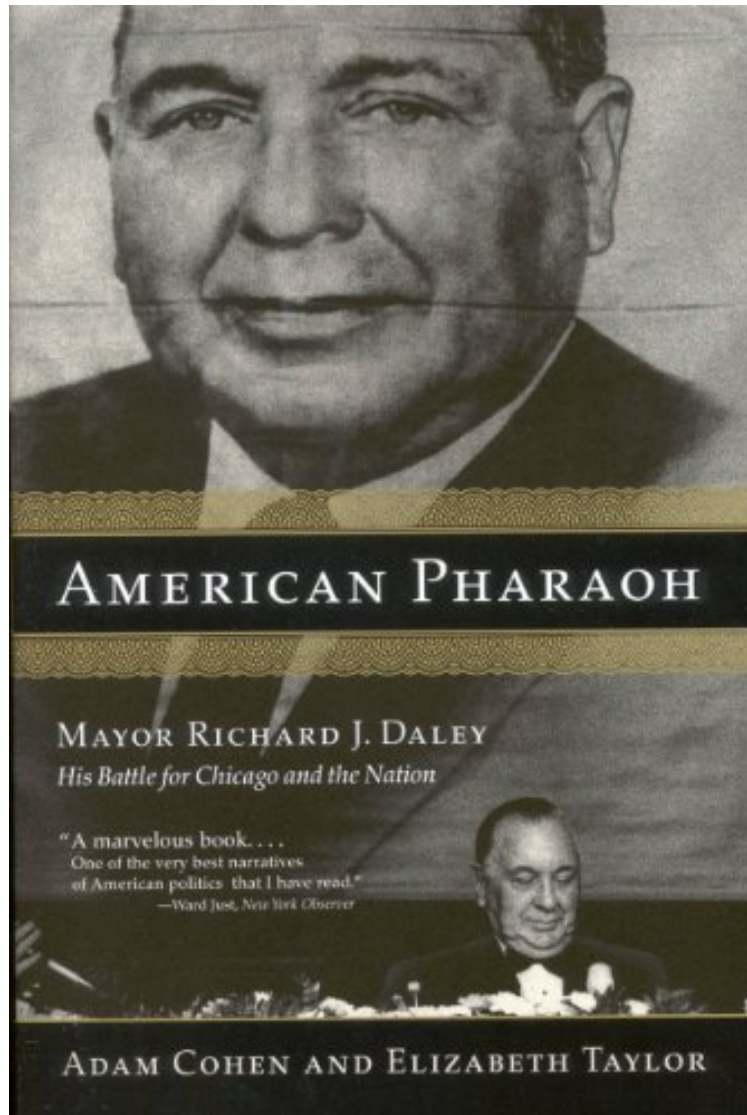


(Read and download) American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley - His Battle for Chicago and the Nation (English Edition)

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Von Adam Cohen, Elizabeth Taylor
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Von Adam Cohen, Elizabeth Taylor : American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley - His Battle for Chicago and the Nation (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley - His Battle for Chicago and the Nation (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. as big

and controversial as the man it portrays. Von Gary Delsohn I grew up in Chicago during the Daley years and he was the man we all loved to hate. He could be brutal, scheming, bigoted, small-minded and about as inarticulate as a 4th grader, but, man, was he ever in charge. He was one of the strongest and in many ways most effective mayors in American history. Had he been alive and serving today, after the successes of the civil rights and women's movements, Daley would undoubtedly have been a different man. But he was a product of his tumultuous and explosive times, and he did better at managing Chicago and its various constituencies than any 10 politicians of the time could have imagined. This book, which views the Daley life and career through the prism of the nascent civil rights era and Chicago's historic patterns of machine rule and segregation so well planned and thought out that its remnants remain incredibly strong today, does a masterful job of bringing Daley the man and politician to life. Perhaps it is heavy on detail for someone who didn't live in Chicago, but it is political biography at its best. It is a welcome and long overdue companion piece to Mike Royko's "Boss," which remains must reading more than 25 years after it was published. You have to read it just to learn how one man was able to be mayor for as long as he was and chairman of the Democratic party, a position that allowed him to virtually single-handedly determine every Democratic candidate for office in Chicago and the Northern part of the state, including governor. Imagine someone having that kind of power, with his vast patronage powers, today. Of course, it is impossible, so read American Pharaoh and step back in time. This is an utterly fascinating book. I couldn't put it down and how can one ask anything more from a 550-page biography of a mayor? Great book!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Great Political Profile, But A Mediocre Biography. Von J. Keenley "American Pharaoh" is an exhaustively researched and insightfully detailed portrait of classic machine politics at work. In telling the story of Daley's rise to power and close to two decades as mayor of Chicago, the authors present both a fascinating look at the machinations of local politics and a compelling history of Chicago in the 20th century. Mayor Daley is, of course, a towering figure in the history of politics in America. He presided over the transformation of Chicago into a modern metropolis, and, for better or worse, transformed the urban landscape of both the city he loved and, in many respects, the nation at large. The list of the accomplishments during his tenure in office is almost endless, and in many respects he single-handedly helped preserve and improve what is arguably the nation's most beautiful skyline and most efficient and livable major city. The authors also ably demonstrate how, at the same time, Daley's two major character flaws - his near absolutist desire to attain, retain, and exercise power and his deep-seated segregationist views - worked hand in hand with his efforts at progress and development. The highlights of Daley's mayoralty all demonstrate these flaws, and the story is a fascinating one: from his behind-the-scenes skullduggery in insuring Kennedy's victory in the 1960 election to his steadfast refusal to allow integrated public housing, from his suppression of peaceful protests at the 1968 Democratic Convention to his efforts to suppress the nascent civil rights movement. In the end, despite his undeniable accomplishments, after close to 20 years in office in many ways Daley left Chicago more racially divided and more politically corrupt than when he was first elected and created many problems that still plague the city a quarter century after his death. In the end, however, the way the authors chose to tell of the story of Mayor Daley and his Chicago ends up making this a book as flawed as its protagonist. In their efforts to detail their central theses they end up coloring their view to the point of distortion. Virtually every one of Daley's actions while in office is viewed as a move to either further his own power or to further his desire to keep Chicago segregated, and even his most harmless actions are judged (and frequently condemned) in this light. It is hard to deny that Daley was both a modern-day urban autocrat and an unabashed anti-integrationist, and it is equally hard to deny that these two forces served to lessen his accomplishments, to keep Chicago from becoming an even greater city, and, most important, to deny hundreds of thousands of poor and lower middle class blacks the right to affordable housing. At the same time, the authors' tireless pursuit in proving their point lends an air of superficiality to the story, so much so that at times it reads like a very long magazine article (which comes as no surprise, since the authors were both writers for "Time" magazine, giving further credence to the old truism that good journalists do not necessarily make good authors). More damningly, despite the wealth of research and detail, in the end the reader is left with no greater knowledge of Daley as a person. In fact, despite the wealth of detail and anecdote, Daley is presented as such a two-dimensional figure that it leaves the reader deeply unsatisfied. The authors are brilliant at detailing the who, what, where, and when, but they rarely if ever try to explain why. The lack of psychological insight into Daley the man is almost laughable: about the only instance, and one that is repeated ad nauseum, though not, of course, in as many words, is the tired stereotype that Daley was an Irish Catholic, all Irish Catholics are racist, therefore Daley was a racist. In the end, while these authorial flaws do not keep "American Pharaoh" from being a compelling, highly readable book - it's a prime example of political biography at its myth-shattering, icon-toppling best (those seeking a fawning hagiography of a beloved figure will have to look elsewhere) - we still have to wait for the definitive biography.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Unanswered Questions. Von Robert Morris Born and raised in Chicago, I have always been fascinated by the personal life and public career of Richard J. Daley, arguably the city's greatest mayor whose son Richard now serves in that office. Years ago, in his book about Daley, Mike Royko suggested at least some of the parameters within which Cohen and Taylor now analyze "The Boss." They provide a wealth of information. I would have rated this biography higher had the authors probed more deeply into much of that material in order to answer so many questions I still have about

Daley. For example, what do Daley's successes and failures as a public servant reveal about the political and social worlds in which they occurred? During the years he served as mayor, could he have achieved these same successes without maintaining absolute control of the city's political system? What did Daley share in common with those in control of the Chicago syndicate? To what extent were there strategic alliances with them? Why? If Daley was as corrupt as so many have claimed, why has no incontrovertible evidence of that corruption been presented? The authors have much to say about Daley's relationship with Chicago's black community. This was an uneasy, at times hostile relationship. To what extent was Daley's leadership as mayor a reflection of the community (Bridgeport) in which he was born and raised? Did he hate blacks? Did he fear them? Or is there another explanation of his attitude toward them? Ancient pharaohs were on occasion benevolent to those whom they viewed as inferior as were, more recently, plantation owners in the Deep South. Perhaps Cohen and Taylor had this in mind when they selected their title. As I recall Daley, he was a master of negotiation when seeking to achieve his objectives but never hesitated to be ruthless whenever it served his purposes. As county chairman, he once summoned an immensely popular incumbent mayor to his office and then, after letting him cool his heels, informed him that he would not seek re-election. Daley was now ready to assume that office. I wish the authors had been more objective when analyzing what I would characterize as Daley's pragmatism. These are some of the questions which *American Pharaoh* raises in my mind. Perhaps there will be other books (yet to be written) which attempt to answer them. Nonetheless, I am grateful to Cohen and Taylor for helping me to understand better than I did before one of the 20th century's most fascinating political leaders.

Kurzbeschreibung This is a biography of mayor Richard J. Daley. It is the story of his rise from the working-class Irish neighbourhood of his childhood to his role as one of the most important figures in 20th century American politics..de You might say it took a village to raise this child. Richard Daley and Chicago are inseparable, and it's impossible to discuss one without at least mentioning the other. Consequently, *American Pharaoh* includes far more material than your average biography; this is as much the story of the city as it is of the man. Covering the years between 1902 and 1976 (that is, between Daley's birth and death), authors Adam Cohen and Elizabeth Taylor show us a life that in some ways symbolizes the American dream: a boy from a poor neighborhood grows up to wield unimaginable power, yet never forgets his roots. But Daley's was a complicated legacy. While filling Chicago with modern architecture and affecting national politics, he was also held responsible for the segregation and police brutality that tore the city apart during the late '60s and early '70s. Throughout the book, Cohen and Taylor remind readers that Daley's real influence came from the powerful political machine he created. When he didn't like guidelines from national agencies, for example, he went directly to the presidents he helped get elected. When he got bad local press, people lost their jobs and his neighbors marched in his support. When Martin Luther King Jr. came to town, he was greeted by a handpicked organization of African American leaders with strong ties to Daley's machine. It's startling to remember that this was simply a local office; the mayor's loyalties and prejudices affected the entire country. *American Pharaoh* shows politics at its deepest level, and each chapter brings new insights into a complex man and the system he created in order to rule the city that made him. --Jill Lightner .com You might say it took a village to raise this child. Richard Daley and Chicago are inseparable, and it's impossible to discuss one without at least mentioning the other. Consequently, *American Pharaoh* includes far more material than your average biography; this is as much the story of the city as it is of the man. Covering the years between 1902 and 1976 (that is, between Daley's birth and death), authors Adam Cohen and Elizabeth Taylor show us a life that in some ways symbolizes the American dream: a boy from a poor neighborhood grows up to wield unimaginable power, yet never forgets his roots. But Daley's was a complicated legacy. While filling Chicago with modern architecture and affecting national politics, he was also held responsible for the segregation and police brutality that tore the city apart during the late '60s and early '70s. Throughout the book, Cohen and Taylor remind readers that Daley's real influence came from the powerful political machine he created. When he didn't like guidelines from national agencies, for example, he went directly to the presidents he helped get elected. When he got bad local press, people lost their jobs and his neighbors marched in his support. When Martin Luther King Jr. came to town, he was greeted by a handpicked organization of African American leaders with strong ties to Daley's machine. It's startling to remember that this was simply a local office; the mayor's loyalties and prejudices affected the entire country. *American Pharaoh* shows politics at its deepest level, and each chapter brings new insights into a complex man and the system he created in order to rule the city that made him. --Jill Lightner