



Smithsonian Associates

## The Future of the Constitution

Clay Jenkinson

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

### Books by Clay Jenkinson

*The Language of Cottonwoods: Essays on the Future of North Dakota*

*Bring Out Your Dead: The Literature and History of Epidemics*

*Message on the Wind: A Spiritual Odyssey on the Northern Plains*

*The Writings of the Lewis & Clark Expedition in North Dakota*

*Becoming Jefferson's People: Re-Inventing The American Republic in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*A Free and Hardy Life: Theodore Roosevelt's Sojourn in the American West*

*The Character of Meriwether Lewis: Explorer in the Wilderness*

“The Constitution was made for the people, not the people for the Constitution.”

Theodore Roosevelt

### A Few Books About the U.S. Constitution

Peter Irons. *A People's History of the Supreme Court.*

Christopher Collier. *Decision in Philadelphia: The Constitutional Convention of 1787.*

Sanford Levinson. *Our Undemocratic Constitution: Where the Constitution Goes Wrong.*

James F. Simon. *What Kind of Nation? Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall and the Epic Struggle to Create a United States.*

Catherine Brinker Brown. *Miracle in Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention.*

Larry J. Sabato. *A More Perfect Constitution: Why the Constitution Must Be Revised.*

**Listen to the Thomas Jefferson Hour**, Clay's weekly podcast about the life and vision of the Third President of the United States. See [Jeffersonhour.com](http://Jeffersonhour.com) for details.

**Clay is the editor of *We Proceeded On***, the quarterly journal of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. You should subscribe: [www.lewisandclark.org](http://www.lewisandclark.org).

Clay has been an adviser and “talking head” in a number of Ken Burns' documentaries, most recently his *Benjamin Franklin*.

Clay performs a one-man show called **Shakespeare without Tears** throughout the United States. The purpose is to show a: that Shakespeare is not nearly so intimidating as he might seem; b: that today is the best time since the Elizabethan era to appreciate Shakespeare. This highly entertaining show is not just for English majors!

Clay is a writer, public humanities scholar, editor, public radio personality, adventurer, leader of cultural tours. He lives in Bismarck, North Dakota, one of the last agrarian places in America. He has a particular interest in the American West. He was the founder of the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University. He writes for [Governing.com](http://Governing.com), where he is a senior editor. He is leading an initiative called **Listening to America**, on the principle that most of the country lies well within the middle, well between FOX and MSNBC.

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### Cultural Tours

Clay leads annual cultural tours on the Lewis and Clark Trail, in Mr. Jefferson's Virginia, and France, in John Steinbeck's California, in Homer's Greece, and the Landscapes of English Literature.

Clay also hosts January humanities retreats at a wonderful mountain lodge west of Missoula, Montana, on Thoreau, Dickens, Shakespeare, Books of the Road, American Indian literature and history, and more. It's the book club you always wanted to join.

Clay teaches online humanities courses for adults (no essays, no exams!) on a wide range of subjects, from the future of the U.S. Constitution, to the Making of the Atomic Bomb, to the literature and history of the Great Plains, to Virgil's *Aeneid*.

For more information, go to [Jeffersonhour.com](http://Jeffersonhour.com).