

*James Madison Program*  
in American Ideals and Institutions

# THE FIRST CONGRESS:

How James Madison, George Washington,  
and a Group of Extraordinary Men  
Invented the Government

FERGUS M. BORDEWICH

*Historian*

An Alpheus T. Mason Lecture  
in Constitutional Law and Political  
Thought: The Quest for Freedom

Wednesday,  
September 21, 2016

4:30 p.m.

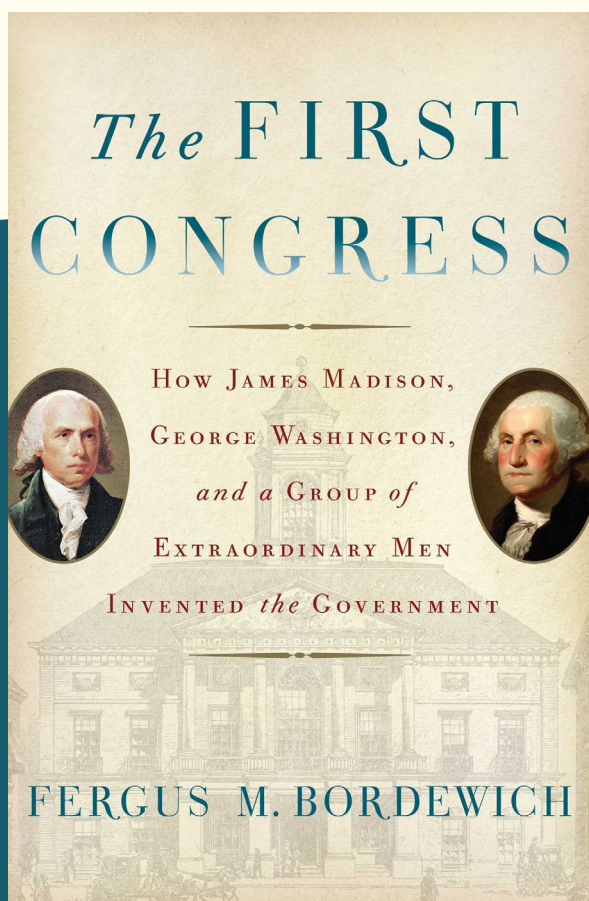
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**Fergus M. Bordewich** is an independent historian who has written widely on subjects in American history from the founding era to the Civil War. In addition to *The First Congress*, his recent books have included *America's Great Debate: Henry Clay, Stephen A. Douglas, and the Compromise that Preserved the Union*, which won the *Los Angeles Times* award for the best history book of 2012, and was also named one of the “best books” of that year by the *Washington Post*; as well as *Washington: The Making of the American Capital* (2008); and *Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America* (2005), among others. His articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *American Heritage*, and many other publications. He is a frequent book reviewer for the *Wall Street Journal* and various scholarly journals. He lives in San Francisco with his wife, Jean Parvin Bordewich, and is currently at work on a history of Congress during the Civil War.

