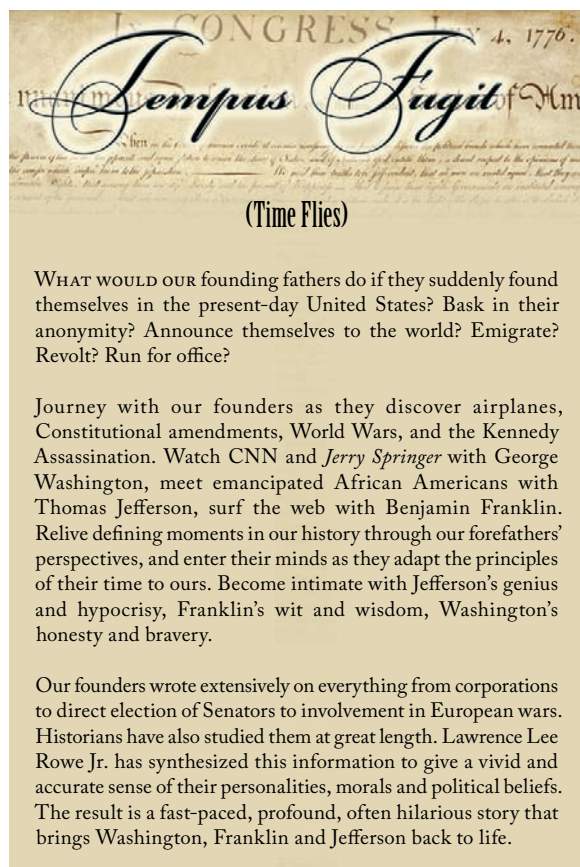


(Tempus Fugit Jacket Cover)



(Tempus Fugit Jacket Rear)

A Brilliant Convergence of History & Fiction

“We see what the Founders think of 21st century USA, and how their views often collide with modern ideas. As a history teacher, I appreciated the way Rowe conveyed how many people remember these icons. My students often remember the anecdotes, while forgetting the reasons we study the men behind the popular stories. Rowe manages to make his history lesson funny, engaging and very memorable.”

—J. Lovering, *History Teacher, Montana*

Do today’s leaders leave you with the gnawing sense we can do better?

Did you ever wonder what solutions more principled and intelligent statesmen might implement?

In the mood for a gripping story that blends history with action?

At a time in United States history when corruption is rampant and the public flounders in search of solutions, *Tempus Fugit* is highly relevant. Entertaining, educational and frequently troubling, it is a tribute to America’s greatness and an unflinching exposé of its dark underbelly.

Washington, Franklin and Jefferson face difficult dilemmas as they confront modern America. Is the isolationism they advocated plausible in a nuclear era? Can the limited government they envisioned still secure the blessings of liberty? Are principles they once considered timeless now obsolete?

Our forefathers’ responses are perspicacious, counterintuitive, and deceptively simple. Their actions contrast the patriotic beliefs of yesterday and today, forcing readers to question their most dearly held beliefs. After reading *Tempus Fugit*, you will view our founders and our republic in a different light.

(Tempus Fugit Jacket Flap)

The Ultimate Political What-If...

What Would Our Founding Fathers Think of America Today?

A question most Americans have asked themselves at one time or another is finally answered in *Tempus Fugit* (TEM-puhs FYOO-jit). Lawrence Rowe's novel has been featured on *Fox News Weekend Live*, more than 100 radio stations nationwide, and is earning consistent praise from critics and readers.

Tempus Fugit is an ingenious fusion of history, adventure and comedy which transmits our Founding Fathers to their posterity with unflinching accuracy. Crafted for a mainstream audience, it is entertaining yet educational.

Interview Washington, Jefferson & Franklin!

Lawrence Rowe completed years of extensive research on our Founding Fathers with the specific focus of translating their views to present-day America. He is an expert on the Founders with the unique ability to discuss what they would do in, and think of, America today.

Rowe brings the Founders to life and makes discussions of them engaging. Viewing America and its challenges through this lost perspective is truly fascinating.

Why Our Founders Are More Relevant Now Than Ever Before

Groundbreaking Concept

Other books about our Founding Fathers take place in the past, but *Tempus Fugit* brings them to the present, a fundamental and groundbreaking difference. When reincarnated by *Tempus Fugit*'s unique premise, our forefathers have renewed relevance to many Americans.

To believe our Founding Fathers' vision of this great nation is an irrelevant anachronism is to commit a grievous error. There are many surprising (and largely unknown) insights our Founders provided that have direct application to current events and the world today.

Whether built with legionnaires, redcoats, or marines, empires are empires. Whether it takes the form bread & circuses, or foodstamps & social security, bureaucracy is bureaucracy. In designing our government, the Founders tried to learn from the mistakes of all previous civilizations in human history, imbuing America with proven principles that would stand the test of time. These principles were beneficial to Hammurabi, Cato, Charlemagne, and our Founders—and they can help us.

Could Our Founders Solve America's Problems?

I spent years getting to know our Founders. Most men are diminished by such scrutiny, but in this case respect grew with understanding. As I read our forefathers' words, I realized they overcame or foresaw most of our current problems.

What would our Founders think of America today?

The answers are more conclusive than you might think.

Lawrence Lee Rowe Jr.
Author of *Tempus Fugit*

Some Suggested Interview Questions

What specific threat made owning a gun so important to our Founders?

What modern technology would each Founder value the most?

According to the Founding Fathers, what is the ideal salary for an elected official?

If taxation was the reason America declared our independence, why do we have an income tax?

Were the Founding Fathers racists?

What one thing about America would displease and please the Founding Fathers most?

Did the Founding Fathers believe it is possible to have democracy without each citizen owning a gun?

How would the Founding Fathers have responded to September 11th?

Is it unconstitutional for the government to print money?

What were the reasons the Founding Fathers feared an income tax?

Would the Founding Fathers have endorsed abortion?

Who would the Founding Fathers vote for today?

In the Founders' eyes, what is Nixon's greatest crime?

Just for Fun...

What military tactics did Bin Laden steal from George Washington?

Why did the Founding Fathers detest "pure democracy"?

If the Founders had plastic surgery, what procedures would they opt for?

Why did the Founding Fathers consider inflation treachery?

Would George Washington endorse terrorism?

What "illicit" drugs did our Founders use?

Did the Founding Fathers think the average citizen was smart enough to vote?

Would the Founding Fathers insist that some citizens not vote?

Headlines You Might See if the Founders Were Here Today

George Washington Disgusted by Scandals in “His” DC

The icon who could not tell a lie would be appalled by modern politicians who cannot seem to tell the truth, and it would be inspiring to see him confront men like Duke Cunningham. The Founders’ views on the Abramoff Scandal, CIA Leak Investigation and NSA Domestic Spying Program would be fascinating, as would their opinions of historical scandals such as Watergate, Iran Contra, and Monica Lewinsky.

Billion Dollar Letter of Reprisal Issued Against Bin Laden

Pirates were the colonial world’s terrorists, and the remedy was Letters of Reprisal. If the US had added this weapon to its arsenal, Bin Laden’s trial or funeral might be underway today. Colonial America fought its own “War on Terror” and passed Alien & Sedition Acts similar to The Patriot Act. Both parallels are enlightening.

Jefferson Crusades Against “Swindling of Futurity”

Jefferson’s unforgiving term for deficits foreshadows his assessment of leaders that run them. Our Founders had a less flexible view of character than modern Americans, believed in *noblesse oblige* (the obligation of nobility), and nurtured a political culture that elevated ethical geniuses to power. Their appraisals of President Bush, Hillary Clinton, John McCain and other current leaders would be memorable, as would their opinions of past leaders like Clinton, Reagan, FDR, and Lincoln.

Jefferson Denies Hemings Affair, Will Not Submit to DNA Testing

Most Americans believe Thomas Jefferson fathered children with his slave Sally Hemings, but the DNA evidence is far from conclusive, and historians disagree about his ultimate innocence or guilt. Slavery is our Founders’ great hypocrisy, and discussions of their perceptions are provocative.

Founding Fathers Launch TV Network

Television has transformed politics. Our Founders would appreciate its significance as a communication and propaganda tool, but would remain stupefied when instantaneously observing remote events. TV accelerates politics and forces leaders to cater to public opinion, diluting republican tendencies in favor of democratic. It also rewards style more than substance, and would cause the starchy Washington, obese Franklin and introverted Jefferson to question their political viability in a mass media culture.

Franklin to Gore: “I Invented the Internet”

Franklin loved lampooning, but technology would be no laughing matter to the Founders. Jefferson left his bedridden wife to write his *Declaration*, and might have traded Monticello to e-mail or phone her. A half-hour car ride took a day on horseback, while our transcontinental flight took Lewis and Clark a year. Hand-made colonial clothing was so exorbitant a ball gown cost as much as a minivan. Colonials overwhelmed by our “necessities” would exhibit humorous and insightful reactions.

Excerpts

The founders walked a short distance in silence, then exited a break in the woods. A mountain sculpture containing four enormous faces was visible in the distance.

"That's you!" Franklin gasped, while Washington and Jefferson gaped at their granite reflections. "Both of you! Even a purblind old fool like me can see sculptures that big!"

Neither man responded. The hilltop remained silent and still, save the shrill whistling of the wind. Eventually Washington looked back and forth between Jefferson and his sculpture. Jefferson did the same to Washington. Neither man acknowledged the other's glances.

"Who are the other two sculptures?" Franklin asked.

Silence again.

"Where are we?" Washington asked.

Yet another silence, the longest yet. And a chilling, ghastly calm. Even the air seemed still. Franklin peered at Washington and Jefferson simultaneously, then said, "When are we?"

Washington examined the large box on the hutch. It was made of a strange material that reminded him of the Watt wagon interior and gift shop bags, and had a slightly convex glass front. "An enormous camera obscura?" he speculated.

"It is placed prominently," Jefferson replied. "It must be something of import."

Franklin examined the large "camera obscura" and noted the small protrusions on the bottom of the invention. They were black like the rest of it, and difficult to see. Franklin began pressing them one by one. When he hit the rightmost button the device made a popping sound. Colored sunlight filled its screen and from somewhere inside it a deep voice boomed, "This is CNN!"

Washington and Jefferson dropped the cipher pamphlet and phone, fell into seated positions on the edge of the beds, and gaped. Franklin joined them, and the founding fathers took their first hit of modern America's most powerful drug.

"Where does oil come from?" Franklin asked.

"The Middle East, mostly."

"Middle East. The term seems somewhat contradictory."

"There are a lot of contradictions in the Middle East."

"Cite a few," Franklin said. "Please."

"Let's stick to petroleum science and avoid the politics."

"As you wish."

While Paul explained oil drilling, Franklin contemplated petroleum politics. Had this Middle East exploited its petroleum bounty to create an enormous empire with a Northern East, Southern East and Middle East? Did it exist in lands his time had known, or some newer new world? Were futuristic wars fought for petroleum instead of spices, gold, or bread?

After he completed his medical research, Franklin typed "starkers" into the Yahoo search prompt. Hits for everything from Tokyo bands to dictionary definitions to gothic lingerie companies were returned. Franklin typed "starkers wenchies."

"Really, Ben," Jefferson said. "Sometimes you are incorrigible. Do you honestly think humanity would squander an invention this powerful on starkers wenchies?"

"Hopefully. I haven't lost all faith in the species."

Five starkers wenchies hits were returned. Franklin checked online thesaurus definitions, then typed, "naked women."

"1.5 million hits?" Jefferson gasped. "That's more than . . ."

"More than anything I've seen so far." Franklin laughed. "For once, humanity did not disappoint."

"How vulgar," Jefferson said. He nonetheless sat down and pulled his chair closer. So did Washington.

Quick Query

Author Lawrence Lee Rowe Jr. Answers 10 Questions.

1. What inspired you to bring the Founding Fathers back to life in a novel?

Getting to know the Founders was a life-changing experience for me. I wanted to share that experience—not just the information, but the experience. Like many Americans, I also long for smarter and more principled leaders. Fiction is practically the only place to find them these days.

2. What are your favorite characteristics of each Founder?

Franklin's wit, effortless genius, and the fact that he was born into obscure poverty but became the most famous man in the world. Franklin is the type of guy that never lost his sense of perspective, or sense of humor.

Washington's integrity is stupefying. He is greater than we think. Billions of humans today might not be free if Washington had the morals of many recent national leaders.

I admire Jefferson's self-discipline. I think of it when I get the urge to sleep in or stop reading early. For more than a decade, with an obsessiveness almost incomprehensible to an average person, he read from dawn till dusk. Jefferson made himself one of the most learned men in human history through hard work. I adopt a wussified-but-still-intense version of his reading regimen when I am not writing.

3. If you could interview the Founding Fathers, what are some of the things you're most curious about that weren't answered in your research?

It's a little muckrakerish, but I'd like to be talking to Jefferson, drop a Sally Hemings comment out of the blue, and watch his reactions carefully to see if he seemed innocent or guilty.

I'd ask Washington why he sided with Hamilton about implied powers and the National Bank. This is arguably the most significant decision a President ever made, and it appears dubious. Primary sources address this issue, and I know Washington had some strong reasons for choosing the way he did, but I'd still want to hold his feet to the coals a little. . . .

If Franklin had updated his scientific knowledge, I would ask him about alternative energy and electrogravitics—two fields that could help humanity solve its resource and population problems. Picking the brain of a first-order scientific genius like Franklin would be a rare opportunity.

4. Did growing up in the Washington, DC area have anything to do with, perhaps even a subliminal effect on, your interest in the government?

I didn't realize how lucky I was to grow up near Washington's DC until I'd met hundreds of people around the country who have never toured the White House, Capitol, or Washington's Monument. Trips to DC's sites were a yearly ritual in history class, and by the time I was 10 or 11, we would gripe about having to visit again. Living near a nation's capital gives you a sense of its heritage, and I think it made me more of a political creature.

DC provided other unique opportunities. In the '80s, when I was just a kid, my Mom dated a CIA employee who brought me gifts from his frequent trips to Central America. Ahh, the questions I would ask him today!

5. What incident, or combination of circumstances, led you to shift from a career based on your college studies of chemical engineering, to writing?

I always possessed a creative side. In my youth I acted in plays, including a Folger Theatre production. In high school, I wrote a play, and a few short stories that make me cringe when I read them now. In college, I wrote fairly controversial feature articles for our paper, movie reviews, op-eds, and I helped write fraternity skits for Winter Carnival. I realize this hardly makes me Hemingway, Brando or Tennessee Williams, but artistic interests were always percolating. Friends consider me both-brained, and were not surprised either.

6. What were your biggest surprises in doing research for your book?

That the Founders differ from the cookie-cutter cliché most Americans envision. We're told that Jefferson possessed consummate self control, but in letters he angrily lambasts Washington's Secretary of War Henry Knox (of Fort Knox fame). Washington is said to be stern and humorless. He wasn't Jerry Seinfeld, but in letters he makes some fairly provocative jokes—wondering if an old man has enough “munitions” to please his new and much younger wife, for example.

It's a cool feeling—reading primary sources. You almost feel like you're doing something sinful and sneaky. At times I felt like I was privy to thoughts that I shouldn't really be reading.

One reason I wrote *Tempus Fugit* is that the picture of the Founders which emerged starkly contrasted the archetypes I was taught and always accepted. In many ways, the Founders aren't who I thought they were, or what I expected them to be.

(Interview Continued on Next Page)

Quick Query

Author Lawrence Lee Rowe Jr. Answers 10 Questions.

7. What are a couple of your most profound childhood memories?

Before moving to Michigan, I attended the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology. It was a magnet school—thousands were tested, roughly a hundred accepted. Magnet schools were a component of the Reagan/Bennett education policy, and a Thomas Jefferson teacher was a runner-up in the contest to select a teacher to fly in the space shuttle, so Reagan killed two publicity birds with one stone, and visited.

Our school was shut down for days before, every locker was searched, etc. Though it was 80 degrees, Secret Service agents in front of the stage wore trench coats which seemed (at least to our overactive imaginations) to have conspicuous lumps. As kids, man, were our imaginations churning! What was under those coats?

I was within 30 feet of the President—pretty exciting for a kid. Reagan was truly a great communicator. More importantly, Thomas Jefferson was the first time I didn't just sit picking my nose bored to all bajeezus, and I thank Reagan for that. And yes, our football team struck fear into opponent's hearts.

My grandfather is another memory. He was a World War II vet. Old school. Man of action, few words, always stressed honesty. Being an idiotic kid, I always asked him about the war, but he would never say much, only that he'd fought the Japanese on the islands, often "one at a time."

I made him pancakes once. He ate them, but seemed put off. Later, my grandmother told me he had been trapped on a Pacific island, supplies were cut off, and he ate nothing but

pancakes for months. He had refused pancakes from many other people, sometimes a tad rudely, but ate mine.

Only later, at his funeral, when I saw younger pictures of him as an enormous, musclebound man, and had learned about things like Iwo Jima, Bataan, and hand-to-hand combat, did I fill in the blanks somewhat. I always wondered: how in the hell did it reach the point where millions of men like my grandfather had to traverse the globe killing and dying? What was the underlying cause of war? Viewing it as a kind of political math problem, what was the solution?

My mother is a missing person, so her disappearance would have to count, as would the death of my father from a heroin overdose.

Also, I'm a Redskins fan. My childhood was the glory days of Riggins, the Hogs, and championships won by Emperor Gibbs. Having him back is great—the way a Packers' fan might feel if Lombardi were resurrected.

8. What are your hobbies and interests outside of writing?

Bicycling: Viva de Lance!

Hoops: I'm the sorriest 6'4" basketball player you'll ever see, but love playing.

Football: My one mindless pastime, watching gels my brain after obsessive bouts of scholarship.

Backpacking: I will never forget Glacier National Park (before the fire)—I remember thinking: the whole world was once this pristine!

Movies: I will make movies at some point.

Reading, Reading, Reading, Learning, Learning, Learning...

9. Are you well traveled? Where? Any key experiences to share?

I've lived in a few dozen states, but have not seen the world yet. Seeing the regional variations across America, the way one-size-fits-all federal laws often hamper freedoms and create inefficiency at the local level, has strengthened my conviction that the federal system our Founders envisioned was wise. We have a national government, not a federal. This is an important distinction.

10. Sum yourself up in a few sentences

Physically, I resemble an obese Neanderthal. I have a voracious, insatiable, obsessive (insert several more redundant modifiers) desire to learn, a strong idealistic streak, and dual-edged curiosity that needs an on/off button. I believe in personal freedom, and its logical corollary, personal responsibility.

Before I die, I want to see an honest President just once. Someone like George Washington, who stands up, tells me they didn't bang the intern or lie about the weapons of mass distraction, and I know it's the truth.

As trite as it sounds, I would like to do something to leave the world a better place than I found it, ideally by contributing to the inexorable advancement of our species.