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the modern american presidency is a lively interpretive synthesis of 20th century leaders filled with intriguing insights into how the presidency has evolved as america rose to prominence on the world stage gould traces the decline of the party system and the increasing importance of the media resulting in the rise of the president as celebrity 36 photos

a governor s mansion is often the last stop for politicians who plan to move into the white house before barack obama was elected president of the united states four of his last five predecessors had been governors executive experience at the state level informs individual presidencies and as saladin m ambar argues the

actions of governors turned presidents changed the nature of the presidency itself long ago how governors built the modern american presidency is the first book to explicitly credit governors with making the presidency what it is today by examining the governorships of such presidential stalwarts as grover cleveland theodore roosevelt woodrow wilson and franklin d roosevelt political scientist ambar shows how gubernatorial experience made the difference in establishing modern presidential practice the book also delves into the careers of wisconsin s bob la follette and california s hiram johnson demonstrating how these governors reshaped the presidency through their activism as ambar reminds readers governors as far back as samuel j tilden of new york who ran against rutherford hayes in the controversial presidential election of 1876 paved the way for a more assertive national leadership ambar explodes the idea that the modern presidency began after 1945 instead placing its origins squarely in the progressive era this innovative study uncovers neglected aspects of the evolution of the nation s executive branch placing american governors at the heart of what the presidency has become for better or for worse

encyclopedia of the american presidency andrew jackson through theodore roosevelt

with a new chapter devoted to hillary and bill clinton s tainted partnership in office and to the present first lady s senatorial ambitions this second edition offers fresh insights into america s paradoxical expectations for its presidential wives and husband deeply engrossing publishers weekly 33 photos

narrative detail not only on the immediate families of the presidents but on their ancestors and descendants also included are essays concerning the presidents careers as statesmen family background and links with burke s peerage baronetage

in fourteen essays supplemented by relevant sections of and amendments to the constitution and five federalist essays by hamilton provides the reader with the essential historical and political analyses of who and what shaped the presidency

benjamin harrison was an early proponent of american expansion in the pacific a key figure in such landmark legislation as the sherman anti trust act and the mckinley tariff and one of the gilded age s most eloquent speakers yet he remains one of our most neglected and least understood presidents in this first interpretive study of the harrison administration the authors illuminate our twenty third president s character and policies and rescue him from the long shadow of his charismatic secretary of state james g blaine an ohio native and indiana lawyer harrison opened the second century of the american presidency in a rapidly industrializing and expanding nation his inaugural address reflected the nation s optimism the masses of our people are better fed clothed and housed than their fathers were the facilities for popular education have been vastly enlarged and more generally diffused the virtues of courage and patriotism have given proof of their continued presence and increasing power in the hearts and over the lives of our people but the burdens and realities of his office soon imposed themselves

upon harrison the biggest blow came at midterm with the republicans devastating losses in the 1890 congressional elections in an era of congressional dominance those losses eroded harrison s position as a legislative advocate at least for domestic issues his impact in foreign affairs was more lasting one of the highlights of this study is its revealing look at harrison s visionary foreign policy especially toward the pacific socolofsky and spetter convincingly demonstrate that although harrison s ambition to acquire the hawaiian islands was not realized during his presidency his foreign policy was a major step toward american control of hawaii and american expansion in the far east

this book is likely to rank as the standard source on the hoover presidency for years to come

a well researched and pertinent discussion of one of american liberalism s most important exponents choice a concise intelligent and highly readable study what is fresh and extremely valuable is the flesh that stettner puts on the bones of the old generalization about croly and liberalism this is a worthy addition to the literature on this important and influential american thinker american historical review

one of the commonly stated virtues of modern constitutional democracies is their capacity to insure reliable and accepted methods of political succession through election this book focuses on one particular though not uncommon complication in the democratic mode of political succession american vice presidents who assume office as a result of the death assassination or resignation of a president three basic strategies by accidental presidents to establish and enhance their legitimacy are identified and evaluated while none are reliably successful each provides a lens to study the nature of presidential power and authority as well as to contribute to a democratic theory of succession

in this interpretation of the mckinley presidency lewis l gould contends that william mckinley was the first modern president making use of extensive original research in manuscript collections in the united states great britain and france gould argues that during mckinley s four and a half years in the white house the executive office began to resemble the institution as the twentieth century would know it he rejects the erroneous stereotypes that have long obscured mckinley s historical significance mckinley as the compliant agent of mark hanna or as an irresolute executive in the cuban crisis that led to war with spain he contends that mckinley is an important figure in the history of the united states because of the large contributions he made to the strengthening and broadening of the power of the chief executive while this volume touches on many aspects of mckinley s leadership the core of it relates to the coming of the spanish american war the president s conduct of the war itself and the emergence of an american empire from 1898 to 1900 according to gould the spanish american war was not the result presidential weakness or of cowardice before public hysteria mckinley sought to persuade spain to relinquish cuba peacefully turning to war only when it became apparent that madrid would never acquiesce during the war mckinley effectively directed the american military effort and the diplomacy that brought

territorial acquisitions and peace the process of making peace with Spain involving as it did American annexation of the Philippines and of securing the ratification of the resulting treaty in the Senate underscored McKinley's expansive view of presidential power. He functioned as chief diplomat from the sending of senators on the peace commission to the personal supervision of the terms of the negotiation at home. He made tours of the West and South in 1898 to lead popular opinion to his position as no president had done before him. For the Senate he evidenced a readiness to dispense patronage, woo votes with personal persuasion, and marshal the resources of the political system behind his treaty. Later episodes in McKinley's administration support Gould's thesis in administering Puerto Rico and Cuba and in suppressing an insurrection in the Philippines. McKinley relied further on the war power and continued to shape affairs from the White House. He sent troops to China during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 without congressional authorization, governed the new possessions through presidential commissions, and allowed Capitol Hill only a subsidiary role in the process. By 1901 the nation had an empire and a president whose manner and bearing anticipated the imperial executives of six decades later. Gould does not argue that McKinley was a great president; he maintains instead that what McKinley contributed to the office—the examples he offered and the precedents he set—make him an important figure in the emergence of the modern presidency in this century.

The moral rhetoric of American presidents analyzes the president's role as the nation's moral spokesman, drawing on the quantitative methods from political science and the qualitative case study approach prevalent in rhetorical studies. Colleen J. Shogan demonstrates that moral and religious rhetoric is not simply a reflection of individual character or an expression of American civil religion but a strategic tool presidents can use to enhance their constitutional authority. Book jacket.

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Introduction

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