In this Scholar Exchange, we take a unique look at George Washington, and how historians have captured his past and have retold history.

Joining Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, is Alexis Coe, historian and author, to examine how America remembers our first president. Explore how George Washington gets romanticized by male biographers and how Coe, only the third woman to write a complete Washington biography, reexamines some of the common and unfamiliar stories of our first president, as described in her new book, a New York Times bestseller, *You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington*.


Read

**Online Resource**

*Founders Online*: Correspondence and other writings of six major shapers of the United States: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams (and family), Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison. Over 183,000 searchable documents, fully annotated, from the authoritative Founding Fathers Papers projects.

**Interactive Constitution**

Explore [Article II and the Executive Branch](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/educational-video/scholar-exchange-george-washington-and-writing-history-with-jeffrey-rosen-and-alexis-coe) on our *Interactive Constitution*

**Reading List**

Books mentioned during this Scholar Exchange included:

- *You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington* by Alexis Coe
- *Washington: A Life* by Ron Chernow
- *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* by Annette Gordon-Reed
- "*The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret*": George Washington, Slavery, and the Enslaved Community at Mount Vernon by Mary V. Thompson
- *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar