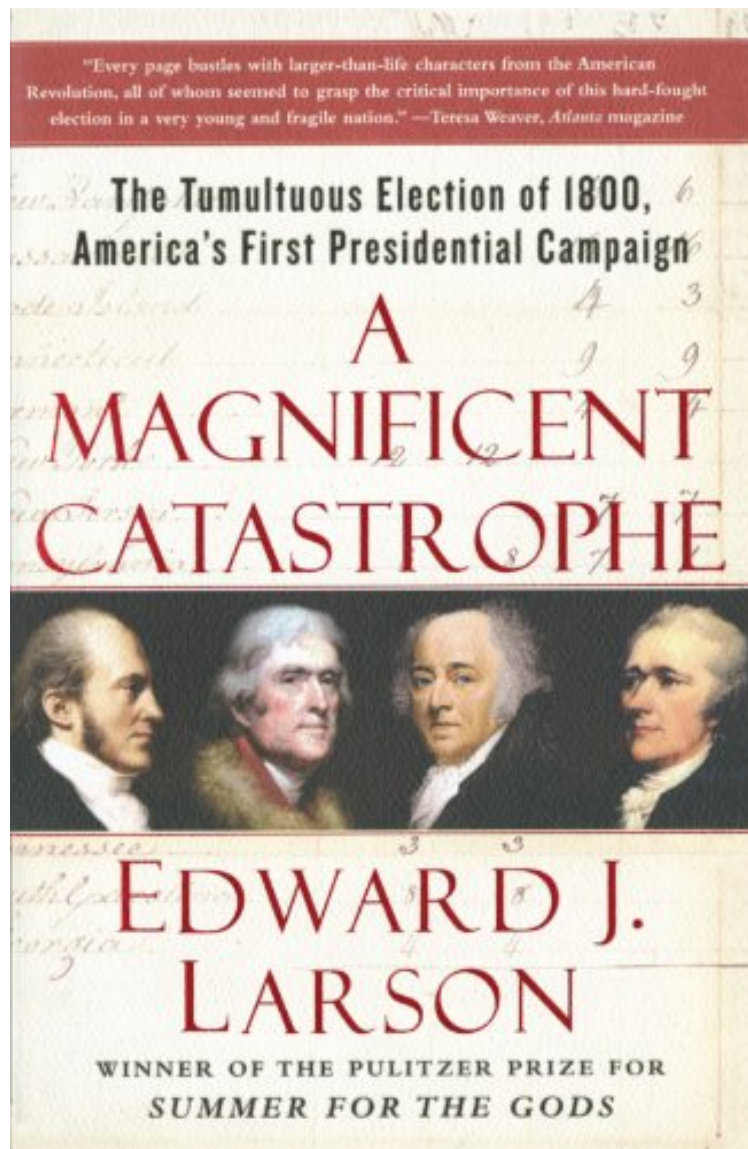


[Free download] A Magnificent Catastrophe: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, America's First Presidential Campaign

A Magnificent Catastrophe: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, America's First Presidential Campaign

Edward J. Larson

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#654283 in Books Edward J Larson 2008-06-10 2008-06-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x 1.10 x 5.501, .75 #File Name: 0743293177352 pages A Magnificent Catastrophe The Tumultuous Election of 1800 America s First Presidential Campaign | File size: 78.Mb

Edward J. Larson : A Magnificent Catastrophe: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, America's First Presidential Campaign before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Magnificent Catastrophe: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, America's First Presidential Campaign:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Roots of PartisanshipBy roxanne felineJohn Adams is president and the federalist candidate, but so thoroughly disliked that his own party was defecting to Pinckney. Alexander Hamilton plays a big role on the federalist side, but he has already climbed to power and influence, so is not as interesting as he probably was earlier in his life. Jefferson is Democratic Republican candidate, living on his plantation at Monticello, maintaining the "natural increase" of his slaves. Both were self-serving schemers in an era when revolutionary patriotism had given way to concerns of money and station and the partisanship which continues to this day had already taken root. The constitution had already shown itself to be inadequate in such an environment, and the Twelfth Amendment would be the result. This book is anti-climactic as early voting in New York City decided the presidential election and Larson has difficulty building interest in the rest of the campaign. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting history of this first real campaign especially in the 2016 election cycleBy ARGVery interesting history of this first real campaign especially in the 2016 election cycle. So many parallels. I saw Mr Larson speaking on CSPAN and sought out this book. It did not disappoint. The birth of parties in the US was not intended or wanted by the Framers and yet in only a few elections they were holding fast and shaping the country. Back room deals and smoke filled rooms. Crazy to read now. Really well written and engaging 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a quite competent review of the watershed election of 1800By Ken DahlLarson presents a quite competent review of this watershed election of 1800. The events were so incoherent that the story is frustrating, but that's not Larson's fault. We were then who we are now: a diverse people who are not timid about conflict.

CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title "They could write like angels and scheme like demons." So begins Pulitzer Prize-winner Edward Larson's masterful account of the wild ride that was the 1800 presidential election an election so convulsive and so momentous to the future of American democracy that Thomas Jefferson would later dub it "America's second revolution." This was America's first true presidential campaign, giving birth to our two-party system and indelibly etching the lines of partisanship that have so profoundly shaped American politics ever since. The contest featured two of our most beloved Founding Fathers, once warm friends, facing off as the heads of their two still-forming parties the hot-tempered but sharp-minded John Adams, and the eloquent yet enigmatic Thomas Jefferson flanked by the brilliant tacticians Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, who later settled their own differences in a duel. The country was descending into turmoil, reeling from the terrors of the French Revolution, and on the brink of war with France. Blistering accusations flew as our young nation was torn apart along party lines: Adams and his elitist Federalists would squelch liberty and impose a British-style monarchy; Jefferson and his radically democratizing Republicans would throw the country into chaos and debase the role of religion in American life. The stakes could not have been higher. As the competition heated up, other founders joined the fray James Madison, John Jay, James Monroe, Gouverneur Morris, George Clinton, John Marshall, Horatio Gates, and even George Washington some of them emerging from retirement to respond to the political crisis gripping the nation and threatening its future. Drawing on unprecedented, meticulous research of the day-to-day unfolding drama, from diaries and letters of the principal players as well as accounts in the fast-evolving partisan press, Larson vividly re-creates the mounting tension as one state after another voted and the press had the lead passing back and forth. The outcome remained shrouded in doubt long after the voting ended, and as Inauguration Day approached, Congress met in closed session to resolve the crisis. In its first great electoral challenge, our fragile experiment in constitutional democracy hung in the balance. A Magnificent Catastrophe is history writing at its evocative best: the riveting story of the last great contest of the founding period.

From Publishers Weekly In this absorbing, brisk account, Pulitzer Prizewinning historian Larson (Summer of the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion) recreates the dramatic presidential race of 1800, which, Larson says, stamped American democracy with its distinctive partisan character as Republicans and Federalists battled for the presidency. Larson explains how a race between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson actually ended in a tie between Jefferson and his running mate, Aaron Burr. (The tie was resolved by Congress.) The bitter infighting and the sophisticated political jockeying of 1800 spelled the end of any idea that America would be governed by enlightened consensus, resulting instead in the two-party system we know today. Readers will find many similarities between the intense electioneering of Adams and Jefferson, and the heated political races of today. For instance, Larson delineates debates about security and the Alien and Sedition Acts, the complex calculus of the Electoral College and the ad hominem remarks of commentators. Larson's volume will join Susan Dunn's Jefferson's Second Revolution as an invaluable study of a crucial chapter in the lives of the founding fathers and of the nation. First serial to American History magazine. (Sept. 18) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist With the benefit of two centuries of hindsight, it now appears that what united John Adams and Thomas Jefferson was far greater than what divided them. However, when these onetime friends opposed each other in the presidential election of 1800, their differences were viewed as immense. As a result, the election was notable for serpentine maneuverings and intense vitriol on both sides. This was still the age when "gentlemen" candidates did not openly campaign, but the respective Federalist and Democratic-Republican camps

went after each other viciously. Larson's account of the campaign is filled with juicy tidbits about the personalities of the key players. Adams was pugnacious, even obnoxious, and often felt trapped by some of the more extreme positions of his Federalist supporters. Jefferson, who shunned personal confrontation, made no effort to restrain the unfair attacks upon Adams by his followers, and he could be intemperate and irresponsible in some of his speculative remarks, particularly in his early support for French revolutionaries. This is a well-written and thoroughly enjoyable examination.

Freeman, Jay "In this absorbing, brisk account, Larson re-creates the dramatic presidential race of 1800...an invaluable study of a crucial chapter in the lives of the founding fathers -- and of the nation." -- Publishers Weekly

"Pulitzer Prize-winner Larson vividly recounts America's first overtly partisan election. The colorful cast of Founders included Madison, Jay, Pinckney, Monroe and Samuel Adams; the behind-the-scenes machinations of High Federalist leader Alexander Hamilton and Republican organizer Aaron Burr were especially dramatic. Larson does justice to them all and demonstrates his storytelling mastery....[A] smartly conceived, beautifully wrought campaign history, bound to entertain and inform." -- Kirkus s "A splendid new book." -- George Will, Washington Post

"Larson...both deifies and debunks the founders in A Magnificent Catastrophe...His dramatic tale offers fascinating modern parallels." -- Gil Troy, New York Times Book

"Edward Larson...captures the drama -- and complexity -- of this pivotal event in American history....He is scrupulously fair and balanced." -- Glenn C. Altschuler, Philadelphia Inquirer

"Larson... provides one of the finest insights ever written into the history of the founding -- and sometimes faltering -- first steps of our modern democratic republic." -- Thom Hartmann, BuzzFlash.com (Book of the Month)

"Smartly conceived, beautifully wrought campaign history, bound to entertain and inform." -- Kirkus s (Starred review)

"Through Larson's story, the reader can see the two-party system forming itself." -- Bruce Ramsey, Seattle Times

"The best book I've seen so far to prompt reflection on what we're doing as we prepare to elect a new president." -- John Wilson, Books and Culture