

# Aaron Burr in Exile: Pariah in Paris, 1810-1811

In the annals of American history, Aaron Burr stands as a figure both fascinating and enigmatic. As one of the nation's founding fathers, he played a pivotal role in shaping its destiny. However, his career was forever tainted by his infamous duel with Alexander Hamilton, an event that forced him into exile.



## Aaron Burr in Exile: A Pariah in Paris, 1810-1811

by Jane Merrill

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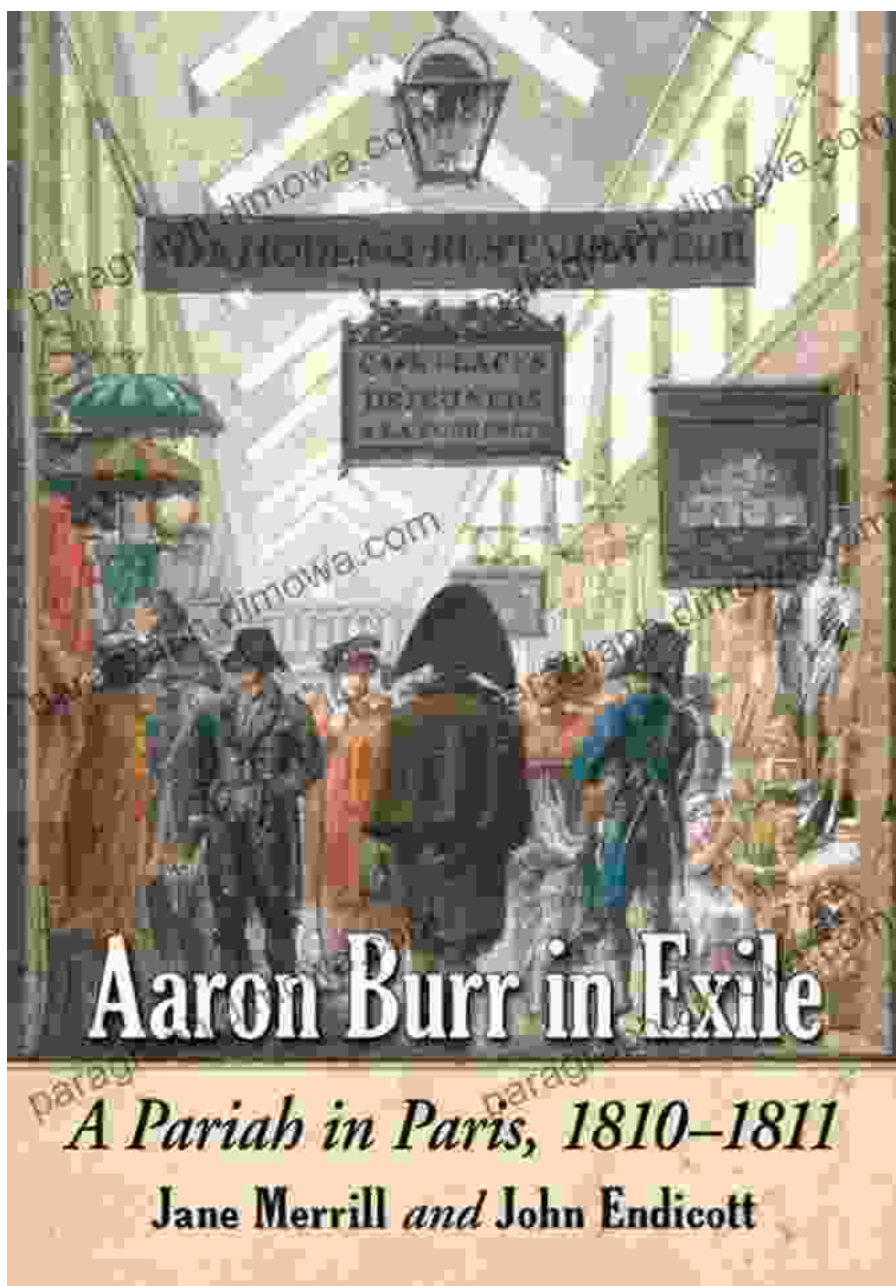


This article delves into the gripping chapter of Burr's life spent in Paris, where he lived as a pariah from 1810 to 1811. During this time, he faced immense challenges, forged unexpected alliances, and navigated a world of intrigue and danger.

### Arrival in Paris

In April 1810, Aaron Burr arrived in Paris, a city known for its grandeur and sophistication. However, for Burr, it was a place of refuge and uncertainty.

Branded a traitor in his homeland, he had left behind a life of prominence and power.



Paris at that time was a hotbed of political turmoil. Europe was embroiled in the Napoleonic Wars, and France was a major player in the conflict. Burr found himself caught in a web of conflicting loyalties and dangerous alliances.

## **Dangerous Liaisons**

In the Parisian underworld, Burr formed an unexpected alliance with Joseph Bonaparte, the dethroned brother of Napoleon. Together, they plotted to return to the United States and overthrow the government. However, their ambitious scheme ultimately failed.

Burr also became entangled with a group of wealthy and influential Americans living in Paris. Among them was James Monroe, a future president of the United States. While Monroe initially welcomed Burr's presence, he eventually distanced himself from the exiled patriot.

## **The Duel with John Swartwout**

In March 1811, Burr's exile in Paris took a dramatic turn. He was challenged to a duel by John Swartwout, a fellow American expatriate. The duel, fought on the outskirts of Paris, resulted in Burr being shot and wounded.



The duel between Aaron Burr and John Swartwout, a pivotal moment in Burr's exile.

The duel further damaged Burr's reputation and isolated him from the Parisian community. It also weakened his already-tenuous alliance with Joseph Bonaparte.

### **The Aftermath**

Following the duel, Burr's health and finances deteriorated. He was forced to rely on the charity of friends and supporters. In 1811, he was arrested on suspicion of violating the Neutrality Act, which prohibited Americans from participating in foreign conflicts.

Burr was never tried for the charges against him. However, the arrest marked the end of his exile in Paris. He eventually returned to the United States, where he lived in obscurity until his death in 1836.

## Legacy and Significance

Aaron Burr's exile in Paris was a period of both hardship and intrigue. It is a testament to his resilience and determination that he survived the challenges he faced and ultimately returned to his homeland.

Burr's exile also provides a fascinating glimpse into the complex and often dangerous world of 19th-century international politics. The alliances and betrayals he experienced during his time in Paris reveal the cutthroat nature of power and the lengths to which some individuals will go to achieve their goals.

Aaron Burr's exile in Paris is a captivating tale of fallen greatness, unexpected alliances, and enduring legacy. It is a story that sheds light on the complexities of human nature and the often-unpredictable nature of history itself.

This article has provided a glimpse into this fascinating chapter of Burr's life, revealing the challenges he faced, the alliances he formed, and the lasting impact his exile had on both himself and the nation he left behind.



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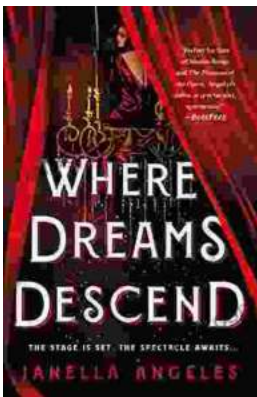
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