

# Informing a Nation

## The Newspaper Presidency of Thomas Jefferson

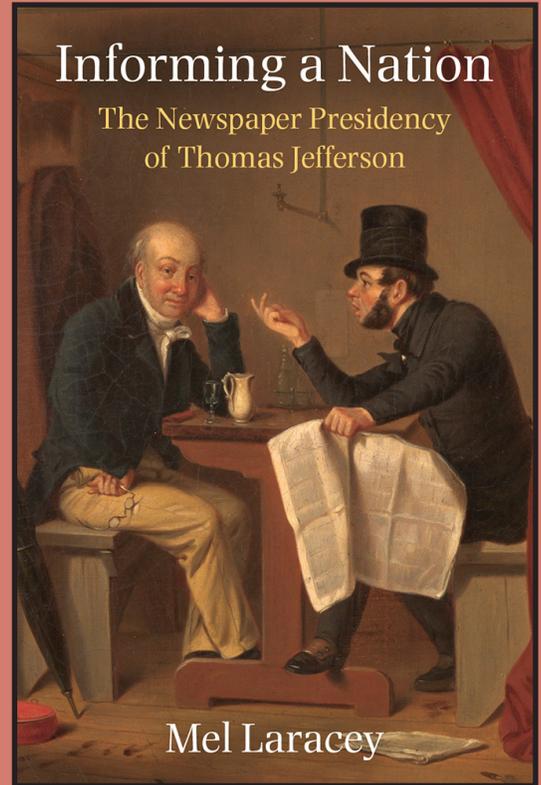
During his presidency, Thomas Jefferson both sponsored and wrote for his own newspaper, the *National Intelligencer* and *Washington Adviser*. The newspaper spoke on behalf of his policies and those of his Republican, anti-federalist party, the Democratic-Republican Party, the precursor to today's Democrats. Author Mel Laracey focuses on the newspaper's message during Jefferson's first term, showing how the third president used media to promote his administration and its goals against their political rivals, the Federalists. *Informing a Nation* shows how Jefferson and his allies dealt with political challenges, reveals hitherto unexamined aspects of the early presidency, and raises broad questions of the relationship between the presidency and media today.

**Mel Laracey** is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

"*Informing a Nation* presents an important and timely historical study of how Thomas Jefferson's newspaper, the *National Intelligencer* and *Washington Advertiser*, influenced politics and policymaking throughout his presidency . . . With a thorough survey of the scholarly literature on the Jefferson presidency combined with careful analysis of primary newspaper sources from the period, Laracey makes an original and enduring scholarly contribution." - Meena Bose, Hofstra University

"Laracey's groundbreaking and superb study of the Jeffersonian years marks a particularly significant contribution to our understanding of public opinion and civic education during the early Republican era. This terrific book will have a reverberating influence on the scholarship of the American Founding for years to come. This is not only a contribution to the history of American politics and political thought, it is a substantial contribution to understanding deliberative republicanism in the modern world." - Colleen A. Sheehan, Arizona State University

"Laracey's perceptive and persuasive study is an important contribution to our understanding of Jefferson, party formation, and presidential leadership." - Peter S. Onuf, Thomas Jefferson Professor of History (emeritus), University of Virginia



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