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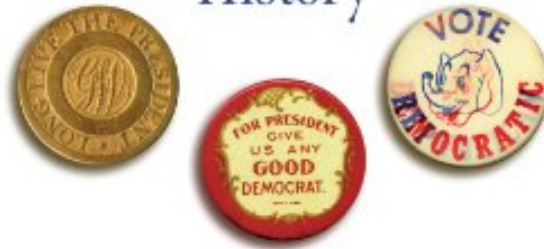
Morton Keller

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*"The single best book written in recent years
on the sweep of American political history."*
—NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

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A New Political
History



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Morton Keller : America's Three Regimes: A New Political History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America's Three Regimes: A New Political History:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I only choose to read books about 'things that matter' that are recommended by sources I respect. I only choose to read books about 'things that matter' that are recommended by sources I respect. (I do read for fun, too.) And then I plan to spend a fair amount of time actually studying and taking notes and writing. I did so with Three Regimes. Then, the last 50 pages or so completely threw me. I keep reading subtle or slyly written lines that sounded very much like so many right-wing 'opinions'. For

instance, implying that activists on "the left" are pretty much responsible for much of what is wrong with government - the regime we are in now, "Populist-Bureaucratic." He doesn't say "wrong", but the presentation leads me to that conclusion. There is a lot of "liberal-left" discussions, not much "right-wing", though. For instance, "As the Populist-Bureaucratic regime evolved...the policy emphasis shifted from equality of opportunity to equality of results." This has long been a 'conservative' shortcut to dismissing education, housing, health care, etc. programs for poor - many of whom were minorities. (You have probably heard this phrase from Republican candidates - a different way of saying "the takers"). As one of those old "advocates", I don't know anyone that said the goal was that everyone should be the 'same' - same house, car, years of education, income...NO ONE said that. The common term (which I dislike, but it's the one conservatives emulate) "The American Dream" is the supposed goal of us all. So, it is referenced when speaking of the obstacles to taking the path to the American Dream. The point is the PATH, not the DREAM. However, conservatives skipped the 'path' and went immediately to 'they want houses and cars like us and we worked hard for those!' Yes, they probably did, but no, their 'path' to those things would have to be the same as your's. The problem to be solved was that the 'path' was not available to everyone. My point being, the author makes many of these subtle choices of old words that say much more than one would imagine, especially if you weren't around to hear who was saying them first. The book was published before Obama was elected, so many things in the last 50 pages (our current 'regime') do not ring true. While 'you can't know what you don't know', I would expect this author to be close in his 'predictions' of where we are only 8 years since his writing. Maybe time will out for his analysis, as it stands some things are wrong - "Now, the stress is on expanding [voting]..." "As the parties retain the power that comes with being major spenders of campaign money." Referencing (IRS) 527-groups as the new power, and others. What I did find worth my time was early history of America. It never is a waste of time to read others' take on how 'we' got here. I am open to the 'redefinition' of historical time into something other than 'this war, that war, this pres that pres'. I think that this suggestion is useful to push the reader to 'think otherwise'. As for the #3 of the Three Regimes, I remain skeptical of the author's analysis of what it means, even though he describes the structure as it now exists. So, here's advice I've never given to anyone reading anything - read the end first. It won't spoil the story, but if those last pages give you an uneasy feeling that somehow the author is not being very forthcoming with his own political philosophy, choose something else. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Was required for a class and even though this subject ...By Andrew Beres Was required for a class and even though this subject is not related to my major, still found it an interesting book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Nicholas Norris boring but interesting

Hailed in The New York Times Book Review as "the single best book written in recent years on the sweep of American political history," this groundbreaking work divides our nation's history into three "regimes," each of which lasts many, many decades, allowing us to appreciate as never before the slow steady evolution of American politics, government, and law. The three regimes, which mark longer periods of continuity than traditional eras reflect, are Deferential and Republican, from the colonial period to the 1820s; Party and Democratic, from the 1830s to the 1930s; and Populist and Bureaucratic, from the 1930s to the present. Praised by The Economist as "a feast to enjoy" and by Foreign Affairs as "a masterful and fresh account of U.S. politics," here is a major contribution to the history of the United States--an entirely new way to look at our past, our present, and our future--packed with provocative and original observations about American public life.

"Brilliant and original...In America's Three Regimes, Morton Keller has not only provided a striking new way of thinking about American politics but also written an engaging narrative that can be read with profit by the general public as well as academic specialists. I would hazard a guess that America's Three Regimes will find a place on the small and exclusive shelf of classics of American political history."--Michael Lind, The Forum "Uniformly challenging and thought-provoking."--Mark J. Stern, American Historical "Few will fail to be impressed by the scope of Keller's magisterial synthesis--a fitting capstone to an illustrious career."--Richard J. Ellis The Journal of American History "A thought-provoking book, and anyone interested in US history or politics will want to be familiar with it. Highly recommended."--G.Eow, CHOICE "One of the most engaging and accessible portraits of America's political evolution of recent years...[I]f I were asked to name the single best book [I] written in recent years on the sweep of American political history, I'd answer America's Three Regimes."--New York Times Book "He is breezy without being glib, and original without being eccentric. Even if you don't find the idea of Mr. Keller's three regimes illuminating, his book is. Never misty-eyed, he keeps finding the right anecdote to support his view of American exceptionalism...[H]is book is a feast to enjoy."--The Economist "A masterful and fresh account of U.S. politics...[A] well-constructed and fast-paced historical narrative with a powerful analytic model make for a book that will provoke and engage specialists while providing less seasoned readers in the United States and abroad with a very useful and accessible introduction to the development of U.S. politics."--Foreign Affairs "For students of American history, a thesis worth exploring."--Kirkus "Professor Morton Keller of Brandeis has performed an important service with this brilliant, engaging new book...In America's Three Regimes, Morton Keller has produced a valuable, highly readable survey of American political

history that answers many of the questions about government and the people that we ask today. This is the epitome of pleasurable reading...Kudos to Professor Keller and congratulations to those lucky enough to encounter his book."--the Weekly Standard

"This uncommonly ambitious book confirms Morton Keller's standing in the front rank of American political historians. Few scholars can match Keller's depth of knowledge about the entirety of America's political development, or his ability to weave such a rich and colorful narrative tapestry. America's Three Regimes is a book that compels us to re-think much that we have thought we understood about the American political tradition. This is history in the grand style--creatively conveyed and magisterially executed."--David M. Kennedy, author of Freedom from Fear

"A sweeping history of American political institutions that stresses continuity as much as change, America's Three Regimes is a reminder of the importance of understanding the political past when grappling with the partisan present."--Joanne B. Freeman, author of Affairs of Honor

"An informative and enjoyable read. Every political scientist will learn from this magisterial account by one of America's foremost political historians."--Morris Fiorina, Stanford University

"Keller has written a highly original and compelling account of the American polity. Maintaining a brisk pace from the colonial era to the present, he shows how politics and government in the United States have been shaped by three enduring regimes that have wrestled with the profound challenges of emancipating the country from Great Britain, providing self-government on a grand scale, and upholding the rights of the individuals and groups in a complex, unforgiving commercial society. Combining rich narrative and keen insight, America's Three Regimes is a fascinating retrospective on the country's enduring problems and its impressive resiliency."--Sidney M. Milkis, University of Virginia

"This study is an ambitious work; it is a sweeping political history of the United States from the colonial period to the present...In an engaging, fast-paced manner, the author narrates how the United States advanced from a colonial network, to a young republic, to a democracy with a strong two-party system, to the current populist-bureaucratic state in which many citizens define themselves by issues rather than political parties."--The Historian

About the Author Morton Keller is Spector Professor of History Emeritus at Brandeis University.