

eric foner the american presidency

eric foner the american presidency is a significant topic in the study of United States history, focusing on the evolving role and impact of the presidency through time. Eric Foner, a distinguished historian, offers deep insights into how the American presidency has shaped the nation's political landscape, particularly in relation to issues of democracy, civil rights, and constitutional development. This article explores Foner's perspectives on the presidency, highlighting his analysis of presidential power, leadership during critical periods, and the presidency's relationship with American society. Additionally, it delves into how Foner's scholarship contributes to our understanding of the presidency's transformative role in American history. The following sections will examine key themes of Eric Foner's work on the American presidency, his interpretation of presidential authority, and the historical context within which he situates the office of the president.

- Eric Foner's Historical Approach to the American Presidency
- Presidential Power and Constitutional Development
- Leadership and Democracy in Foner's Analysis
- The Presidency During Critical Historical Eras
- Impact of Eric Foner's Scholarship on Presidential Studies

Eric Foner's Historical Approach to the American Presidency

Eric Foner's approach to the American presidency is grounded in a comprehensive understanding of the nation's social and political history. His scholarship emphasizes the interconnectedness of the presidency with broader democratic movements and social change. Rather than treating the presidency as an isolated institution, Foner contextualizes it within the struggles for equality, freedom, and justice in America.

Foner's work often highlights how presidents have both shaped and been shaped by the political forces of their time. His analysis reveals the dynamic nature of the presidency, showing how it has evolved in response to constitutional debates and societal demands. This historical methodology enriches the study of the American presidency by integrating it into the wider narrative of American history.

Focus on Social Justice and Civil Rights

A key element in Foner's historical approach is the consideration of how presidents have addressed social justice and civil rights. He pays particular attention to moments when presidential leadership intersected with movements for racial equality and emancipation. This perspective offers an important lens for understanding the moral and political challenges faced by various administrations.

Integration of Constitutional and Political History

Foner integrates constitutional history with political history to examine how presidential powers have been interpreted and contested. By exploring the constitutional foundations of the presidency alongside political developments, he provides a nuanced analysis of presidential authority and its limits.

Presidential Power and Constitutional Development

In Eric Foner's examination of the American presidency, the evolution of presidential power is a central theme. He investigates how the office has expanded or contracted in authority through constitutional amendments, judicial rulings, and political practice. Foner's analysis reveals the contested nature of presidential power throughout American history.

His work underscores the tension between the presidency as a symbol of national unity and as a potential source of centralized authority. This duality has shaped debates over executive power in various historical periods.

The Expansion of Executive Authority

Foner discusses significant periods when presidential power expanded, such as during the Civil War and the New Deal era. These expansions often occurred in response to national crises, reflecting the presidency's adaptive capacity.

Checks and Balances on the Presidency

Despite expansions in authority, Foner also highlights ongoing efforts to limit presidential power through legislative oversight and judicial review. These checks and balances are fundamental to the American constitutional system and have been critical in shaping the presidency's role.

Leadership and Democracy in Foner's Analysis

Eric Foner emphasizes the relationship between presidential leadership and the health of American democracy. He explores how presidents have both championed and challenged democratic principles, influencing political participation and public trust.

Foner's scholarship demonstrates that presidential leadership involves balancing authority with accountability to the electorate and other branches of government. This balance is essential for sustaining democratic governance.

Presidential Rhetoric and Public Engagement

Foner analyzes how presidents use rhetoric to mobilize public opinion and define national identity. Effective communication has been a powerful tool for presidents to legitimize their policies and inspire collective action.

Democracy under Strain: Presidential Challenges

Foner also addresses periods when the presidency was perceived as overreaching or undermining democratic norms. His work examines how presidents have navigated crises that tested the resilience of American democracy.

The Presidency During Critical Historical Eras

Foner's exploration of the American presidency often focuses on transformative historical eras that reshaped the office and the nation. These periods include the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Progressive Era, and the New Deal.

His analysis of these eras illustrates how the presidency responded to social upheaval, economic challenges, and constitutional questions.

The Civil War and Abraham Lincoln

Foner pays special attention to Abraham Lincoln's presidency, viewing it as a pivotal moment in the expansion of presidential power and commitment to civil rights. Lincoln's leadership during the Civil War exemplifies the presidency's capacity to guide the nation through existential threats.

Reconstruction and Presidential Authority

During Reconstruction, the presidency played a crucial role in navigating

post-war challenges and conflicts over civil rights for freed slaves. Foner's work highlights the contested nature of presidential policies in this period.

The New Deal and the Modern Presidency

The New Deal era marks a significant transformation in the scope and function of the presidency. Foner examines how Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration redefined executive power and government intervention in the economy.

Impact of Eric Foner's Scholarship on Presidential Studies

Eric Foner's scholarship has had a profound impact on the study of the American presidency by providing a historically grounded and socially aware perspective. His work encourages a deeper understanding of the presidency within the broader context of American history and democratic development.

Foner's contributions have influenced historians, political scientists, and legal scholars in re-evaluating the presidency's role and significance.

Influence on Historical Interpretation

Foner's integrative approach has reshaped how historians interpret presidential actions and policies, emphasizing the importance of social movements and constitutional change.

Educational Contributions

Through his writings and lectures, Foner has helped educate new generations about the complexities of the American presidency, fostering a more critical and informed perspective.

1. Historical Contextualization of the Presidency
2. Analysis of Executive Power and Its Limits
3. Focus on Democracy and Leadership
4. Examination of Key Historical Presidencies
5. Advancing Scholarship and Public Understanding

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Eric Foner and what is his significance in American history?

Eric Foner is a prominent American historian known for his scholarship on the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the history of American freedom. He is widely regarded for his insightful analysis of American history, including the presidency.

What is Eric Foner's perspective on the American presidency during Reconstruction?

Eric Foner views the presidency during Reconstruction as a pivotal institution that shaped the course of civil rights and national unity, highlighting how presidents like Andrew Johnson influenced the successes and failures of Reconstruction policies.

How does Eric Foner interpret Abraham Lincoln's presidency?

Eric Foner interprets Abraham Lincoln's presidency as transformative, emphasizing Lincoln's evolving views on slavery and freedom, and his leadership during the Civil War as crucial to preserving the Union and abolishing slavery.

What contributions has Eric Foner made to the study of presidential history?

Eric Foner has contributed to presidential history by contextualizing presidents within broader social and political movements, particularly focusing on issues of race, freedom, and equality in American history.

Does Eric Foner discuss the impact of presidential decisions on civil rights?

Yes, Eric Foner extensively discusses how presidential decisions, especially during Reconstruction, impacted the advancement or suppression of civil rights in the United States.

How does Eric Foner's work challenge traditional narratives about the American presidency?

Eric Foner challenges traditional narratives by incorporating perspectives on race, class, and social justice, arguing that the presidency must be understood in relation to these forces and their influence on American

democracy.

Can Eric Foner's analysis help us understand contemporary presidential challenges?

Yes, Eric Foner's analysis of historical presidencies, particularly regarding issues of race and democracy, provides valuable insights into contemporary challenges faced by American presidents in addressing social and political divisions.

Additional Resources

1. The American Presidency: An Intellectual History

This book explores the evolving concept of the American presidency through the lens of political thought and intellectual history. Eric Foner examines how ideas about executive power and leadership have changed from the founding era to the present day. The work provides a deep understanding of the presidency's role in American democracy and its ideological underpinnings.

2. Give Me Liberty!: An American History

While primarily a comprehensive history of the United States, this book by Eric Foner includes significant analysis of the presidency's impact on American liberty and civil rights. It traces how different presidents have shaped the nation's political and social landscape. Foner's clear narrative connects presidential actions to broader themes in American history.

3. Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863–1877

This acclaimed book delves into the post-Civil War period when the presidency played a crucial role in shaping the course of Reconstruction. Eric Foner provides insights into presidential policies and leadership during this transformative era. The book highlights how the presidency influenced civil rights and national reunification efforts.

4. Our Lincoln: New Perspectives on Lincoln and His World

Eric Foner offers fresh perspectives on Abraham Lincoln's presidency, emphasizing his leadership during the Civil War and his evolving views on freedom and equality. The collection includes essays that discuss Lincoln's impact on the presidency as an institution. It is an essential read for understanding the historical significance of Lincoln's executive role.

5. Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction

This book examines the presidency's role in ending slavery and navigating the challenges of Reconstruction. Foner explores how presidential decisions affected the lives of freed African Americans and the nation's political development. The narrative reveals the complexities and struggles surrounding executive power during this critical period.

6. The Story of American Freedom

Foner investigates the concept of freedom in American history, with

particular attention to how presidents have interpreted and expanded this ideal. The book discusses presidential leadership in moments of crisis and change. It offers a nuanced view of the presidency's influence on the nation's evolving understanding of liberty.

7. *Politics and Ideology in the Age of the Civil War*

This work analyzes the political ideologies that shaped presidential policies during the tumultuous Civil War era. Eric Foner sheds light on how presidents navigated ideological conflicts and governance challenges. The book is valuable for understanding the intersection of presidency and political thought in a critical historical context.

8. *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery*

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Foner explores Lincoln's presidency focusing on his approach to slavery and emancipation. It provides a detailed account of Lincoln's political and moral challenges in using presidential power to abolish slavery. The book underscores the presidency's pivotal role in transforming American society.

9. *Who Owns History? Rethinking the American Past*

This collection includes essays that discuss how historical narratives, including those about the presidency, are interpreted and contested. Eric Foner addresses the role of presidents in shaping national identity and memory. The work encourages readers to critically engage with the history of the American presidency and its legacy.

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eric foner the american presidency: The American Presidency Sidney M. Milkis, Michael Nelson, 2019-01-24 The American Presidency examines the constitutional foundation of the executive office and the social, economic, political, and international forces that have reshaped it. Authors Sidney M. Milkis and Michael Nelson broadly examine the influence of each president, focusing on how these leaders have sought to navigate the complex and ever-changing terrain of the executive office and revealing the major developments that launched the modern presidency at the dawn of the twentieth century. By connecting presidential conduct to the defining eras of American history and the larger context of politics and government in the United States, this award-winning book offers vital perspective and insight on the limitations and possibilities of presidential power. The Eighth Edition examines recent events and developments including the latter part of the Obama presidency, the 2016 election, the first twenty months of the Trump presidency, and updated coverage of issues involving race and the presidency.

eric foner the american presidency: The American Presidency Forrest McDonald, 1994 McDonald explores how and why the presidency has evolved into such a complex and powerful

institution, unlike any other in the world. He chronicles the presidency's creation, implementation, and evolution and explains why it's still working today despite its many perceived afflictions.

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Richard J. Ellis, 2022-05-02 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. 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, Richard J. Ellis 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. Each chapter promotes active learning, beginning 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. New to the Fourth Edition Explicit and expanded attention to the role of norms in shaping and constraining presidential power, with special focus on Trump's norm-breaking and Biden's efforts to shore up norms; Enhanced focus on the prospects for institutional reform, including in the electoral college, presidential relations with Congress, war powers, and the selection of Supreme Court justices; A full reckoning with the Trump presidency and its significance for the future of American democracy, presidential rhetoric, the unilateral executive, and the administrative state; Coverage of the first year of Biden's presidency, including presidential rhetoric, relations with Congress and the bureaucracy, use of the war powers, and unilateral directives; Comprehensive updating of debates about the removal power, including the Supreme Court cases of *Seila Law v. CFPB* and *Collins v. Yellen*; In-depth exploration of the impact of partisan polarization on the legislative presidency and effective governance; Analysis of the 2020 election and its aftermath; Expanded discussion of impeachment to incorporate Trump's two impeachments; Examination of presidential emergency powers, with special attention to Trump's border wall declaration; Review of Biden's and Trump's impact on the judiciary; Assessment of Biden's and Trump's place in political time.

eric foner the american presidency: The Challenge of the American Presidency Philip Abbott,

2011-09-16 According to Niccolo Machiavelli, leaders must always be prepared for unexpected change, sometimes rapidly and in violent and dramatic forms, in order to retain control of their fate. Philip Abbott applies this insight to U. S. presidents. He identifies six major periods of change in the political economic and international sphere and examines how presidents from Washington to Obama responded to new challenges. How presidents are elected, how they are expected to govern, how the economy functions, and what place the nation holds in the international system create general rules that presidents must acknowledge until an alteration in one or more of these patterns changes. The author maintains that, in the American presidency, the difference between success and failure rests with how effectively a president reacts to the changes within these systems during his term in office. Organized chronologically, this text focuses on high risk decisions presidents have made from George Washington's issuance of the Neutrality Proclamation to Obama's promotion of health care legislation. This edition includes new material on the presidencies of George W. Bush and Barack Obama as well as updated bibliographical entries. The Challenge of the American Presidency will be of interest to those who teach courses in political science, history and American Studies as well as to the those who are interested in assessing and comparing U. S. presidents.

eric foner the american presidency: The American Presidency Alan Brinkley, Davis Dyer,

2004 Coupling high-quality scholarship with accessibility, The American Presidency is a handy, affordable, text-only paperback edition of the popular reference work The Reader's Companion to the American Presidency.

eric foner the american presidency: The President and American Capitalism since 1945

Mark H. Rose, Roger Biles, 2017-11-14 The book examines the development of the U.S. presidency

since 1945 and describes the many ways, some of which are unknown or greatly underappreciated, in which the president's actions affect the daily lives of the American people.

eric foner the american presidency: The Irish and the American Presidency Nicole Anderson Yanoso, 2017-07-05 There is a widely held notion that, except for the elections of 1928 and 1960, the Irish have primarily influenced only state and local government. The Irish and the American Presidency reveals that the Irish have had a consistent and noteworthy impact on presidential careers, policies, and elections throughout American history. Using US party systems as an organizational framework, this book examines the various ways that Scots-Irish and Catholic Irish Americans, as well as the Irish who remained in eire, have shaped, altered, and sometimes driven such presidential political factors as party nominations, campaign strategies, elections, and White House policymaking. The Irish seem to be inextricably interwoven into important moments of presidential political history. Yanoso discusses the Scots-Irish participation in the American Revolution, the Whiskey Rebellion, and the War of 1812. She describes President Bill Clinton's successful Good Friday Agreement that brought peace and hope to Northern Ireland. And finally, she assesses the now-common presidential visits to Ireland as a strategy for garnering Irish-American support back home. No previous work has explored the impact of Irish and Irish-American affairs on US presidential politics throughout the entire scope of American history. Readers interested in presidential politics, American history, and/or Irish/Irish-American history are certain to find *The Irish and the American Presidency* enjoyable, informative, and impactful.

eric foner the american presidency: American Presidents - A Curious Look at a Unique Cohort V.S. Dharmakumar, 2019-09-05 Believe it or not, an American president was arrested for running over a woman with his horse. He was not the only one to be arrested (two more were). George Washington preferred fox hunting with his dogs than going to church. Young Abraham Lincoln fell into a deep ditch and was saved by his dog. And after he was assassinated, his dog 'Fido' also was assassinated. Who was the President who worked as a bartender? And the one who once officially served as an executioner? The President of the United States is considered one of the world's most powerful people, leading the world's only current superpower. His role includes being the commander-in-chief of the world's most expensive military with the largest nuclear arsenal with the nuclear button on his desk. This book is the result of over a decade of research and writing. It is a comprehensive compendium - a single-volume book, about the 44 men the entire world looked upon as the most powerful men in the world. 44 men who formed the 45 presidencies of the United States of America through 58 quadrennial presidential elections in the 230 years from 1789. This book covers the presidency of the successful liquor distributor and owner of a distillery George Washington, to the presidency of Donald Trump, the oldest, wealthiest man without any prior military or government service experience to ever assume the presidency.

eric foner the american presidency: The Presidency and the Political System Michael Nelson, 2018-03-08 Written by top-notch presidency scholars and carefully edited into a text-reader format, *The Presidency and the Political System*, Eleventh Edition showcases a collection of original essays focused on a range of topics, institutions, and issues relevant to understanding the American presidency.

eric foner the american presidency: Presidents by Fate F. Martin Harmon, 2019-08-21 Throughout the history of the United States, only nine men were elevated to the White House by the death or failure of a sitting president, and their legacies are as mixed as their circumstances. This book evaluates the similarities and distinct differences of these men, their varying degrees of ambition and readiness, and how each handled their suddenly enormous duties. Some became presidential legends, while others are counted among the worst. Their shared stories shed light on America's political development during the last two centuries.

eric foner the american presidency: Globalizing the U.S. Presidency Cyrus Schayegh, 2020-01-09 Using John F. Kennedy as a central figure and reference point, this volume explores how postcolonial citizens viewed the US president when peak decolonization met the Cold War. Exploring how their appropriations blended with their own domestic and regional realities, the chapters span

sources, cases and languages from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe to explore the history of US and third world relations in a way that pushes beyond US-centric themes. Examining a range of actors, *Globalizing the U.S. Presidency* studies various political, sociocultural and economic domestic and regional contexts during the Cold War era, and explores themes such as appropriation, antagonism and contestation within decolonisation. Attempting to both de-americanize and globalize John F. Kennedy and the US Presidency, the chapters examine how the perceptions of the president were fed by everyday experiences of national and international postcolonial lives. The many examples of worldwide interest in the US president at this time illustrate that this time was a historical turning point for the role of the US on the global stage. The hopes and fears of peaking decolonization, the resulting pressure on Washington, Moscow and other powers, and a new mediascape together ushered in a more comprehensive globalization of international politics, and a new meaning to 'the United States in the world'.

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Kenneth C. Davis, 2012-02-21 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.

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2021-10-22 Landmark political confrontations between sitting presidents and powerful senators have occurred throughout American history—some have shaped the nation. This book takes an in-depth look at seven of those major Washington wars, including the personal rivalries that spawned each one, the strategies and events that transpired as a result, and the aftermaths and impacts on the country. Neither compromise nor surrender were considered in these intense debates, which left scars on the national psyche. Each episode could be worthy of a historical narrative all its own but considered together they illustrate the long and bitter history of democratic warfare between the leaders and branches of government at either end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

eric foner the american presidency: *America's Presidents* Jason Stahl, 2020-09-22 In 2020, as we set our sights on another election, this book takes a look at all of the presidents of the United States—ranked from best to worst (the results may surprise you)—and their legacies, achievements and what we learned from their leadership. The book spans from 1789 when George Washington (spoiler alert: he's in the Best Presidents category) took the first-ever oath of office. Forty-four different men have sworn to “faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States” and what makes a great leader has been vision, conviction, and setting the nation on the right course. The Revolutionary War showed us we needed commanders who were going to fight for our freedom. The Civil War showed we needed leaders who were going to unite this nation. We looked to the President during hard times like the Great Depression, who were going to pick us up, dust us off and, with a steady hand, guide us to more promising times, which Franklin Delano Roosevelt did over his unprecedented four terms. Over the next many, many decades, and many wars and battles later, the President of the United States has shown they are the most powerful person on this planet. But they are also vulnerable. They've been targets of assassination attempts, and some, sadly, have been successful. Their transgressions have led to scandals and impeachments. Presidents have been accused of abusing power and the advent of social media has ushered in a new form of communicating to constituents and young voters. In an election year when interest in Presidents is strong, join Centennial Books as we look to the nation's shared history to see what we can learn for

today and the future.

eric foner the american presidency: Chronology of the U.S. Presidency Mathew Manweller, 2012-03-19 This engaging and authoritative four-volume resource offers fascinating portrayals of the 44 men who have achieved the ultimate seat of power in the United States—the presidency. From George Washington to Barack Obama, *Chronology of the U.S. Presidency* portrays each of the nation's chief executives in richly observed detail. Chapter by chapter, we meet the real flesh-and-blood men occupying the one office elected by the entire country, the office that most profoundly affects the workings of the government, U.S. relations with other countries, and the everyday lives of all American citizens. Spanning four volumes, this work covers each president's early life and rise to power, the pivotal events during his presidency, and when applicable, his post-presidential life. In addition, the book includes sections on the First Ladies and presidential families plus primary source documents (speeches, memos, messages to Congress), and entertaining FYI facts—for example, once bitter rivals John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died hours apart, on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence they helped create together. More than just names-and-dates history, *Chronology of the U.S. Presidency* helps readers understand the ways each of these intriguing men changed the country, and how he in turn was impacted by his time in power.

eric foner the american presidency: The Heir Apparent Presidency Donald A. Zinman, 2023-03-17 It was during the Depression, with the Republican regime in disarray, that Franklin D. Roosevelt came into office with a mandate to change the role of government. His was one of the presidencies—like Jefferson's, Jackson's, and Lincoln's before his, and Reagan's after—that transformed the political system. But what of the successors of such transformative figures, those members and supporters of the new regime who are expected to carry forward the policies and politics of those they replace? It is these heir apparent presidents, impossibly tasked with backward-looking progress, that Donald Zinman considers in this incisive look at the curious trajectories of political power. An heir apparent president, in Zinman's analysis, can be successful but will struggle to get credit for his achievements. He must contend with the consequences of his predecessor's policies while facing a stronger opposition and sitting atop an increasingly weakened and divided party. And he will invariably alternate between three approaches to leadership: continuity, expansion, and correction. Looking in depth at James Madison, Martin Van Buren, Ulysses S. Grant (an heir apparent as the first genuine Republican to succeed Lincoln), Harry S. Truman, and George H. W. Bush, Zinman reveals how these successors of regime-changing presidents at times suffered for diverging from their predecessors' perceived policies. At times these presidents also suffered from the consequences of the policies themselves or simply from changing political circumstances. What they rarely did, as becomes painfully clear, is succeed at substantially changing the policies and politics that they inherited. It is a perilous and often thankless business, as *The Heir Apparent Presidency* makes abundantly clear, to follow and lead at once. Tracing the ways in which heir apparent presidents have met this challenge, this book offers rare and valuable insight into the movement of political time, and the shaping of political order.

eric foner the american presidency: American Presidential Elections Harvey L. Schantz, 1996-01-01 Milton Cummings, Everett Ladd, David Mayhew, Gerald Pomper, and Harvey Schantz analyze presidential elections over the sweep of American history and examine their impact on political parties, public policy, and society.

eric foner the american presidency: The Presidents and the Constitution, Volume One Ken Gormley, 2020-03-24 Shines a light on the constitutional issues that confronted and shaped each presidency from George Washington to the Progressive Era Drawing from the monumental *The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History*, published in 2016, the nation's foremost experts in the American presidency and the US Constitution join together to tell the intertwined stories of how the first twenty-seven distinctive American presidents have confronted and shaped the Constitution and thus defined the most powerful office in human history. From George Washington to William Howard Taft, *The Presidents and the Constitution, Volume 1* illuminates the evolving American presidency in a unique way—through the lens of the Constitution itself. Arranged

chronologically by president, the book examines the constitutional issues confronting each president in the context of the personalities driving historical events. The contributors illustrate the extensive powers of the American presidency in domestic and foreign affairs, showing how they have been used by the men who were granted them, and brings to light the overarching constitutional themes that span this country's history and tie each presidency to the other branches of government.

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Scott John Hammond, Robert North Roberts, Valerie A. Sulfaro, 2016-04-25 What does it take to get elected president of the United States—leader of the free world? This book gives readers insight into the major issues and events surrounding American presidential elections across more than two centuries, from the earliest years of the Republic through the campaigns of the 21st century. The race for the presidency encapsulates the broader changes in American democratic culture. This book provides insight into the major issues and events surrounding American presidential elections across more than two centuries, from the earliest years of the Republic through the campaigns of the 21st century. Readers will be able to see and understand how presidential campaigns have evolved over time, and how and why the current state of campaigning for president came into being.

eric foner the american presidency: Lincoln and Liberty Lucas E. Morel, 2015-01-20 Since Abraham Lincoln's death, generations of Americans have studied his life, presidency, and leadership, often remaking him into a figure suited to the needs and interests of their own time. This illuminating volume takes a different approach to his political thought and practice. Here, a distinguished group of contributors argue that Lincoln's relevance today is best expressed by rendering an accurate portrait of him in his own era. They seek to understand Lincoln as he understood himself and as he attempted to make his ideas clear to his contemporaries. What emerges is a portrait of a prudent leader who is driven to return the country to its original principles in order to conserve it. The contributors demonstrate that, far from advocating an expansion of government beyond its constitutional limits, Lincoln defended both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In his introduction, Justice Clarence Thomas discusses how Lincoln used the ideological and structural underpinnings of those founding documents to defeat slavery and secure the liberties that the Republic was established to protect. Other chapters reveal how Lincoln upheld the principle of limited government even as he employed unprecedented war powers. Featuring contributions from leading scholars such as Michael Burlingame, Allen C. Guelzo, Fred Kaplan, and Matthew Pinsker, this innovative collection presents fresh perspectives on Lincoln both as a political thinker and a practical politician. Taken together, these essays decisively demonstrate that the most iconic American president still has much to teach the modern-day student of politics.

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