Maria Reynolds, blackmail.³⁴ But even after the affair Hamilton and his wife did not split up.

This has to be noted because it is relevant to another source of primary information from Hamilton's life. It is a letter written on July 4, 1804. This letter was written prior to Hamilton's duel with Aaron Burr. The letter was supposed to be delivered to his wife after Hamilton's death and therefore it was his last goodbye. Hamilton wrote: "Fly to the bosom of your God and be comforted. With my last idea; I shall cherish the sweet hope of meeting you in a better world."³⁵ In a letter, Hamilton knew will be read postmortem, he tried to comfort his wife.

This leaves the reader with a feeling that Hamilton really loved his wife and that he had strong family values since his wife and children were the only topics mentioned in this letter. This letter is also a good indication of how eloquent Hamilton was. In the same letter, he used metaphors like "terminated my earthly career" for dying or "the interview" as a substitution for the word duel.

2.2 JEFFERSON'S CORRESPONDENCE

As mentioned in chapter 1.4 Jefferson wrote many letters to his friends and political allies. In this chapter further analysis of the Adams-Jefferson letters will be carried out.

Both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were members of the Founding generation of the United States at the same time they were, respectively, the second and third presidents of the United States. The two men were friends for over fifty years this claim can be supported by their correspondence which took place over entirety of that period, a correspondence that remains among the most famous in history and just as Lester J. Cappon describes in his preface

³⁴ Dianne L. Durante, "The Reynolds Affair," Dianne Durante Writer, accessed February 18, 2019, <http://diannedurantewriter.com/archives/3292>.

³⁵ "From Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Hamilton, 4 July 1804," National Archives, version of January 18, 2019, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-26-02-0001-0248>. [Original source: *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton*, vol. 26, 1 May 1802–23 October 1804, Additional Documents 1774–1799, Addenda and Errata, ed. Harold C. Syrett. New York: Columbia University Press, 1979, p. 293.]

to *The Adams-Jefferson Letters* this was the first time when the letters were compiled into one book which made them easily accessible.³⁶ In the same preface, Cappon states that no correspondence in American history more quotable or readily recognized for its historical significance than that of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.³⁷ It is really convenient to have the letters compiled into one book and not having to search in the National Archives.

Their letters covered many routine topics but also involved discussion about issues ranging from government, philosophy, and religion, to family grief and joy. The book also includes Jefferson's correspondence with Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, with whom he covered the same matters but in a far lesser extent.

A prototypical example of a letter between Thomas Jefferson and Abigail Smith Adams could be a letter written on 11 September 1804. In this letter, after apologizing for his late reply, Jefferson goes on to discuss the removal of the eldest son of Abigail Adams from the position of Commissioner of bankruptcy. Throughout the whole letter, he points out why the judges appointed to this matter might have decided this way. It is important to mention that in the second to last paragraph Jefferson goes on to say that "I tolerate with the utmost latitude the right of others to differ from me in opinion without imputing to them criminality."³⁸ Which shows his open-mindedness towards the options of other parties and people. At the same time, it shows his good relationship with the Adams family since he was willing to discuss matters similar to the one mentioned in this letter.

The correspondence took over 50 years, therefore, it contains a number of matters not relevant for the summary. Cappon does a good job of bringing out the letters that were most important for the given time period in helpful introductions at the beginning of each chapter. The notes by Cappon leave the reader with the impression that both of the Founding Fathers are worthy of their high reputation, despite the struggles both men had to deal with.

The correspondence between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson can be divided into several parts based on the main topics that are discussed throughout the letters in said period. Lester J. Cappon, the previously mentioned editor of the *Adams-Jefferson Letters*, organized the letters into thirteen chapters covering different thirteen time periods of Adams' and Jefferson's lives. Each chapter is titled after the main topic that is discussed in said period of time. For example, the first chapter is named "The great Work of Confederation, drags heavily

³⁶ Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Abigail Adams, preface to *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, ed. Lester J. Cappon (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988).

³⁷ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, xxv.

³⁸ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 278-280.

on” and it takes place between May 1777 and October 1781. In this chapter Adams and Jefferson mostly discuss political matters regarding the work of confederation and the process that was happening after the declaration of independence.³⁹ Both of them were advocating against the oppression of the British Empire which was something that connected them.

Last letter in the first chapter dates on October 5, 1781, and in said letter Jefferson introduces James Monroe to Adams and informs him that he is someone who resuming his studies in Europe after leaving to fight in the revolutionary war and now that he is returning to Europe he will be able to talk to him about particular details of American affairs. Jefferson then goes on to mention that he is mainly talking about captives of Ld. Cornwallis and his army.⁴⁰

The content of early letters revolved mostly around politics but throughout the time, especially after their retirement from politics, the focus of the letters shifted to other topics like philosophy and education. Throughout their entire life Adams and Jefferson were students of history and political science, and they played a key role in designing the government of the United States, which for both of them was the biggest achievement of their life. They were both heavily involved in the process of building the new nation.

In the following paragraphs, an analysis will be carried out which will provide insight into what each chapter is about. This should clarify what were the exact topics of Adams-Jefferson letters, how the topics changed throughout their lives and determine the personality and personal traits of Thomas Jefferson.

As previously mentioned chapter one contains the letters from May 1777 to October 1781. During this time period, Adams and Jefferson were both advocates of the revolution and discuss mostly the affairs of the young American nation.

In chapter two Cappon chose to include letters from June 1784 to September 1785. From his summary of the chapter, the reader learns that Adams and Jefferson were both diplomats in this period, Adams to England and Jefferson to France therefore their letters primarily concern diplomatic matters. This statement is true for most of chapter three as well, which takes place from September 1785 to February 1786 and covers the topic of the state business. The main concern of the time period between May 1786 and January 1787 for Adams and Jefferson were the Barbary Pirates, therefore, they are the main topic of most letters in chapter four.⁴¹ Ian W. Toll, in an article for the New York Times, described the Barbary pirates as corsairs who

³⁹ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 1-3.

⁴⁰ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 11.

⁴¹ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 12-15.

operated from North Africa. He explains that they were seizing merchant ships on the coasts of Europe.⁴²

A model example of the type of letter that was exchanged between Adams and Jefferson at the late 1780s could be a letter written on July 11, 1786, in which Jefferson talks about the current state of negotiations between the United States and other countries that were affected by the Barbary Pirates. Jefferson acknowledges that even before the start of the negotiations he thought that it would be the best to effect peace through the medium of war. Then throughout the letter, he makes points on why he thinks war is the best option. One of his strongest arguments is that it would be the cheapest option. He also notes that he believes that many, if not most, of the European countries (except France, England, Holland, and Spain) would sooner or later enter into a confederacy, for the sake of having their peace with the Barbary Pirates.⁴³

To prove his point about war being the most efficient and cheapest option he goes as far as to list the expanses of each item that would be needed. Jefferson wrote: “This fleet built, manned and victualled will cost 450,000£ sterling. Its annual expense is 300£ sterl. a gun, including everything.”⁴⁴

Since at the time Jefferson was a minister in France it only makes sense that most of his correspondence with Adams, who was American ambassador to Great Britain, dealt with their mutual interests in contemporary political matters.

In the introduction to chapter five, which ran from January to October 1787, Cappon mentions that Adams and Jefferson were mainly focusing on the events leading up to the ratification of the United States Constitution and reviewing a number of matters concerning the structure of good government. Chapter six, which dates from November 1787 to May 1789, focuses mainly on securing loans and credit from the Dutch for the New Nation.⁴⁵

Cappon chose chapter seven to cover the time period from April 1790 to March 1801. In this time period, both men served in President Washington's administration and later Jefferson served as Vice-President to Adams until 1801, therefore they exchanged very few letters compared to previous time periods and interacted mostly on a personal level. Chapter eight runs from May to October 1804, this was the last period before their estrangement over political matters so again their correspondence was not as vital as it used to be.⁴⁶

⁴² “The Shores of Tripoli,” *New York Times*, accessed March 3, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/12/books/review/Toll-t.html>.

⁴³ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 142-144.

⁴⁴ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 142.

⁴⁵ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 163-168.

⁴⁶ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 239-244.

Chapter eight is titled “Faithful are the wounds of a Friend” and it consists of a series of letters between Jefferson and Abigail Adams. After Jefferson and Adams lost contact over political matters it took over three years to resume any correspondence between the Jefferson’s and Adams’ family. It was Abigail Adams, the previously mentioned wife of John Adams, who was “the bigger man” and decided to stop bearing the grudges. It was the death of Jefferson’s younger daughter Mary Jefferson Eppes that promoted Abigail Adams to resume their correspondence.⁴⁷ Jefferson responded with: “[I] recalled your kindnesses to her which I shall ever remember with gratitude and friendship”.⁴⁸ Unfortunately, after a few months their communication came to a dead end again and this time it took nearly a decade to establish it again.

Chapter nine starts on January 1812 but just as every other chapter it is preceded by an introduction from the editor. In this introduction, Cappon gives the reader more insight into what preceded the renewal of correspondence between Adams and Jefferson. It was the fact that Edward Coles, who was Jefferson’s neighbor and secretary to President Madison was appointed to travel through the northern states armed with letters of introduction from President to various statesmen on these travels he met with John Adams. Coles and Adams spent several days with each other, talking about the history of the United States and his presidential administration. When Adams warmed to the subject he voiced his grievances against Jefferson, but at the same time, he exclaimed that he always loved Jefferson and still does.⁴⁹

When Jefferson hears about this he decides to consult Dr. Benjamin Rush he told him that the fact that Adams still cares about their friendship is all he needed to revive towards him, and he admits that is willing to put their differences in their political ideals.⁵⁰

As previously mentioned their correspondence resumed on January 1, 1812, with John Adams wishing happy New Years to Thomas Jefferson at also attaching a package with two Pieces of Homespun. In the rest of the letter, Adams expresses that all of his family, which Jefferson formerly knew, is healthy and mentions that his daughter has undergone surgery.⁵¹

This prompted Jefferson's reply on January 21, 1812, in which he wrote: “I thank you beforehand (for they are not yet arrived) for the specimens of homespun you have been so kind

⁴⁷ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 265-268.

⁴⁸ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 269-270.

⁴⁹ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 341-346.

⁵⁰ Sarah N. Randolph, *The Domestic Life of Thomas Jefferson* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1994) 380.

⁵¹ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 290.

as to forward me by post.”⁵² Later in the chapter Jefferson recollects on the time he spent in Europe and his political career. He informs Adams that he plans to take a final leave from politics. He justifies that by stating that he thinks a little of politics and says even less. At the same time he mentions the love for his family and how much he enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren. Jefferson ends the letter by expressing his respect for Adams and praises him for his political honors and achievements.⁵³

After putting their political differences behind them, they started writing to each other more than ever before. That is pretty apparent from the published version of Adams-Jefferson letters. Over the course of the first 30 years, they wrote as many letters as they did in the last 10 years of their lives and just from that it is pretty clear that both of them valued their friendship. The content of their correspondence changed significantly which will be shown on in a letter from one of the last chapters.

Chapter ten dates from June to December 1813 consists of letters about a variety of philosophical matters and chapter eleven (January 1814 to May 1816) goes along the same lines. Cappon in his summary of chapter eleven states that in this time period the two men also discuss the issues and events surrounding the war of 1812.⁵⁴

The correspondence in chapter twelve takes place August 1816 - December 1819, according to Cappon it mostly consists of a discussion about Jefferson's educational reform generally and his project of creating the University of Virginia.⁵⁵

In a letter from November 25, 1816, Jefferson open with a statement that he is preparing for his return to Monticello and also mentions that the previous letter from Adams was delivered on the same day as a letter from their mutual friend and political contemporary La Fayette who informed him that he became blind and that he will no longer be able to compose anything, so they should consider his works as closed. Then Jefferson goes on to mention La Fayette's 3 vols. of Ideology. In the next few paragraphs, he describes that his books already arrived at universities in New York and Boston.⁵⁶

From the content of letters in chapters ten, eleven and twelve it is clear that after Jefferson's retirement from politics his focus shifted to other topics like philosophy and creating a better educational system for future generations.

⁵² Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 290.

⁵³ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 323-325.

⁵⁴ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 414-420.

⁵⁵ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 475-483.

⁵⁶ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 495-499.

The 13th chapter is the last one and it dates from January 1820 to April 1826 and it contains the last pieces of the two men's correspondence and also their final reflections on their life. In the last letter written by Jefferson, which dates on March 26, 1826, he is very politely asking Adams to meet his grandson Thomas Jefferson Randolph.⁵⁷ There is no indication that Jefferson was expecting this to be the last letter he has ever written to Adams. To illustrate the language that T. Jefferson used in these letters a scanned copy of this letter has been added to the appendix of this paper.

From going through the letters that Jefferson wrote to one of his best friends it is pretty clear that he was hard-working. Throughout his career in politics, it felt like he was protective of his personal life, which makes sense for someone as high on social ladder as him. Even in his correspondence with one of his best friends John Adams he scarcely mentions his family in other situation than when politely mentioning that they are all doing fine. It feels like he was ambitious and creative. A good example of that would be the time he tried to make peace with Barbary Pirates and one of his first thought was to create a confederation with several European states. At the same time he was a deep thinker. This is apparent just by looking on how many letters between him and Adams contained philosophical topics. He also had strong family values, after all, he admitted that it was family that prompted the idea of retiring from politics.

2.3 JEFFERSON'S PORTRAITS

Another source of primary information that is connected to Thomas Jefferson are the portraits of him that were made throughout his entire life. In throughout eighteenth century portraits were a tool for honoring or memorializing important people and moments in time. Gaye S. Wilson in her thesis on the topic of Thomas Jefferson's Image and Ideology states that Jefferson used portraits to express his public self.⁵⁸ At the same time, she argues that "Jefferson's image within each portrait shows a change that is more than just temporal or attributable to the varying style of each artist."⁵⁹

In this part of the thesis an analysis, which goes over several of Jefferson's portraits, will be carried out. This should determine how Jefferson wanted to be perceived by the public eye in different points of his life.

One of the first portraits come from the time that Jefferson spent in France. In the previously mentioned thesis *Thomas Jefferson: Image and Ideology* the author G. Wilson

⁵⁷ Jefferson et al., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, 613.

⁵⁸ Gaye N. S. B. Wilson, "Thomas Jefferson: Image and Ideology" (MA, University of Edinburgh, 2012), 8.

⁵⁹ Wilson, "Jefferson: Image and Ideology", 9.

comes to a conclusion that in the portrait painted in France and which were meant for Maria Cosway who was socially prominent in European aristocratic circles get himself depicted as European while the portrait for his daughter he is depicted as an American with informally dressed hair (Fig. 2.1 and 2.2). Wilson states that these portraits show both the Jefferson who criticized Europe for its despotism and corruption while acknowledging his attraction to the vaunted scene of Europe.⁶⁰

This shows that Jefferson thought about these portraits a lot. Being portrayed as European on portraits that were given to European people and would be shown to more European people makes sense. On the other hand, being portrayed as American on a picture that belonged to his daughter and will most likely be displayed in America in the future also seem like a logical move since it would not make him look less patriotic.

In the 1790s, which was the time when Jefferson ran for the president of the United States for the first time, he was mainly portrayed by Charles Willson Peale and his son Rembrandt (Fig.2.3.). G. Wilson expresses that “coats and waistcoats in the blue and buff or sedate black suited the needs for an appropriate American image.”⁶¹ At the time Jefferson no longer allows painters to depict him in European style. Even though, as previously mentioned, Jefferson was attracted to the European scene I would make little to no sense for him to be depicted in such a way.

In conclusion, it is necessary to say that Jefferson knew about the importance of how he was depicted in the portraits. From the two examples of different stages of his life, it can be drawn out that he was able to set aside his preferences to look more appealing to however would be the receiver of the portrait. In modern terms, this would be called appealing to his target audience this term is a phenomenon of last few decades, but it can be easily proven that Jefferson was able to take advantage of this marketing strategy two centuries ago.

⁶⁰ Wilson, “Jefferson: Image and Ideology”, 50-52.

⁶¹ Wilson, “Jefferson: Image and Ideology”, 209-213.

3 DEPICTION IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

Founding Fathers were, and probably still are, the most important figures in the history of the United States if it was not for them there would probably be no United States to begin with. They are praised not only by historians but also by the citizens of the United States so much that some people even see them as superheroes.

On January 30, 2015, Alexandra Patri, journalist of the Washington Post, posted an article in which she displayed doodles from childhood of Scott Walker who was at the times the governor of Wisconsin. Walker commented on the illustrations by saying “I was a little geeky. I actually thought of our founders almost as superheroes.”⁶² Another example is the artist Stephen Dye who brought the Founding Fathers to life a crossover with the Marvel Comic universe (Fig3.1.).

On a more formal note, Founding Fathers were subjects of many works ever since the 19th century and that did not change even in recent history. The types of works in which they appear ranges from Biographies, Documentaries, Theses to more pop culture pieces like Movies, Musicals or even YouTube Videos. Some of these tend so stick more to the primary sources which are available while in others the author more often decides to take some creative liberties for the purpose of entertainment. In this chapter, analysis of some of these works will be carried out.

3.1 CHERNOW’S HAMILTON

Ron Chernow is an American writer, historian a biographer who specializes in finance and American Revolution. It only makes sense that Chernow decided to put together a biography of Alexander Hamilton, the founder of the nation's financial system and the very first treasury secretary of the U.S.

Chernow’s book, which is simply titled Alexander Hamilton, is classified as a non-fiction biography. Therefore, it follows the entire life of Hamilton from his childhood on Nevis, an island in the Caribbean, until Hamilton’s death in a duel with Aaron Burr.

In an author’s note Chernow states that in order to make the text fluent and the Founding Fathers less remote he took the liberty of modernizing the spelling since it seemed antiquated

⁶² Alexandra Petri, “The Founding Fathers as Superheroes, Inspired by Scott Walker,” The Washington Post, accessed February 20, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/compost/wp/2015/01/30/the-founding-fathers-as-superheroes-inspired-by-scott-walker/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6f1702aef481.

to him.⁶³ Apart from that, he does not state that he took any other creative liberties to alter the life of Alexander Hamilton, which is to be expected from a biography.

Chernow not only provides the reader with information from Hamilton's life, but he adds analysis of the events so the reader can fully understand the situation. At the same time, Chernow tries to make the text as coherent as possible. This results in the text being more than just a list of events from Hamilton's life, Chernow creates a narration.

An excellent example of this technique is provided right at the beginning of the book. Chernow, tells the reader a story of the oldest revolutionary war widow, he explains what happened to Hamilton's wife Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton after her husband died. He describes Elizabeth Hamilton as "purblind and deaf but gallant to the end."⁶⁴ The story sets a very melancholic mood which merges well into the first chapter of Hamilton's life – his poor childhood.⁶⁵

Now let's look into how Chernow depicts Hamilton. In chapter 2.1 an analysis of Hamilton's letter from 1769 showed that he was skilled in writing even at a young age and also that he was not satisfied with his social status. The same letter is mentioned in the biography by Chernow. Chernow starts the part containing the letter by commenting on Hamilton's penmanship which he calls elegant.⁶⁶ Then quotes the entirety of the letter and follows it his own remarks. Chernow calls Hamilton a "boy hankering for heroism and martial glory"⁶⁷ and mentions Hamilton's fear of his ambitions corrupting him as well as his insistence on trying to stay true to his ethics while conquering the world.⁶⁸ Then Chernow ends the paragraph by saying that Hamilton appears to be surprisingly mature for a 14-year-old.⁶⁹

Chernow's work with the primary sources mentioned in the previous paragraph is pretty straight forward. His analysis describes and simplifies the content of the letter and does not add any unnecessary information.

Another instance of primary source information from Hamilton's life mentioned in chapter 2.1 were the essays named A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress from the Calumnies of Their Enemies and The Farmer Refuted. Since Chernow covers the entire life of Alexander Hamilton he did not leave out these essays. To make the overall situation easier to

⁶³ Ron Chernow, Author's note to *Alexander Hamilton* (New York: Penguin Books, 2005).

⁶⁴ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 1.

⁶⁵ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 1-3.

⁶⁶ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 30.

⁶⁷ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 31.

⁶⁸ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 31.

⁶⁹ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 31.

understand he uses more sources than just the essays. One of which is abstract from the New York Gazetteer which ran an advertisement for the pamphlet.

After summarizing the contents of “A Full Vindication” Chernow then goes on to say that Hamilton’s opinions from the essays resembled later Jefferson more they did the later Hamilton. He backed his statement up by saying that “Hamilton evoked an England burdened by debt and taxes and corrupted by luxuries.”⁷⁰ This is something Hamilton would not side with in later stages of his life.

Chernow then goes on to explain that the text did a great job of showing Hamilton’s writing style which he described as lawyerly. At the same time, he says that the most impressive part was Hamilton’s insight into the psychology of power.⁷¹ Chernow also mentions that in the text Hamilton showed “little patience with halfway measures that prolonged problems instead of solving them crisply.”⁷²

The fact that Hamilton was skilled in writing was already shown in the letter from his childhood, therefore, the text in short named “A Full Vindication” just confirms that. What it more, according to Chernow, the text also shows Hamilton’s insight into the psychology of power which is also a reoccurring theme from his childhood letter. It is clear that Hamilton was aware of how corrupting power can be. Lastly, Chernow comments on Hamilton’s little patience with halfway measures. That could be an omen of his future political carrier in which he, as a founding member of the Federalist Party, would always prefer one central power that makes final decisions.

Chernow also provides commentary on the second essay published by Hamilton named The Farmer Refuted. Chernow compared Hamilton’s writing in this essay to “slashing style attack” which, according to Chernow, would make him the most feared polemicist in America but at the same time it would make him many enemies as well as admirers. Chernow then compares Hamilton to Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson by saying that “he [Hamilton] never learned to subdue his opponents with a light touch or a sly, artful, understated turn of phrase.”⁷³

Another piece of primary information from Hamilton’s life that was discussed in chapter 2.1 were his notes from the Constitutional Convention. Chernow in his book describes the whole event in detail so the reader is familiar with the cultural context of the entire time period

⁷⁰ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 58.

⁷¹ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 59.

⁷² Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 59.

⁷³ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 60.

and the convention itself. He does that by using other sources of primary information like notes of other participants of the Convention. For example, he expresses that people who knew Hamilton were mystified by how generally passive behavior Hamilton knew in the first three weeks of the convention.⁷⁴ He justifies this statement by referencing notes from Robert Yates and James Madison.

Chernow then analyzes Hamilton's speech from June 18. He explains that the convention faced deadlock between large and small states which, according to Chernow, prompted Hamilton to propose a more radical plan. Chernow describes the speech as such "Before the day was through, he [Hamilton] had given a six-hour speech (no break for lunch) that was brilliant, courageous, and, in retrospect, completely daft."⁷⁵ The combination of adjectives brilliant, courageous, and daft which were used by Chernow perfectly describe the effect this speech had on the audience.

Hamilton was aware that proposing a new form of government will most likely be not met with great success. Chernow wrote that "Hamilton probably had the gravest doubts about the wisdom of the masses and wanted elected leaders who would guide them."⁷⁶ What some might describe as trying to go back to the old ways was for Hamilton a viable solution since he wanted experienced men to make the important decisions. This was the greatest paradox of Hamilton's life. Chernow explained that "Hamilton had an optimistic view of America's potential [which] coexisted with an essentially pessimistic view of Human nature."⁷⁷

In the next paragraph Chernow, writes "It was typical of Hamilton's egotism, expansive imagination, and supernormal intellect that he refused to settle for refinements on somebody else's plan. His mind had minted an entire program for a new government, not just scattered aspects of it."⁷⁸ this statement, alongside with Chernow's analysis of *A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress from the Calumnies of Their Enemies* shows that Hamilton, again shows that Hamilton was never in favour of half measures and always preferred to find a final solution.

Chernow briefly mentions Hamilton's notes from the Constitutional Convention when he is talking about the six-hour-long speech but never quotes or paraphrases them. On the other hand, he decided to use Madison's notes which show that the audience was convinced that Hamilton's proposal that the president of the U.S. and the Senate would serve for life on "good

⁷⁴ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 231.

⁷⁵ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 231.

⁷⁶ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 232.

⁷⁷ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 232.

⁷⁸ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 232-233.

behavior” is an attempt to establish a monarchy.⁷⁹ Unfortunately, there are no more direct mentions of Hamilton’s notes.

In the same chapter Chernow also touches on some stories, which he called apocryphal, that surround the Constitutional Convention. One of those stories claims that when Hamilton was asked why the word god was omitted by the framers from the Constitution, he replied, “We forgot”. Chernow then adds that one is tempted to say that Hamilton never forgot anything important.⁸⁰ This piece of text shows that the general perception that Chernow has about Hamilton is that he is a smart guy and in a way tries to nudge the reader into thinking that it might have been his intention to not include the word God in the US Constitution.

Another piece of primary information mentioned in chapter 2.1 was Hamilton’s letter to James A. Bayard of Delaware. Chernow uses the contents of this letter in chapter 37 of his book named Deadlock. In this chapter, Chernow describes the events of the election of 1800.

The first instance when this letter gets mentioned is when Chernow provides the reader with insight into Hamilton’s opinion on Thomas Jefferson. He quotes a part of the letter in which Hamilton admitted that he said many unflattering things about Jefferson but, in the end, expresses his opinion that it is Jefferson who, out of the two given options, would be the ideal candidate for the office.⁸¹

After reviewing the primary sources Chernow comes to a conclusion, that it was Hamilton’s two-month-long bombardment with letters which were pointing out Burr mistakes that changed Bayard’s mind about the vote.⁸² Even in this chapter, Chernow continues to show how skilled and persuasive was Hamilton with his words.

As for the letter written by Hamilton on July 4, 1804, which was also mentioned in the chapter 2.1., to his wife Elisa in the morning hours of the day he died in the duel with Aaron Burr, Chernow provides the reader with a transcript of the letter itself but provides no further commentary on it.⁸³ This is the very last piece of text the reader reads before the final chapter that deals with the aftermath of Hamilton’s life. The fact that Chernow provides no further analysis is a very rare occasion and it speaks for how powerful the words written in the letter are.

Colin Craig Kidd, a professor at Queen’s University Belfast, wrote an article on Chernow’s book in which he summarizes the book and points out the main themes. For

⁷⁹ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 233.

⁸⁰ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 235.

⁸¹ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 634.

⁸² Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 637.

⁸³ Chernow, *Alexander Hamilton*, 709.

example, he talks about Hamilton's "slashing style" which was also described in chapter 2.1. The most important thing is that he titles the book as "erudite biography" which show his acknowledgment of Chernow's knowledge on the matter.⁸⁴ In the article, Kidd does not point out any historical inaccuracies which alongside with Chernow's declaration that he did not take any creative liberties to alter the events inside of the book leads to the fact that the book is as accurate as possible.

3.2 HAMILTON: AN AMERICAN MUSICAL

On January 20, 2015, a musical named Hamilton premiered. Music and lyrics to this musical were written by Lin Manuel Miranda and the story is inspired by the previously mentioned 2004 biography Alexander Hamilton written by historian Ron Chernow.

Rebecca Mean, a graduate of University of Oxford and writer for the New Yorker, wrote a comprehensive article about the show when it came out in 2015. She, among other things, talks about Miranda's decision to make the musical based on the genres of rap and R&B. Mean retells Miranda's story of how he saw similarities between Alexander Hamilton and a west coast rapper Tupac Shakur, who was shot dead in 1996. Those similarities were mainly their rhetorical talent and now knowing when enough is enough when calling out their contemporaries and in both cases that was their demise.⁸⁵ This story clearly shows that Miranda shares very similar opinions on Hamilton as Chernow.

Lin Manuel Miranda himself explained in an interview for SuperSoul Conversations how dense Hamilton had to be in the opening songs for the show since he was so rhetorically skilled and at the same time he compares Hamilton to contemporary rap artists like Jay-Z who are known for their lyrical abilities.⁸⁶

The connection of Founding Fathers to rap music is not the only creative liberty Miranda took while creating the musical. Another aspect that might seem shocking at first is the casting of non-white actors as the Founding Fathers and other historical figures.

This was met some criticism, for example, the Denver Post printed a part of a letter by Walt Bonora, professional writer and a graduate of the University of California, which stated "All I can say is musical standards in this country have gone into the toilet. I found 'Hamilton'

⁸⁴Colin Craig Kidd, "Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow review – the man behind the musical," The Guardian, accessed March 15, 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/oct/13/alexander-hamilton-by-ron-chernow-review>.

⁸⁵ Rebecca Mead, "All About the Hamiltons," The New Yorker, accessed March 18, 2019, <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/02/09/hamiltons>.

⁸⁶ OWN, "Lin-Manuel Miranda says Hamilton Is the Most Hip-Hop Guy Ever," posted March 5, 2018, YouTube video, 1:30, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB34zy8EQkQ>.

to be one of the most offensive shows I have seen. A black George Washington, a black James Madison, a black Aaron Burr, and rapping and strutting Thomas Jefferson?”⁸⁷ From the historical standpoint, we know for a fact that all the Founding Fathers were of white ethnicity.

Miranda justifies his casting by saying that he always wanted the show to feel relevant. Thomas Kail, director of UK version of *Hamilton*, stated in an article for *The Guardian* that “We never imagined casting the show in any other way – never for one second. We are very conscious of what we are doing here. This is not color-blind casting. It felt essential.”⁸⁸ The casting of the musical fits its style of music. Miranda went all out on the relevancy of the musical and in a way the cast very well represents the contemporary ethnic structure of the US.

3.2.1 MIRANDA’S HAMILTON

Now that the choice of style of the music and cast of the musical are addressed it is time to move on to how Miranda decided to depict the characters in his musical. The show opens with a song named *Alexander Hamilton* which gives the listener initial information about the main protagonist. The information is told by other Founding Fathers and in the first part of the song they present Hamilton’s harsh childhood. He is labeled as “a bastard, orphan, son of a whore and a Scotsman.” When the song moves to a second part Hamilton’s personal traits get introduced for example the line “he wrote his first refrain, a testament to his pain”⁸⁹ which refer to his first letter in chapter 2.1.

After the Founding Fathers are done introducing Hamilton he enters the stage with a line “My name is Alexander Hamilton, and there's a million things I haven't done, but just you wait, just you wait.”⁹⁰ This song provides the listener with the information that Alexander Hamilton was from an orphan from a poor family but at the same time, he was smart and hard-working.

In chapter 2.1 an analysis of Hamilton’s notes from the Constitutional Convention was carried out and it showed Hamilton was in favor of a strong national government. This topic, among others, is represented in a song named *Non-Stop*. In the song, Aaron Burr has a line “Goes and proposes his own form of government! His own plan for a new form of government!

⁸⁷ “Understanding Lin-Manuel Miranda's ‘Hamilton’ and It’s Casting (3 Letters),” *The Denver Post*, accessed March 13, 2019, <https://www.denverpost.com/2018/03/08/understanding-lin-manuel-mirandas-hamilton-and-its-casting-3-letters/>.

⁸⁸ Hannah Ellis-Petersen, “This Is Not Colour-blind Casting: *Hamilton* Makes Its Politically Charged West End Debut,” *The Guardian*, accessed March 13, 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2017/dec/20/colourblind-casting-hamilton-west-end-debut>.

⁸⁹ Lin Manuel Miranda, “Alexander Hamilton,” track 1 on *Hamilton (original Broadway Cast Recording)*, Invictus Sound, 2015, digital media, 0:45.

⁹⁰ Miranda, “Alexander Hamilton”, 1:16.

Talks for six hours! The convention is listless!”⁹¹ These lyrics show that Miranda worked with the biography written by Chernow when he was composing the song since it makes use of the same primary sources. Miranda, as well as Chernow, uses the information about the convention from notes of other participants rather than Hamilton’s.

At the same time, the lyrics from the song Non-Stop once again display how dedicated Hamilton was. The precise lyrics used in the song are “Why do you write like you’re running out of time? Write day and night like you’re running out of time? Ev’ry day you fight, like you’re running out of time.”⁹² The comparison of Hamilton writing like he is running out of time shows Miranda’s intentions to, as previously mentioned, make the song relatable and relevant.

The letter to James A. Bayard discussed in chapter 2.1 is not explicitly mentioned in any of the lyrics in the musical but is in a way paraphrased in a song The Election of 1800. Hamilton himself doesn’t express the opinion that The Federalists see Burr as a less extreme version of Jefferson instead it is paraphrased in line “Thomas that’s the problem, see, they see Burr as a less extreme you”⁹³ uttered by Madison to Jefferson in the song.

In the same song Hamilton says to Burr “Is there anything you wouldn’t do [to win the election]?” to which Burr responds “No. I’m chasing what I want” and adding that he learned that from Hamilton.⁹⁴ After this exchange Hamilton decides to endorse Jefferson. In the chapter 2.1 and also in the analysis of Chernow’s biography of Hamilton’s it was expressed that Hamilton was well aware of corrupting power can be and in a way this exchange can feel like it displays Hamilton’s fears of that and therefore might be the reason why he decides to endorse Jefferson.

The last source of primary information in chapter 2.1 was Hamilton’s last letter to his beloved wife. The song Best of Wives and Best of Women which named after the last part of the letter is a series of from the night before Hamilton’s duel with Burr in which he died. The song ends with Hamilton saying “Hey, Best of wives and best of women.”⁹⁵ to what he gets no reply just like he did not get a reply to the letter in which he wrote those words into.

Miranda also chose these words to be the last ones said by Hamilton in the musical. This supports the idea that Miranda, just like Chernow who wrote these words as an epigraph to Hamilton’s biography, believed that these words were genuine.

⁹¹ Miranda, “Nonstop”, 1:30.

⁹² Miranda, “Nonstop”, 0:52.

⁹³ Miranda, “Election of 1800”, 0:35.

⁹⁴ Miranda, “Election of 1800”, 2:12.

⁹⁵ Miranda, “Best of Wives and best of Women”, 0:38.

3.2.2 MIRANDA'S JEFFERSON

Thomas Jefferson was one of the Founding Fathers it would be strange if he would not appear in a musical about one of the Founding Fathers. Jefferson spent time as an ambassador in France throughout the Revolutionary War, therefore, he makes his first appearance in the middle of the musical in a song titled "What'd I Miss."

The main purpose of the song "What'd I Miss" is to introduce Thomas Jefferson to the audience. The lyrics "You haven't met him yet, you haven't had the chance, 'cause he's been kickin' ass as the ambassador to France."⁹⁶ sung by Aaron Burr explain why Jefferson was not present so far and at the same time show that he already is recognized politician. At the same Miranda shows how dedicated is Jefferson to his work in the lyrics "Haven't even put my bags down yet" and "I just got home and now I'm headed up to New York"⁹⁷

Aaron Burr is portrayed as a villain in the story that glorifies Hamilton's life, which is not surprising since he is the one who killed him in a duel. On the other hand, Jefferson who, just as Burr, is a member of the Democratic-Republican Party would rather fit the description of Anti-Villain. An article on TvTropes describes Anti-Villain as someone with heroic goals but at the same time is ultimately villainous.⁹⁸ Jefferson wants the US to prosper but his means are different from the hero of the musical, Hamilton, therefore the listener can, and most likely will, perceive him as a negative character.

The statement of Jefferson being portrayed as Anti-Villain demonstrated a song which follows after "What'd I Miss". The song is titled "Cabinet Battle #1" and it contains a rap battle style discussion between Jefferson and Hamilton. Hamilton is portrayed using is, as previously discussed, slashing style of arguing in which he personally attacks Jefferson by calling him a slave owner in line "A civics lesson from a slaver" and also humiliates him from now being the part of the Revolutionary War in line "We almost died in the trench, while you were off getting high with the French."⁹⁹

Jefferson, on the other hand, does not personally attack Hamilton in any way, he rather attacks Hamilton's plan for a new government by saying it is not complying with the Declaration of Independence in line "'Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' We fought for

⁹⁶ Miranda, "What'd I Miss", 0:30.

⁹⁷ Miranda, "What'd I Miss", 2:15

⁹⁸ "Anti-Villain," TvTropes, accessed March 24, 2019, <https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/AntiVillain>

⁹⁹ Miranda, "Cabinet Battle #1", 1:48.

these ideals; we shouldn't settle for less" he argues for the good of Virginian people by stating that they should not pay for the debts created by the northern states in the line "If New York is in debt then why should Virginia bear it? Uh! Our debts are paid, I'm afraid."¹⁰⁰ This song portrays Jefferson as someone who thinks more carefully about what he is saying in comparison to Hamilton which is probably the main reason why Hamilton ends up losing the battle by not getting enough votes.

The last song in which Jefferson appears is titled "The Election of 1800." This song was already mentioned in connection to Hamilton in sub chapter 3.2.1 and now it's time to analyze Jefferson's part. Near the end of the song, when the election is already decided, Jefferson has an exchange of words with James Madison about the fact that the runner-up of the election ends up being vice president. Both Jefferson and Madison find that strange which leads into Jefferson saying "Ooh! You know what? We can change that. You know why? 'cuz I'm the President."¹⁰¹

Jefferson's statement at the end of the song "Election of 1800" might evoke an undertone of him acting like a totalitarian leader who feels invincible. This thought of Jefferson being compared to a totalitarian leader was explored by American poet and critic Ezra Pound in a book Jefferson and/or Mussolini.

3.3 JEFFERSON AND/OR MUSSOLINI

In this subchapter an analysis of Ezra Pound's book Jefferson and/or Mussolini. Ezra Pound in the preface to the book states that "The fundamental likenesses between these two men are probably greater than their differences."¹⁰² Pound then goes on to quote Jefferson's famous statement "The best government is that which governs the least."¹⁰³ which, according to him, is something Mussolini could relate to. Then he goes on to explain that the fundamentals of their likeness lies not only in what Jefferson said but also in what he actually did and how his mind worked. At the same time Pound argues that Mussolini would not be able to achieve the exact same solutions as Jefferson did in the United States even if he tried.¹⁰⁴

In the second chapter, named "Jefferson", E. Pound goes on to describe Jefferson as an informant of the American Revolution he states that Jefferson shaped it from the inside and

¹⁰⁰ Miranda, "Cabinet Battle #1", 1:48.

¹⁰¹ Miranda, "Election of 1800", 3:43.

¹⁰² Ezra Pound, *Jefferson And/or Mussolini: Fascism as I Have Seen It*, (New York: Liveright, 1970), 11.

¹⁰³ Anna Berkes, "Thomas Jefferson's Monticello," Thomas Jefferson, a Brief Biography, accessed March 08, 2019, <https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/government-best-which-governs-least-spurious-quotation>.

¹⁰⁴ Pound, *Jefferson And/or Mussolini*, 12.

educated it. He also talks about Jefferson's attempt to orchestrate another revolution which was, according to Pound, not his business.¹⁰⁵ Pound also accuses Jefferson of "canalyzing American thought by means of his verbal manifestos, and in these manifestations, he appeared at times to exaggerate."¹⁰⁶ Just from the manner in which Pound expresses himself in chapter two, it is obvious that he did not sympathize with Jefferson. His word choice is informal, and he even goes as far as to call Jefferson out for betraying the citizens of the United States.

Throughout the book, E. Pound proposes different views on why Jefferson and Mussolini were alike. At the beginning of chapter five, he mentioned that if you want to be able to fully understand the juxtaposition between them you have to imagine them in transposition.¹⁰⁷

As previously mentioned, throughout the book E. Pound compares Jefferson and Mussolini but most of the times he leaves the conclusion on the reader. In chapter thirty-two, which is called Party, he talks about Jefferson's time in office and explains that Jefferson, even though the U.S. has two party system, ruled almost as if there was only one party.¹⁰⁸ Pound compares this to fascist states like Italy and Russia but does not directly call Jefferson a fascist.

Even in the conclusion Pound does not present a final verdict, therefore it is up to the reader to decide whether the correct name should be Jefferson and Mussolini or Jefferson or Mussolini.

Czech historian Jakub Guziur, who specializes in the works of Ezra Pound, in his paper *Fascism - ours and Pound's*, which was published in the magazine *Revolver Revue* and later made accessible on the website *Délský Potápěč*, explores the term Fascism and its usage and abuse. He explains that Pound had a different view on Mussolini. Guziur states that Pound did not promote fascism, as many contemporary neo-fascist groups think, but rather promoted his own idea of Mussolini, which is not the same idea most people share nowadays. Guziur then declares that Pound was "creator of myths" and that he always reformed reality into an ideal.¹⁰⁹

This is the same in the case of Pound's comparison of Thomas Jefferson and Benito Mussolini. Guziur, in the same paper mentioned in the previous paragraph, states that "in spite

¹⁰⁵ Pound, *Jefferson And/or Mussolini*, 14.

¹⁰⁶ Pound, *Jefferson And/or Mussolini*, 15.

¹⁰⁷ Pound, *Jefferson And/or Mussolini*, 23-24.

¹⁰⁸ Pound, *Jefferson And/or Mussolini*, 125-126.

¹⁰⁹ Jakub Guziur, "Fascism - ours and Pound's," *Délský Potápěč*, accessed March 15, 2019, <https://deliandiver.org/2011/10/fasismus---nas-a-pounduv.html>.

of all the differences [between Jefferson and Mussolini] Pound was able to find numerous analogies.”¹¹⁰

For most people, especially those who lived in a Fascist regime, the idea of Jefferson and Mussolini being the same might be outrageous but to fully understand Pound’s comparison you need to get away from how we see Mussolini nowadays and embrace what Pound saw in him. In a way Pound’s comparison of Jefferson and Mussolini could be considered a compliment but only if you see the analogy through the eyes of Ezra Pound.

Reed Way Dasenbrock, Doctor of Philosophy and literature educator, presented a different approach in his paper for academic journal established at Johns Hopkins University. In thesis named Jefferson and/or Adams: A Shifting Mirror for Mussolini in the Middle Cantos he came to a conclusion that Pound’s portrait of American Revolution changed from the original which at the same way the image of Mussolini changed, from the Renaissance man of action to the Confutation Emperor concerned with order and stability. Therefore, he proposes the idea that a more fitting analogy would be to compare to Mussolini to John Adams.¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ Guziur, “Fascism - ours and Pound's.”

¹¹¹ Reed Way Dasenbrock, “Jefferson And/or Adams: A Shifting Mirror for Mussolini in the Middle Cantos,” accessed February 18, 2019, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2873215>.

4 CONCLUSION

Analysis of Ron Chernow's biography about Alexander Hamilton in chapter 2.1 pointed out several times that Chernow uses primary sources to narrate through Hamilton's life. He not only makes use of the primary sources created by Hamilton but also primary sources created by Hamilton's contemporaries, as shown when discussing the Constitutional Convention in chapter 2.1. Therefore, it is safe to say that Chernow's depiction of Hamilton is historically accurate.

Moving on to Lin Manuel Miranda and his depiction of the Founding Fathers. For the most part, he works with Chernow's biography which makes his work in nearly all aspects historically accurate. The key word is mostly since Miranda, unlike Chernow, took some creative liberties. The biggest creative liberty he took as was the casting of nonwhite actors for the roles of Founding Fathers. The reasoning of why he did that is because he wanted to make the story less remote and more relatable. He also believed that casting nonwhite actors would be more fitting for the style of music used in the musical. His reasoning was discussed in more detail in chapter 3.2. This choice, is arguably the only flaw on otherwise historically accurate musical, but the choice of music and appropriate cast to that type of music made the historical musical more attractive to a wider audience which was, as Miranda himself stated, the point of creating musical like this. Not only his choice represents the genre of music accurately but at the same time, it is true to life in the contemporary United States.

As for the personal traits of the Founding Fathers, Miranda mostly stuck to the information given to us through primary sources. For Hamilton, he made sure to display his work ethic, so-called slashing style of arguing, love for his family and determination to change his social status. These traits make Hamilton a lovable character for the audience, especially in the United States, since they represent the idea of the American dream. Through his determination and work ethic, he was able to change his life.

Jefferson, as previously discussed, was displayed more as an anti-villain since the musical glorifies Hamilton's life and Jefferson was one of his political rivals. Jefferson's personal traits are not displayed as often as Hamilton's but Miranda still sticks to primary sources. Jefferson is displayed as a hard working individual who is skilled in rhetorics. Miranda also tried to display that Jefferson knew when to turn his enemies into his allies which is shown in the song "Election of 1800." All of these personal traits correspond with what was discovered from analysis of Adams-Jefferson Letters in chapter 2.2.

The author of the book *Jefferson and/or Mussolini* Ezra Pound does not take any creative liberties to alter the story and life of Thomas Jefferson, therefore, the depiction of Jefferson is accurate. The problem lies in the fact that Pound's view of Mussolini was idealistic, as shown in the papers of Jakub Guziur and Reed Way Dasenbrock, therefore his comparison of fascist leader to Jefferson was not accurate even though his depiction of Jefferson was.

Overall from the texts studied for this thesis a conclusion can be drawn that the depiction of Founding Fathers did not change on a large scale. Sometimes small creative liberties are taken but most of the time they alter the events rather than the personalities of the Founding Fathers. In a way the Founding Fathers could be compared to likes of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. The mutual respect of the nation for political figures that helped to create the nation mostly prevents any type of work that would discredit these personalities from succeeding.

5 RESUMÉ

Tato bakalářská práce se věnuje analýze a porovnání primárních zdrojů zahrnujících otce zakladatele s tím, jak jsou vyobrazeni v současné americké kultuře. Otcové zakladatelé patří mezi klíčové postavy americké historie a to především díky tomu, že se zasloužili o vytvoření prvních zákonů a vlády Spojených států amerických.

První kapitola této práce se zabývá uvedením do kulturního kontextu období americké revoluce. V podkapitole 1.1 jsou představeny různé definice pojmu Otec zakladatel. Po jejich popsání je vybrána definice T. Fleminga, podle které se řídí většina historiků, je úzká a přesně určuje, kdo je otec zakladatel a kdo není. V případě této definice jsou to konkrétně Washington, Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Madison. V podkapitole 1.2 je popsáno, jak vznikly první dvě politické strany Spojených států amerických a jaké byly jejich cíle. V předposlední podkapitole je popsána volba prezidenta roku 1800, ve které zvítězila Demokraticky-republikánská strana a která také odhalila chyby v dobovém volebním systému. V poslední podkapitole jsou vybráni dva Otcové zakladatelé, kteří jsou v dalších kapitolách podrobně analyzováni.

Druhá kapitola rozebírá primární zdroje náležící k Otcům zakladatelům vybraným v kapitole první, tedy Thomase Jeffersona a Alexandra Hamiltona. Podkapitola 2.1 obsahuje analýzu dopisů a poznámek A. Hamiltona, které vznikly v různých částech jeho života. Na dopisu z jeho mládí je ukázáno, jak již v raném věku Hamilton nebyl spokojený se svou sociální třídou. Na jeho poznámkách z Ústavního konventu je dokázáno, jak ambiciózní byl i přes jeho mladý věk. V dopisu, který napsal den před svou smrtí v duelu s Aaronem Burrem, jsou předvedeny jeho silné rodinné hodnoty a láska k jeho ženě. Jelikož je Hamilton autorem všech těchto primárních zdrojů, tak také ukazují to, jak schopným byl autorem.

Druhá podkapitola se zabývá analýzou dopisů mezi Thomasem Jeffersonem a Johnem Adamsem. Tato korespondence trvala déle než 50 let a proto z ní lze dobře udělat průřez Jeffersonovým životem. Výsledkem této analýzy byla charakterizace T. Jeffersona jako někoho, kdo si cení svého osobního soukromí, jelikož jen občasně zmiňuje svou rodinu a to, že je ambiciózní. To bylo ukázáno na dopisu v období, které strávil jako velvyslanec ve Francii a při kterém musel řešit problémy vzniklé počínáním barbarských pirátů kolem evropských břehů. Jedna z dalších Jeffersonových osobnostních vlastností byla to, že byl filosoficky založený. Množství dopisů na téma filosofie, které si Jefferson za posledních deset let svého

života napsal s Adamsem, bylo téměř stejné jako počet všech dopisů za předchozích čtyřicet let.

V poslední podkapitole jsou rozebrány portréty T. Jeffersona z různých částí jeho života. Tento rozbor prokázal, že T. Jefferson přemýšlel nad tím, jakým způsobem je v těchto portrétech vyobrazen. V období, které strávil jako velvyslanec ve Francii, se nechával na obrazech pro jeho francouzské přátele vyobrazovat jako Evropan, zatímco na obrazech, které patřily jeho rodině a o kterých Jefferson věděl, že s velkou pravděpodobností v budoucnu opustí Evropu, se nechával vyobrazovat jako Američan.

Třetí kapitola se zabývá tím, jak jsou Jefferson a Hamilton vyobrazeni v současných dílech. V úvodu do této kapitoly je uveden příběh ze života Scotta Walkera, bývalého guvernéra státu Wisconsin. Walker přirovnává otce zakladatele k superhrdinům. V podkapitole 3.1 je proveden rozbor biografického díla publikovaného v roce 2005, jehož autorem je Ron Chernow. Ten k vyličení života A. Hamiltona využívá primární zdroje vytvořené nejen samotným Hamiltonem, ale také jeho současníky. Chernow v autorské poznámce uvádí, že se kromě úpravy pravopisu nedopustil žádných jiných úprav. S tímto tvrzením souhlasí Colin Craig Kidd, profesor Belfastské university, který při svém studiu tohoto díla nenašel žádné historické nepřesnosti. Z tohoto důvodu je tedy bezpečné tvrdit, že Chernowovo vyobrazení odpovídá tomu ze života A. Hamiltona.

Podkapitola 3.2 je věnována muzikálu Hamilton, který měl premiéru v roce 2015 a jehož autorem je Lin Manuel Miranda. V úvodu podkapitoly je rozebrána volba stylu hudby použité v muzikálu. Miranda se v několika rozhovorech vyjádřil, že mu Alexander Hamilton připomíná současné rappery, konkrétně například Tupaca Shakura, který údajně Hamiltona Mirandovi připomínal i způsobem, kterým zemřel. Dále je rozebrána Mirandova volba obsazení nebělošských herců do rolí otců zakladatelů. Toto rozhodnutí, stejně tak jako volba hudebního žánru, se setkala s občasnou kritikou, ale Miranda tvrdí, že volba, kterou provedl, je vhodná jak pro daný hudební styl, tak i pro dobrou reprezentaci obrazu současné Ameriky. V další části této kapitoly je popsáno, jak konkrétně Miranda Otce zakladatele v jednotlivých písních muzikálu Hamilton vyobrazil. Jelikož se Miranda nechal inspirovat biografií napsanou Ronem Chernowem, která je, jak již bylo zmíněno, historicky přesná, tak analýza ukázala, že Mirandovo vyobrazení též odpovídá tomu dobovému. Hamilton je vyobrazen jako tvrdě pracující a spisovatelsky nadaný jedinec, který podporuje hodnoty Federalistické strany. Jefferson je spíše vyobrazen jako záporná postava, což je pochopitelné v muzikálu oslavujícím

život Alexandra Hamiltona. I přestože je Jefferson vyobrazen jako záporná postava, jeho osobnostní rysy odpovídají těm, které byly zjištěny analýzou jeho dopisů a portrétů.

Posledním současným dílem zkoumaným ve třetí kapitole je kniha Jefferson a/nebo Mussolini, jímž autorem je americký filosof a spisovatel Ezra Pound. Ten přirovnává Thomase Jeffersona k italskému fašistickému vůdci Mussolinimu. V průběhu tohoto díla Pound zmiňuje různé situace, při kterých se Jefferson a Mussolini zachovali podobně, nikdy ale nevydá finální verdikt, zda je tedy Jefferson stejný jako Mussolini. Český autor Jakub Guziur, který se specializuje na dílo E. Pounda, došel k závěru, že Pound vnímal fašismus jinak, než jak ho vnímáme my současně a také, že Pound byl idealistou. Pro správné pochopení Poundova díla se tedy musíme dívat na Mussoliniho skrze oči E. Pounda. I přestože Poundovo přirovnání Jeffersona k Mussolinimu může být chybné, tak pravdou zůstává, že jeho vyobrazení Jeffersona se shoduje s primárními zdroji.

Práce tedy dochází k závěru, že není téměř žádný rozdíl mezi tím, jak jsou Otcové zakladatelé vyobrazeni v současné americké kultuře, a tím, jak jsou vyobrazeni v primárních zdrojích. Největším rozdílem je již zmíněná volba Lina Manuela Mirandy obsadit do role Otců zakladatelů v muzikálu Hamilton nebělošské herce, která ale byla korektně odůvodněna a celkově se setkala s pozitivním ohlasem. V ostatních případech autoři spíše upravují události, které proběhly v průběžích životů Otců zakladatelů, než jejich osobnostní rysy. Toto je přisuzováno zejména respektu současných autorů a obyvatelů Spojených států amerických k osobnostem, které se zapřičinily o vznik tohoto státu.

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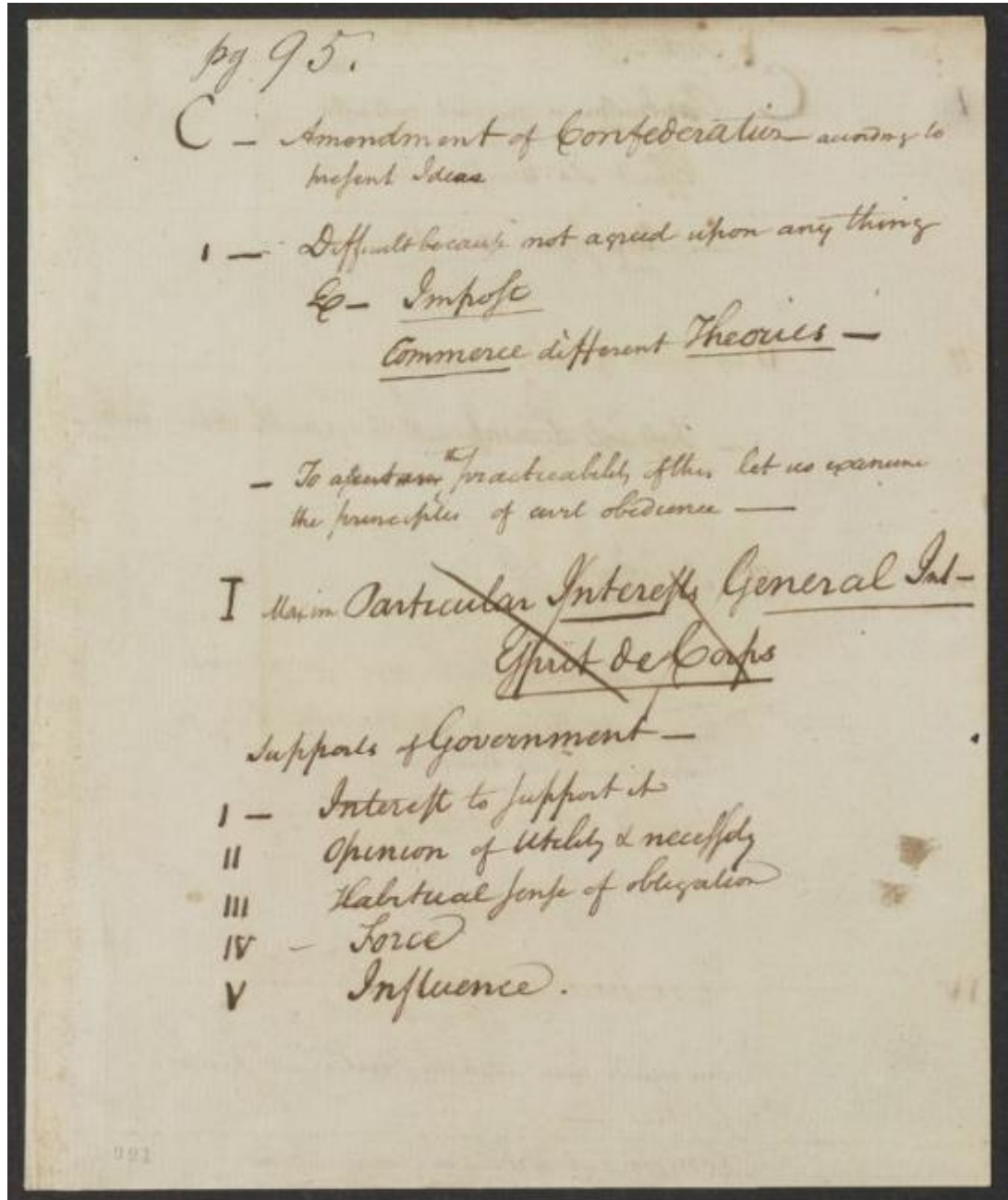
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7 APPENDICES

7.1 HAMILTON'S NOTES



A

I

C I Interest
Particular & general interests

Effort de Corps —

— vox populi vox Dei —

II

II — Opinion of Utility & necessity

1 — Tax will decrease with the growth of the States.

III

III Necessity

This does not apply to Federal Government —

This may dissolve & yet the order of the
community continue —

Anarchy not a necessary consequence

IV

Habitual sense of obligation

This results from administration of private
justice —

Demand of service or money draws —

7.2 JEFFERSON'S LETTERS

FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON TO JOHN ADAMS, 25 MARCH 1826

Dear Sir

Monticello Mar. 25. 26.

My grandson Th: Jefferson Randolph, being on a visit to Boston, would think he had seen nothing were he to leave it without having seen you. altho' I truly sympathise with you in the trouble these interruptions give, yet I must ask for him permission to pay to you his personal respects. like other young people, he wishes to be able, in the winter nights of old age, to recount to those around him what he has heard and learnt of the Heroic age preceding his birth, and which of the Argonauts particularly he was in time to have seen. it was the lot of our early years to witness nothing but the dull monotony of Colonial subservience, and of our riper ones to breast the labors and perils of working out of it. theirs are the Halcyon calms succeeding the storm which our Argosy had so stoutly weathered. gratify his ambition then by recieving his best bow, and my solicitude for your health by enabling him to bring me a favorable account of it. mine is but indifferent, but not so my friendship and respect for you.

TH: JEFFERSON

7.3 LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Chapter 2

- Fig. 2.1. Mather Brown, *Thomas Jefferson*, 1786-88. The White House. Painted for Maria Cosway.
- Fig. 2.2. John Trumbull, *Thomas Jefferson*, 1788, for Martha Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Charlottesville, VA.
- Fig. 2.3. Charles Willson Peale, *Thomas Jefferson*, 1791. Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia.

Chapter 3

- Fig. 3.1. Stephen Dye, *The Founders*, 2018. Digital.



- Fig. 2.1. John Trumbull, *Thomas Jefferson*, 1786-88. White House, Washington, DC.
- Fig. 2.2. John Trumbull, *Thomas Jefferson*, 1788, for Martha Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Charlottesville, VA.



Fig. 2.1. Charles Willson Peale, *Thomas Jefferson*, 1791. Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia.



Fig. 3.1. Stephen Dye, *The Founders*, 2018. Digital.