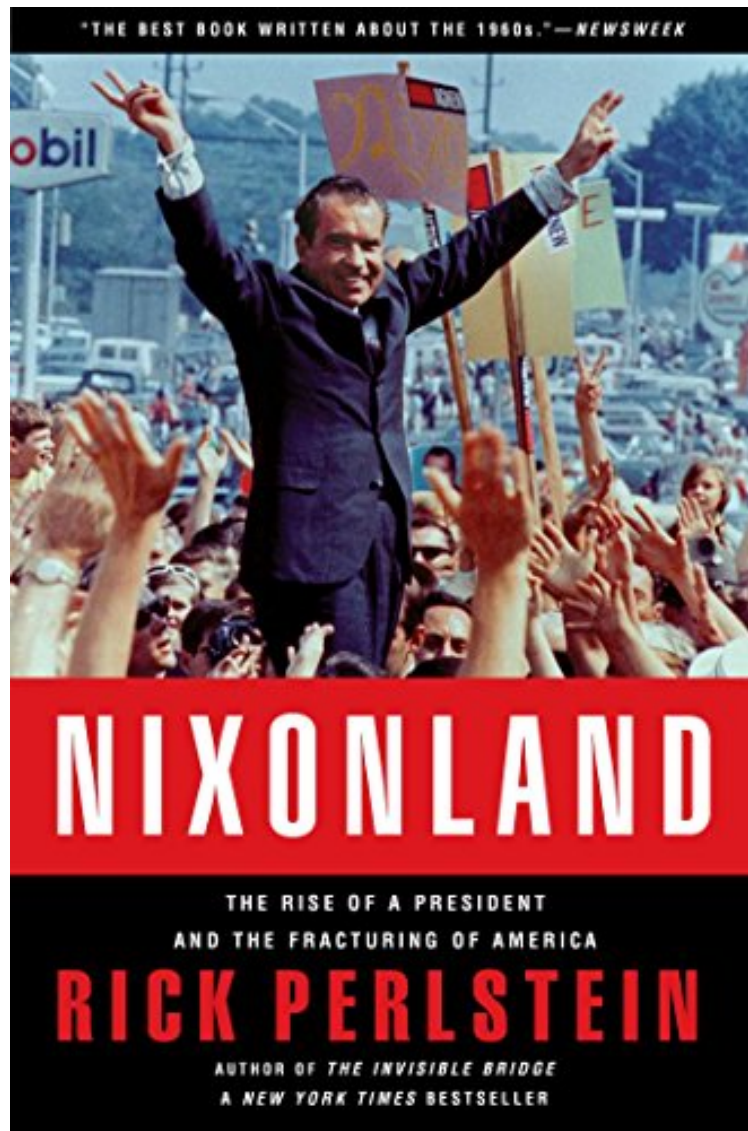


(Free download) Nixonland: The Rise of a President and the Fracturing of America

Nixonland: The Rise of a President and the Fracturing of America

Rick Perlstein

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Rick Perlstein : Nixonland: The Rise of a President and the Fracturing of America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nixonland: The Rise of a President and the Fracturing of America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought-provoking and worthwhile (if not an easy read)By KCrimsonThe Pros:1. A very thoroughly researched, insightful, penetrating book about one of the most interesting periods in American history;2. While it isn't completely about Nixon, it describes the man and his history in some detail and Nixon is a very interesting man;3. Perlstein does an excellent job describing the 'fracturing of America' in a

way that doesn't really take a side but provides perspective on both sides. The Con: 1. I found Perlstein's writing, on occasion, unduly dense and difficult to sift through. He often selects sentence structure that seems unnecessarily complex. Even though I have an extensive vocabulary, I had to use the Kindle dictionary more than a few times. He even used some words that stumped the Kindle dictionary. When I'm trying to make my way through an 800 page book, I really don't want to go back and re-read a sentence three or four times or hunt around for a dictionary to look up an especially esoteric word. (In the context of this review, I even feel a little sheepish using the word 'esoteric.') If I were a friend of Perlstein's, I would suggest he spend a summer reading Steinbeck. Moreover, the book is very thought-provoking and worth the considerable effort. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and full-featured retelling of the Nixon ascendancy By Stephen Matlock Fascinating retelling of the story of the rise of Nixon and the Republican Party from its 1950s history as well as the ashes of the 1964 utter debacle of Barry Goldwater. This is the era I lived through, and while there were attempts to bring this information forward at the time, it got hidden by the overwhelming propaganda from the Nixon machine. We've turned politics into a scorched earth battle, and Nixon is largely responsible for this and exemplifies this. So many men were killed in Vietnam over a senseless war that Nixon extended. So many men and women in America were killed or robbed of their birthright inheritance as Americans by the policies Nixon enacted and enforced. He trained us to turn on the weakest among us because they couldn't fight back. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good read. By Eugene C. Cochran I have never been a fan of Richard Nixon. Never voted for him. This book reminds me why I didn't like him. This is a rehash of the later days of the Johnson Administration through the first term of Nixon. He was a tragic figure who built upon the dark side of America. An excellent read. I am now reading its sequel about the relationship between Nixon and Reagan.

Told with urgency and sharp political insight, *Nixonland* recaptures America's turbulent 1960s and early 1970s and reveals how Richard Nixon rose from the political grave to seize and hold the presidency. Perlstein's epic account begins in the blood and fire of the 1965 Watts riots, nine months after Lyndon Johnson's historic landslide victory over Barry Goldwater appeared to herald a permanent liberal consensus in the United States. Yet the next year, scores of liberals were tossed out of Congress, America was more divided than ever, and a disgraced politician was on his way to a shocking comeback: Richard Nixon. Between 1965 and 1972, America experienced no less than a second civil war. Out of its ashes, the political world we know now was born. It was the era not only of Nixon, Johnson, Spiro Agnew, Hubert H. Humphrey, George McGovern, Richard J. Daley, and George Wallace but Abbie Hoffman, Ronald Reagan, Angela Davis, Ted Kennedy, Charles Manson, John Lindsay, and Jane Fonda. There are tantalizing glimpses of Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush, Jesse Jackson, John Kerry, and even of two ambitious young men named Karl Rove and William Clinton -- and a not so ambitious young man named George W. Bush. Cataclysms tell the story of *Nixonland*: -Angry blacks burning down their neighborhoods in cities across the land as white suburbanites defend home and hearth with shotguns -The student insurgency over the Vietnam War, the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and the riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention -The fissuring of the Democratic Party into warring factions manipulated by the dirty tricks of Nixon and his Committee to Re-Elect the President -Richard Nixon pledging a new dawn of national unity, governing more divisively than any president before him, then directing a criminal conspiracy, the Watergate cover-up, from the Oval Office Then, in November 1972, Nixon, harvesting the bitterness and resentment born of America's turmoil, was reelected in a landslide even bigger than Johnson's 1964 victory, not only setting the stage for his dramatic 1974 resignation but defining the terms of the ideological divide that characterizes America today. Filled with prodigious research and driven by a powerful narrative, Rick Perlstein's magisterial account of how America divided confirms his place as one of our country's most celebrated historians.

.com Best of the Month, May 2008: How did we go from Lyndon Johnson's landslide Democratic victory in 1964 to Richard Nixon's equally lopsided Republican reelection only eight years later? The years in between were among the most chaotic in American history, with an endless and unpopular war, riots, assassinations, social upheaval, Southern resistance, protests both peaceful and armed, and a "Silent Majority" that twice elected the central figure of the age, a brilliant politician who relished the battles of the day but ended them in disgrace. In *Nixonland* Rick Perlstein tells a more familiar story than the one he unearthed in his influential previous book, *Before the Storm*, which argued that the stunning success of modern conservatism was founded in Goldwater's massive 1964 defeat. But he makes it fresh and relentlessly compelling, with obsessive original research and a gleefully slashing style--equal parts Walter Winchell and Hunter S. Thompson--that's true to the times. Perlstein is well known as a writer on the left, but his historian's empathies are intense and unpredictable: he convincingly channels the resentment and rage on both sides of the battle lines and lets neither Nixon's cynicism nor the naivete of liberals like New York mayor John Lindsay off the hook. And while election-year readers will be reminded of how much tamer our times are, they'll also find that the echoes of the era, and its persistent national divisions, still ring loud and clear. --Tom Nissley From Publishers Weekly Starred . Perlstein, winner of a Los Angeles Times Book Prize for *Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of the American Consensus*, provides a compelling account of Richard Nixon as a masterful harvester of negative energy,

turning the turmoil of the 1960s into a ladder to political notoriety. Perlstein's key narrative begins at about the time of the Watts riots, in the shadow of Lyndon Johnson's overwhelming 1964 victory at the polls against Goldwater, which left America's conservative movement broken. Through shrewdly selected anecdotes, Perlstein demonstrates the many ways Nixon used riots, anti-Vietnam War protests, the drug culture and other displays of unrest as an easy relief against which to frame his pitch for his narrow win of 1968 and landslide victory of 1972. Nixon spoke of solid, old-fashioned American values, law and order and respect for the traditional hierarchy. In this way, says Perlstein, Nixon created a new dividing line in the rhetoric of American political life that remains with us today. At the same time, Perlstein illuminates the many demons that haunted Nixon, especially how he came to view his political adversaries as enemies of both himself and the nation and brought about his own downfall. 16 pages of bw photos. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A richly detailed descent into the inferno -- that is, the years when Richard Milhous Nixon, 'a serial collector of resentments,' ruled the land." -- Kirkus

"Nixonland is a grand historical epic. Rick Perlstein has turned a story we think we know -- American politics between the opposing presidential landslides of 1964 and 1972 -- into an often surprising and always fascinating new narrative. This riveting book, full of colorful detail and great characters, brings back to life an astonishing era -- and shines a new light on our own." -- Jeffrey Toobin author of *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*

"This is a terrific read. What a delight it is to discover the new generation of historians like Rick Perlstein not only getting history correct but giving us all fresh insights and understanding of it." -- John W. Dean Nixon's White House counsel

"Rick Perlstein has written a fascinating account of the rise of Richard Nixon and a persuasive argument that this angry, toxic man will always be part of the American landscape." -- Richard Reeves author of *President Reagan: The Triumph of Imagination*

"Rick Perlstein's *Nixonland* digs deep into a decisive period of our history and brings back a past that is all the scarier for its intense humanity. With a firm grasp on the larger meaning of countless events and personalities, many of them long forgotten, Perlstein superbly shows how paranoia and innuendo flowed into the mainstream of American politics after 1968, creating divisive passions that have survived for decades." -- Sean Wilentz Princeton University, author of *The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974-2008*

"The best book written about the 1960s." -- Newsweek