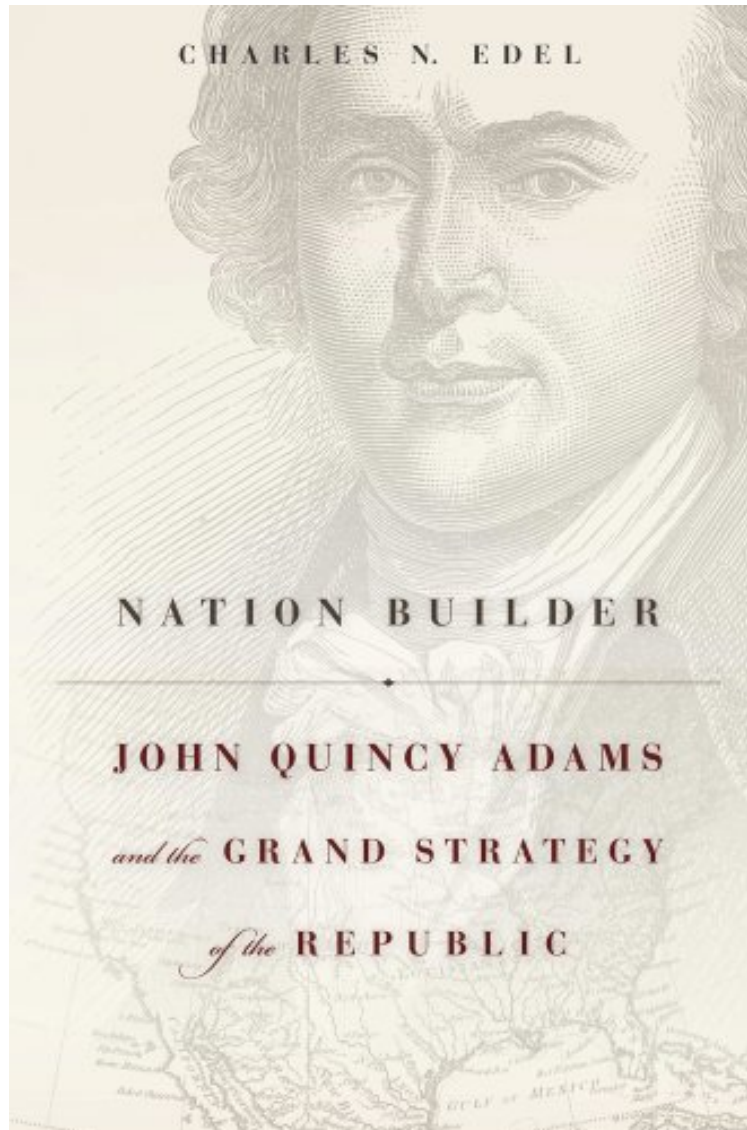


[Online library] Nation Builder: John Quincy Adams and the Grand Strategy of the Republic

Nation Builder: John Quincy Adams and the Grand Strategy of the Republic

Charles N. Edel

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#791921 in Books 2014-10-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.76 x 1.35 x 5.721, .0 #File Name: 0674368088432 pages | File size: 34.Mb

Charles N. Edel : Nation Builder: John Quincy Adams and the Grand Strategy of the Republic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nation Builder: John Quincy Adams and the Grand Strategy of the Republic:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. He Planted the Tree of LibertyBy Christian SchlectA well-written, thoughtful book on the public life of John Quincy Adams. Although a failed president and a difficult man, Adams

career, taken in its entirety, places him as one of our country's foremost statesmen. Professor Edel clearly lays out the evolving strategy that drove JQA to protect our country from foreign entanglements, promote domestic improvements, and enhance federal power. And, most importantly, to stay in the fight to the last breath against the Southern slave power. JQA laid the theoretical groundwork upon which, a few decades later, Abraham Lincoln triumphed. This book should win prizes. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book bridging the evolution of political thought in early America. By Anthony L Allou III A thoughtful, thoroughly researched look at an early American strategic thinker and the experiences and education that influenced his vision. Professor Edel depicts the struggles of a leader forced to bridge the span between the varied political philosophies of the founders and the realities of the forces those philosophies put into motion. John Quincy Adams was confident in his vision to keep America vibrant and growing as it matured politically, economically, and militarily. However, he did not possess the political genius to successfully implement that vision. The first three chapters of the book are foundational in describing Adams development as a strategic thinker, and setting the stage for the culmination of his career as an American leader as the President and in Congress. I thought Chapter Four ("The Spirit of Improvement") was an excellent summary of the failures of his one term as President. His inability to come to terms with the dynamics of a more fully enfranchised population and the Congress elected by it are well argued. Adams spent most of his life preparing himself intellectually and practically for the Presidency, but never cultivated the capacity for compromise or organizational skill needed to succeed in a political environment where his opponents outnumbered his allies. I cannot help but think this is an area ripe for further exploration, especially in light of the dynamics of American politics over the course of the past decade or more. I truly appreciated Chapter Five (A Stain Upon the Character of the Nation) as a tribute to Adams perseverance after the letdowns of his Presidency. It is in his post-Presidential career where his moral strength and clarity of thought best served the country, and the line of reasoning in this chapter allows the reader to understand Adams impact on the course of the nation long after his death. Professor Edel is at his best illuminating Adams assessment of the effects of slavery on the country's domestic and foreign policy, including Adams analysis of the impending struggle to dismantle the institution. Adams ability to take the long view politically and morally at the end of his career stands in stark contrast to the disappointments of his Presidency. A fine read, I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the early development of political thought in the country, the tremendous influences on political leaders in that time, and certainly for those who want to gain insight into the actions of a little known yet highly influential American. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An insightful lens into the strategic thinking behind America's rise, through one of its central architects. By Nikhil Patel The rise of America as a continental power, ready to reengage the world, is too often described as the product of vague historical forces, without due regard to its architects. In turn, John Quincy Adams remains an obscure figure in American memory, his importance to America's survival and success poorly understood. "Nation Builder" makes great strides in addressing both of these issues. It is at once a thoughtful exploration of John Quincy Adams the man, with a nuanced understanding of how his outlook and temperament evolved over the course of his public life, and a consideration of the degree to which America's rise was the product of a "grand strategy" rather than being a historical inevitability unaffected by leadership. Edel has written a rich, sometimes dense, but always intelligent book. If you are interested in JQA or the strategic challenges of the early American Republic, it is worth a read!

America goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. John Quincy Adams's famous words are often quoted to justify noninterference in other nations' affairs. Yet when he spoke them, Adams was not advocating neutrality or passivity but rather outlining a national policy that balanced democratic idealism with a pragmatic understanding of the young republic's capabilities and limitations. America's rise from a confederation of revolutionary colonies to a world power is often treated as inevitable, but Charles N. Edel's provocative biography of Adams argues that he served as the central architect of a grand strategy that shaped America's rise. Adams's particular combination of ideas and policies made him a critical link between the founding generation and the Civil War era nation of Lincoln. Examining Adams's service as senator, diplomat, secretary of state, president, and congressman, Edel's study of this extraordinary figure reveals a brilliant but stubborn man who was both visionary prophet and hard-nosed politician. Adams's ambitions on behalf of America's interests, combined with a shrewd understanding of how to counter the threats arrayed against them, allowed him to craft a multitiered policy to insulate the nation from European quarrels, expand U.S. territory, harness natural resources, develop domestic infrastructure, education, and commerce, and transform the United States into a model of progress and liberty respected throughout the world. While Adams did not live to see all of his strategy fulfilled, his vision shaped the nation's agenda for decades afterward and continues to resonate as America pursues its place in the twenty-first-century world.

Nation Builder: John Quincy Adams and the Grand Strategy of the Republic is an intellectual biography rather than a full-dress life. Few presidents merit such treatment as much as Adams, who, through essays, speeches, letters and a diary kept meticulously over almost 70 years, left a remarkable record of a great mind at work on the prospects of the young, fragile nation. For Adams, greatness without virtue like the greatness of Napoleon was monstrous. Principle was

everything. I don't know that today's grand strategists would find Adams's exacting standards congenial. He was, as Edel demonstrates, a farseeing man. But he asked more of America than it is inclined to ask of itself. (James Traub Wall Street Journal 2014-12-12) 2014 has been a surprisingly fruitful year for studies of John Quincy Adams, and Edel's book is in many ways the most intelligent of the bunch. The Adams who emerges from his pages is a fittingly complex figure, as often at war with his own nature as he was with the petty partisanship or Southern slaveholding of his day. Edel's readers will take away from his book a new appreciation of how much the United States they know owes to this early President they've scarcely heard of. (Steve Donoghue Open Letters Monthly 2014-10-02) Charles Edel's accurate, honest, and sensitive portrait gets both the history and timeless wisdom of John Quincy Adams exactly right. His ambitious grand strategy was designed for nation building at home, in North America. (Walter A. McDougall, University of Pennsylvania) Ideas and power are the key ingredients of national achievement, and John Quincy Adams mastered both at a crucial time in American history. Anyone interested in the history of our society and its future possibilities will benefit from this provocative and compelling account of Adams's life, his thought, and his enduring legacies. (Jeremi Suri, author of Liberty's Surest Guardian: American Nation-Building from the Founders to Obama) [A] remarkable new work. Edel has written a book I wish I had written: a dual biography, of Adams and of the early American republic. The United States has been most successful when it has pursued the sort of grand strategy that Adams envisioned. Charles Edel has written a book worthy of the author of that grand strategy. (Mackubin Thomas Owens National 2014-12-22) Edel shows convincingly that Adams was the first to advance a comprehensive vision for his country. His grand strategy required setting clear priorities and knowing how to tie them together in the proper sequence. Those priorities were neutrality with regard to the European powers, continental expansion westward, and promotion of economic development in the belief that improvement of the lives of ordinary citizens would strengthen republicanism. A last priority, not achieved in his lifetime, was to work for the abolition of slavery, which he regarded as a stain on the character of the nation. (D. J. Maletz Choice 2015-04-01) In this masterful and fluidly written book, Edel tells the story of John Quincy Adams and explores Adams's pivotal contributions to the American tradition of grand strategy. (Henry R. Nau Foreign Affairs 2015-05-01) [This book] has surprising resonance with the present. (James Fallows The Atlantic 2015-08-03) About the Author Charles N. Edel is Assistant Professor of Strategy and Policy at the U.S. Naval War College.