

John F Kennedy The American Presidents Series

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what makes a good american president the answers to this question have been sought by a variety of means since the very beginning of the presidency some contend that a foreign policy makes one superior to another while others contend that certain personal qualities make a man best here america s presidents are rated using a system that evaluates their effectiveness in some of the most critical aspects of the office foreign relations domestic programs administration and intergovernmental relations leadership and decision making and personal qualities each president is scored in his fulfillment of each aspect of the office and analysis is provided for all the scores the presidents are then ranked overall the most overrated and underrated commanders in chief are also examined the presidents are then analyzed individually in chronological order and each entry includes biographical and political information as well as analysis of personal qualities a bibliography and index are included

as of 2012 only 43 men have held the office of the president of the united states some have been sanctified and some reviled this historical work addresses the careers of the first ten presidents men who made vital contributions not only to the office of the presidency but to the course of the fledgling nation from washington through tyler every term is recounted in detail and each presidential profile provides as many as a hundred quotations with full source notes by the president his friends family historians and others each profile ends with an extensive bibliography of books about the president his principles and policies and also provides suggestion for further reading rigorously nonpartisan in approach this detail rich text describes the early years of what may well be one of the most demanding jobs in the world

from a new york times bestselling author a captivating and unique overview of the first 44 presidents of the united states from george

washington to barack obama using his entertaining question and answer style to chart the history of the presidency itself as well as debunk the myths of america s here s the young lincoln building his mother s coffin and dragging a tragic burden through the snow to the burial theodore roosevelt america s youngest president shockingly pushed into the presidency with greatness thrust upon him fdr the only man elected four times concealing his crippling disability from the american public as he led the nation through depression and world war and lyndon johnson reelected in a landslide then crushed by the weight of the vietnam war for history buffs and history phobes alike this book is packed with memorable facts that will change your understanding of the highest office in the land and the men who have occupied it

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

a full understanding of the institution of the american presidency requires us to examine how it developed from the founding to the present this developmental lens analyzing how historical turns have shaped the modern institution allows for a richer more nuanced understanding beyond the current newspaper headlines the development of the american presidency pays great attention to that historical weight but is organized by the topics and concepts relevant to political science with the constitutional origins and political development of the presidency its central focus through comprehensive and in depth coverage this text looks at how the presidency has evolved in relation to the public to congress to the executive branch and to the law showing at every step how different aspects of the presidency have followed distinct trajectories of change all the while ellis illustrates the institutional relationships and tensions through stories about particular individuals and specific political conflicts ellis s own classroom pedagogy of promoting active learning and critical thinking is well reflected in these pages each chapter begins with a narrative account of some illustrative puzzle that brings to life a central concept a wealth of photos figures and tables allow for the visual presentations of concepts a companion website not only acts as a further resources base directing students to primary documents newspapers and data sources but also

presents interactive timelines and practice quizzes to help students master the book's lessons the second edition a new chapter on unilateral powers that brings greater attention to domestic policymaking

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 ready reference guide to the presidents of the united states from george washington through bill clinton

encyclopedia of the american presidency andrew jackson through theodore roosevelt

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

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 spter 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

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

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

this book challenges the idea that the mixing of religion and presidential politics is a new phenomenon it explores how presidents have drawn on their religious upbringing rhetoric ideas and beliefs to promote their domestic and foreign policies to the nation this influence is evident in washington s decision to add so help me god to the presidential oath accusations by adam s supporters that jefferson was an infidel lincoln s biblical metaphors during the civil war and fdr s call to fight against nazi totalitarianism on behalf of judeo christian civilization it is also apparent in truman s support for israel eisenhower s cold war decision to add in god we trust on american currency the debate over jfk s catholicism jimmy carter s born again christianity reagan s evil empire speech clinton s public repentance and george w bush s crusade against islamic terrorists this volume explores these issues of religion and power in the presidencies of washington jefferson madison lincoln fdr truman eisenhower jfk carter reagan george h w bush clinton and

george w bush through scholarly interpretations primary sources and illustrations

choice outstanding title h r haldeman president nixon s former chief of staff is said to have boasted every president needs a son of a bitch and i m nixon s i m his buffer and i m his bastard i get done what he wants done and i take the heat instead of him richard ellis explores the widely discussed but poorly understood phenomenon of presidential lightning rods cabinet officials who take the heat instead of their bosses whether by intent or circumstance these officials divert criticism and blame away from their presidents the phenomenon is so common that it s assumed to be an essential item in every president s managerial toolbox but ellis argues such assumptions can oversimplify our understanding of this tool ellis advises against indiscriminate use of the lightning rod metaphor such labeling can hide as much as it reveals about presidential administration and policymaking at the cabinet level the metaphor often misleads by suggesting strategic intent on the president s part while obscuring the calculations and objectives of presidential adversaries and the lightning rods themselves ellis also illuminates the opportunities and difficulties that various presidential posts especially secretaries of state chiefs of staff and vice presidents have offered for deflecting blame from our presidents his study offers numerous detailed and instructive examples from the administrations of truman dean acheson eisenhower richard nixon john foster dulles herbert brownell and ezra taft benson lbj hubert humphrey ford henry kissinger and reagan james watt these examples ellis suggests should guide our understanding of the relationship between lightning rods and presidential leadership policymaking and ratings blame avoidance he warns does have its limitations and may even backfire at times nevertheless president clinton and his successors may need to rely on such tools the presidency ellis points out finds itself the object of increasingly intense partisan debate and microscopic scrutiny by a wary press lightning rods can deflect such heat and help the president test policies gauge public opinion and protect his political power and public image ellis s book is an essential primer for helping us understand this process

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Introduction

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