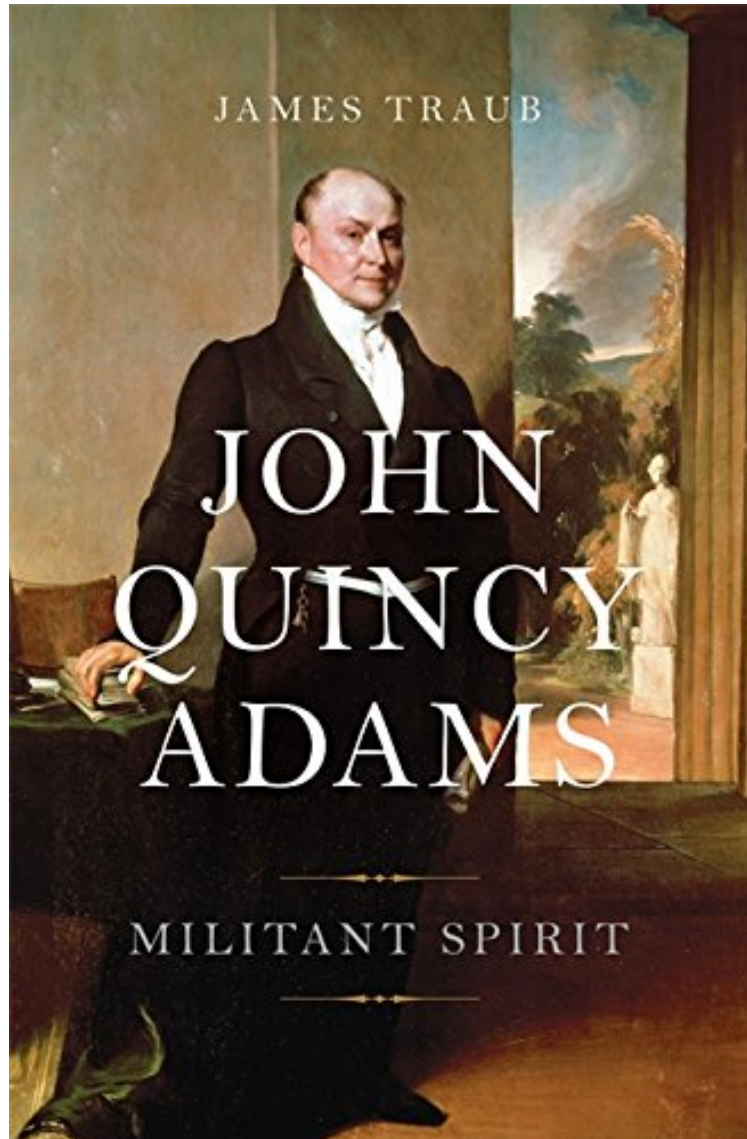


[Download pdf ebook] John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit

## John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit

James Traub

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#129145 in Books 2016-03-22 2016-03-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.63 x 2.00 x 6.50l, .0 #File Name: 0465028276640 pages | File size: 65.Mb

**James Traub : John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit:

29 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Tremendous biography of an underappreciated statesmanBy Matthew L. ShineyMr. Traub has written an excellent biography of one of the most underappreciated titans of our Republic. Adams was a man of impeccable integrity and clung dearly to his principles of individual liberty, republicanism, foreign policy realism and nationalism, often at the expense of his political fortunes. His life serves as a

model to counter the current status quo of our self-serving politicians. He was a staunch defender of our founding principles and vigorously fought the "slavocracy" with passion and intellectual force. Traub does an excellent job of highlighting this man's virtues, as well as his faults. He has done a tremendous service to a man all but forgotten by history. With the exception of Alexander Hamilton and Mr. Adams' own father, there may not be a man who was so instrumental to our history that receives less credit than he is due. He is without a doubt one of our greatest diplomats and congressmen. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. One of the best presidential biographies I have ever read. By Mike Powers My ongoing project to read a scholarly biography of every American president took a major step forward earlier this month when I discovered a brand-new biography of John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States. Written by journalist and author James Traub, *John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit* is a masterful example of the presidential biographers art. In this superb book, Traub draws a highly detailed and multi-dimensional portrait of John Quincy Adams and the times in which he lived. Born in 1767, John Quincy Adams was the oldest child of John Adams (American founding father and second president) and Abigail Smith Adams. Young John Quincy always strove to meet the high expectations of his parents, both of whom demanded from him not only great scholarly accomplishment, but also behavior of the highest rectitude. John Quincy acquired a first-rate classical education under the guidance of his father. He was keenly intellectual, and, by his own admission, highly reserved, judgmental, and rather cold and aloof much like his parents. Also like his parents, he was a progressive thinker, and a lifelong, resolute foe of slavery. In his teen years and early adulthood, John Quincy Adams served as his father's private secretary while the elder Adams was negotiating the Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War. He was well traveled; he served as an ambassador of the fledgling United States to several European countries; all the while continuing his education. He returned home and briefly served as a Senator from Massachusetts. His unpopular stands on several issues led him to leave office before finishing his term. Later in life, he served as Secretary of State in the administration of President James Monroe. He was then elected as the sixth President of the United States, but once again his unpopularity led to his defeat for reelection to a second term. His long political career was not over, though. After he left the presidency, he was elected to the House of Representatives from his home district. He became the only person in American history to accomplish this. He served in the House for eight terms, until his death in 1848 at age 80. Traub examines in detail several key aspects of Adams' life. These include his not always harmonious marriage to Louisa Johnson Adams, a union marked by the tragedies of Louisa's frequent miscarriages and the deaths of three of their children; Adams' eloquent defense before the Supreme Court of 44 Africans who had escaped from the slave ship *Amistad*; and his ultimately successful ten-year battle in the Southern (and therefore pro-slavery) dominated House of Representatives against the gag rule, which prohibited House members from accepting anti-slavery petitions from their constituents. Traub backs up his supremely readable narrative of John Quincy Adams' life with impressive scholarship. He relies extensively on John Quincy Adams' diaries, which run to 51 volumes and over 14,000 pages. Traub also cites other biographical and historical works about Adams and the era in which he lived. Throughout this book, Traub demonstrates a thorough mastery not only of John Quincy Adams' life but also of the times in which he lived. *John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit* ranks among the best presidential biographies I have ever read. Most highly recommended. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Well-researched and engaging look at an amazing man. By Gene Killian Reading this book in a US election year was sort of depressing, because it made me (starkly) realize that, when it comes to many of our leaders, we're in a sort of reverse evolution. This book brings the brilliant and quirky John Quincy Adams to life. He's perhaps best described by the last words of the text, referring to his wife Louisa: "Her husband, whose soul she had penetrated as no other mortal had and whom she found exasperating, tendentious, intolerant, self-absorbed, and yet, in the end, magnificent." This is a wonderful book and well worth reading.

"Penetrating, detailed, and very readable. . . . A splendid biography." --Wall Street Journal Few figures in American history have held as many roles in public life as John Quincy Adams. The son of John Adams, he was a brilliant ambassador and secretary of state, a frustrated president, and a dedicated congressman who staunchly opposed slavery. In *John Quincy Adams*, scholar and journalist James Traub draws on Adams's diaries, letters, and writings to evoke his numerous achievements—and failures—in office. A man of unwavering moral convictions, Adams is the father of foreign policy "realism" and one of the first proponents of the "activist government." But John Quincy Adams is first and foremost the story of a brilliant, flinty, and unyielding man whose life exemplified admirable political courage.

"By rights, John Quincy Adams should be one of America's most famous presidents. His life story is remarkable, the son of one of the nation's founding presidents, the only one to serve in an elected office after leaving the White House, and a man of vast intelligence and political courage who died while debating in the House of Representatives. Yet he's an obscure figure. James Traub has rectified this in a book worthy of its subject." Fareed Zakaria, Fareed Zakaria GPS "Traub's work is a reminder to Americans that politicians can be devoted to national issues, promote their principles, and still maintain their integrity." Choice "Well-written and highly readable biography...highly accessible work." Chronicles "[An] excellent biography.... [John Quincy Adams'] life is worth meditating on, and Traub's

biography is an indispensable resource for doing so."Washington Free Beacon"James Traub has admirably captured the man inside the public figure, giving us a view of a typical New England grandee, puritanical at his core, molded as a traditionalist republican with no love for pure democracy, convinced that governing was intended for the class born and bred for it."The Arts Fuse"Traub thoroughly, even quite engagingly, follows Adams through the years during which he served in the diplomatic corps, building up the reputation as the new republic's best representative abroad."Booklist, starred review"[An] essential biography of a complex man.... Traub shows that without imperiling national unity, Adams's persistent, perspicacious opposition to slavery 'shattered the overweening confidence of the South' and confirmed his place in America's history."Publishers Weekly, starred review"Traub depicts a fully fleshed character, an extraordinary man driven by his birthright principles, a voluminous diarist, scholar, poet, polymath, eccentric, and iconoclast. The author also offers a masterly portrait of Adams' wife, Louisa. An impassioned biography of 'a coherent and consistent thinker who adhered to his core political convictions across his decades of public service.'"Kirkus"James Traub's new biography of John Quincy Adams is exceptionally strong. Adams was a complicated hero, a patrician visionary but also, as Traub puts it, a militant spirit, one of the most important diplomats in all of American history and, finally, slavery's greatest enemy in American politics."Sean Wilentz, author of *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln*"John Quincy Adams was a great statesman and a heroic crusader for freedom, whose finest hours, ironically, came both before and after his time as president. James Traub does us a service by bringing him to life again for a new generation. With a journalist's touch, Traub paints a vivid portrait of the man in all his complexity."Robert Kagan, author of *Of Paradise and Power*"In lucid prose and with canny insight, James Traub illuminates the life and political career of John Quincy Adams. Driven by grim purpose and consistent values, Adams was hard to love but demanded respect as he matured into a champion of liberty for all. Traub admires Adams [and is] tinged with sadness for the absence of his type in our own times."Alan Taylor, author of *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*About the AuthorJames Traub is a columnist and a regular contributor at [ForeignPolicy.com](http://ForeignPolicy.com) and teaches foreign policy at New York University. He lives in New York City.