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Kendrick A. Clements

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Kendrick A. Clements : Presidency of Woodrow Wilson: 1st (First) Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Presidency of Woodrow Wilson: 1st (First) Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Great Presidency TarnishedBy Ricardo MioThe Democratic Party as we know it today begins herewith the presidency of Woodrow Wilson. Until the 1912 presidential election, the Democrats had been the party of Jefferson and Jackson, of small government, states rights, the party against centralized banks and organized labor and, when it came to business monopolies and trusts, decidedly laissez faire. Beginning with the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, that changed. The Progressive Era started by William McKinley and took flight with Theodore Roosevelt, was embraced and expanded by our 28th president. The Presidency of Woodrow Wilson by Hendrick A. Clements, is a tale of two presidential terms--the highly successful first term involving Wilsons progressive domestic agenda, and his less-than-stellar second term involving Wilsons foreign policy. While he admires Woodrow Wilson, Professor Clements isnt bashful about examining his shortcomings. Clements' writing is crisp and brisk, ever advancing the narrative.Woodrow Wilson was a man of exceptional intellect, and the first and only president with a doctorate degree (in political science). While a bit stiff and humorless, Wilson had charisma and could be extremely persuasive. He moved up quickly through the ranks of college professors. From 1902 to 1910 he served as president of Princeton University, establishing a reputation as a reform-minded thinker. Recruited by the Democratic Party of New Jersey, he won election as state governor 1910. In 1912, a political novice just two years removed from academia, Wilson was nominated for president by the Democrats. In a three-way race with Roosevelt and incumbent William Taft, Wilson ascended to the presidency in only the second election of his

life. Wilson received a heavy assist from "The People's Lawyer," crusading reformer (and future Supreme Court Justice) Louis Brandeis. If Wilson had any doubt about his progressive vision for America, Brandeis encouraged his message and helped to push his reform agenda through Congress. Among the progressive bills passed: the Federal Reserve Act, which greatly enhanced the government's ability to control the nation's money supply; the creation of the Federal Trade Commission, designed to guarantee fairness in the way the nation's goods and services were bought and sold; and a law outlawing child labor. Another bill mandated an eight-hour day for railway workers and another (Underwood Simmons) reduced the tariffs on imports and established the first graduated federal income tax. On top of that, Wilson pushed through legislation to outlaw deceptive business practices and to provide low-cost long-term mortgages to farmers. Wilson also was an outspoken advocate of women's suffrage, a position that helped ratify the 20th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. Also, he instituted the first regular White House press conferences, and he inaugurated the tradition of presidents addressing Congress in person, rather than issuing a prepared written statement. Wilson's second term was dominated by the conduct of World War I and his efforts to bring lasting world peace. America's entrance into the war helped turn the tide against Germany, which surrendered in November 1918. Wilson was alone among European allies in opposition to the punitive reparations that the Treaty of Versailles imposed on Germany. A part of the treaty included Wilson's plan for the formation of a League of Nations to adjudicate future international conflicts. In the end, the French and British allies refused to yield on the issue of reparations and the U.S. Senate failed to ratify the treaty, dooming Wilson's League of Nations. Wilson has come under fire in recent years for his racism, including his unconscionable re-segregation of several federal agencies, an act that destroyed the careers of a number of African American civil servants. This is shameful. Another dark spot on Wilson's presidency was his handling of communist advocates within the U.S. borders. His attorney general, A. Mitchell Palmer, took strong measures to crush so-called subversive activities. The Palmer Raids, along with other administration actions (such as imprisoning the socialist leader Eugene Debs) have been much reviled by civil libertarians. No president is perfect, as Wilson's presidency certainly attests. He accomplished a great deal, and made some egregious errors. Wilson was never wildly popular as president, and his reputation among admiring historians has cooled somewhat in recent years. Professor Clements gives Wilson his due, and fairly I believe. Currently, Wilson is rated eighth on the list of presidential greatness. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another excellent American Presidency Series presentation. By Tom Fenton. In his presentation of "The Presidency of Woodrow Wilson", Kendrick A. Clements has continued the American Presidency series' tradition of bringing history to life in an interesting, satisfying and informative way. As a series (this is the third in the series that I have read, Andrew Jackson and Harry S. Truman being the others) American Presidency histories are usually close to 300 pages in length, and thoroughly present the events and leadership of the subject. Clements has kept the tradition with his writing. President Wilson is presented from beginning to end as a man committed to his faith and determined to lead according to moral principles, often unwilling to compromise, sometimes stubborn almost to a fault, yet desirous of making the best decisions possible. Yet, for all his good intentions, and good ideas, Wilson was often his own worst enemy. He was often naive about the "good intentions" of business, citizens and nations. Yet, he has come to be considered one of our "near great" presidents by historians. How Woodrow Wilson went from his humble beginnings, to college presidency, to U.S. Presidency is a fascinating story, ably presented in this historical biography. How he ultimately fell victim to his own worst traits, due in large part to the massive stroke he suffered on October 2, 1919 is heartbreaking. How the nation continued to consider him at least marginally qualified to handle the job after such a physically devastating stroke, and how his wife Edith successfully fronted for him while he finished out his second term, with the nation largely unaware of his condition, is both controversial and amazing. I found Clements' book satisfying and illuminating on all counts. If you like to read histories that present the most important stories of history in a reasonable length book, Clements' book will be satisfying and illuminating to you as well. If you like a massive amount of details, you might, like I do, wish to follow this book with a larger and more in depth presentation. I give "The Presidency of Woodrow Wilson" 5 stars. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great, insightful book. By Nicholas. Great book, provided in depth analysis of the Wilson Administration. I had to read the book for my US History class but I ended up personally enjoying the book. The book has a strong emphasis on economic policies of the Wilson Administration.