

What would a conservative library look like? Last year, *The Insider* printed a “top 5” list of the greatest classics of modern conservatism. This year, we asked conservative leaders to recommend their favorite books of 2002. As a special holiday gift-giving feature, we present some of the best conservative books of 2002, along with some of the comments we received about them. Also included in this section is Thomas Jefferson’s famous list of the books that he believed all educated people should read during their lifetime.

A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution

by Carol Berkin

“Lovers of the Constitution and the geniuses who framed it will come away from this book with a new, even higher level of appreciation for the founding document of American governance. One can hope we’ll someday

The Last Jihad

by Joel Rosenberg

“Rosenberg’s book is a fast-paced thriller with a focus on terrorism and Iraq.”

Life, Liberty and the Defense of Dignity, the Challenge for Bioethics

by Leon R. Kass

“There seems to be no better single volume on both the enormity of the bioethics challenge and a clear way to think about it.”

Reagan’s War

by Peter Schweizer

“If you want to be inspired or need your batteries energized in the fight for freedom, *Reagan’s War* is the right elixir. Talk about a man on a mission. From his days on the Left Coast to his two terms in office, Reagan demonstrated the fortitude and resolve to

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see an assemblage at the highest levels in Washington of men with just half the wisdom of those who gathered in Philadelphia in 1787.”

An Autumn of War

by Victor Davis Hanson

“Victor Davis Hanson is perhaps the clearest thinker about one of the largest challenges of the new millennium.”

Fifty Economic Fallacies Exposed

by Geoffrey E Wood

“Wood covers a lot of territory from the supposed dangers of free trade to the abilities of governments to run economies and from the effects of regulations to the ‘euro.’ He is a lucid and stimulating writer and this is an ideal gift for a younger student or the person in your life who thinks capital punishment for ticket touts should be mandatory.”

fight the good fight. This book is quite the tribute to a man who was passionately committed to freeing people and nations from political slavery.”

What’s So Great About America

by Dinesh D’Souza

“In a concise and engrossing way, D’Souza makes the moral case for America through a variety of perspectives—philosophical, cultural, historical, and personal (believing, as he does, that in America, ‘you get to write the script of your own life’). This book is essential reading in this post-9/11 world, and makes a great gift for policymakers, new citizens (or those about to be), and students and teachers alike.”

John Blundell (Institute of Economic Affairs), Matthew Brouillette (The Commonwealth Foundation), Tim Goeglein (White House Office of Public Liaison), Charlotte Ponticelli (U.S. Department of State), Lawrence Reed (Mackinac Center for Public Policy), and

Amity Shlaes (Financial Times) provided recommendations for this article.

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S READING LIST

In 1771, Thomas Jefferson's friend Robert Skipworth asked for Jefferson's advice on how to build a personal library. Jefferson replied with a general collection of books that he believed should be part of the lifetime reading plan of every individual. Jefferson's list follows below.

I. FINE ARTS

Payne. *Observations on Gardening.*
 Webb. *Essay on Painting.*
 Homer. *Illiad* (translated by Pope)
 Virgil. *Aeneid* (translated by Dryden).
 Milton. *Works.*
 Tasso, Torquato. *Works.* (translated by Hoole).
 Ossian's *Works*, with Blair's criticisms.
 Dodsley. *Telemachus.*
 Shakespeare's *Works.*
 Dryden. *Plays.*
 Addison. *Plays.*
 Otway. *Plays*
 Rowe. *Works.*
 Thompson. *Works.*
 Young. *Works.*
 Home. *Plays*
 Mallet. *Works*
 Mason. *Poetical Works.*
 Terence. (English)
 Moliere. (English)
 Farquhar. *Plays.*
 Vanbrugh. *Plays.*
 Steele. *Plays.*
 Congreve. *Works.*
 Garric. *Dramatic Works.*
 Foote. *Dramatic Works.*
 Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *Eloisa; Emilius and Sophia.*
 Marmontel. *Moral Tales.*
 Smollett, Tobias. *Gil Blas; Don Quixot; David Simple; Roderic Random; Peregrine Pickle; Launcelot Graves; Adventures of a Guinea.*
 Richardson. *Pamela; Clarissa; Grandison; Fool of Quality.*
 Fielding. *Works.*
 Langhorne. *Constantia; Solyman and Almena.*
 Belle assemblee.
 Goldsmith. *The Vicar of Wakefield.*

Sidney Bidulph.
 Lady Julia Mandeville.
 Almorán and Hamet.
 Sterne, Lawrence. *Tristram Shandy; A Sentimental Journey.*
Fragments of Ancient Poetry. (Edinburgh).
 Percy. *Runic Poems.*
 Percy. *Reliques of Antient English poetry.*
 Percy. *Han Kiou's Chouan.*
 Percy. *Miscellaneous Chinese pieces.*
 Chaucer. *Works.*
 Spenser. *Works.*
 Waller. *Poems.*
 Dodsley's collection of poems.
 Pearch's collection of poems.
 Gray. *Works.*
 Ogilvie. *Poems.*
 Prior. *Poems.* (Foulis edition).
 Gay. *Works.* (Foulis edition).
 Shenstone. *Works*
 Dryden. *Works* (Foulis edition).
 Pope. *Works* (Warburton edition).
 Churchill. *Poems.*
 Hudibrass.
 Swift. *Works; literary correspondence. Spectator. Tatler. Guardian. Freeholder.*
 Lord Lyttleton. *Persian Letter.*

II. CRITICISM ON THE FINE ARTS

Lord. Kaim. *Elements of Criticism.*
 Burke. *On the Sublime and Beautiful.*
 Hogarth. *The Analysis of Beauty.*
 Reid, on the human mind.
 Smith, Adam. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments.*
 Johnson. *The Dictionary.*
 Capell, *Prolusions.*

III. POLITICKS, TRADE

Montesquieu. *The Spirit of Laws.*
 Locke on government.
 Sidney on government.
 Marmontel. *Belisarius.*
 Lord Bolingbroke. *Political Works.*
 Montesquieu. *The Rise and Fall of the Roman Government.*
 Steuart. *Political Economy.*
 Petty. *Political Arithmetic.*

IV. RELIGION

Locke. *Conduct of the mind in search of truth.*
 Xenophon. *Memoirs of Socrates.* (translated by Feilding).
 Collins. *Antoninus.*
 Seneca. (trans by L'Estrange).
 Cicero. *Offices* (translated by Guthrie).
 Cicero, *Tusculan Disputations.*
 Lord Bolingbroke's Philosophical work.
 Hume. *Essays.*
 Lord Kaim's *Natural Religion.*
 Philosophical Survey of Nature.
 Oeconomy of human life.
 Sterne. *Sermons.*
 Sherlock on death and on a future state.

V. LAW

Lord Kaim. *Principles of Equity.*
 Blackstone. *Commentaries.*
 Cunningham *Law dictionary.*

VI. HISTORY, ANCIENT

Bible
 Rollin's Ancient history.
 Stanyan's Graccian history.
 Livy.
 Sallust (trans by Gordon).
 Tacitus (trans by Gordon).
 Caesar (trans by Bladen).
 Josephus.
 Vertot. *Revolutions of Rome.*
 Plutarch. *Lives* (trans by Langhorne)
 Bayles. *Dictionary.*
 Jeffery. *Historical and Chronological chart.*

VII. HISTORY, MODERN

Robertson. *History of Charles V.*
 Bossuet. *History of France.*
 Davila. (trans by Farnsworth).
 Hume. *History of England.*
 Clarendon. *History of the Rebellion.*
 Robertson. *History of Scotland.*
 Keith. *History of Virginia.*
 Stith. *History of Virginia.*

VIII. NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, NATURAL HISTORY, ETC.

Nature displayed.
 Franklin on Electricity.
 Macqeer. *Elements of Chemistry.*

Home. *Principles of Agriculture.*
 Tull. *Horse-boeing Husbandry.*
 Duhamel's husbandry.
 Millar's Gandener's diet.
 Buffon's natural history.
 Nourse. *A Compendium of Physic & Surgery.*
 Addison. *Travels.*
 Anson. *Voiage.*
 Thompson. *Travels.*
 Lady M.W. Montague's letter.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Lord Lyttleton. *Dialogues of the Dead.*
 Fenelon's *Dialogues of the Dead.*
 Voltaire. *Works*
 Locke. *On Education.*
 Owen. *Dictionary of Arts & Sciences.*