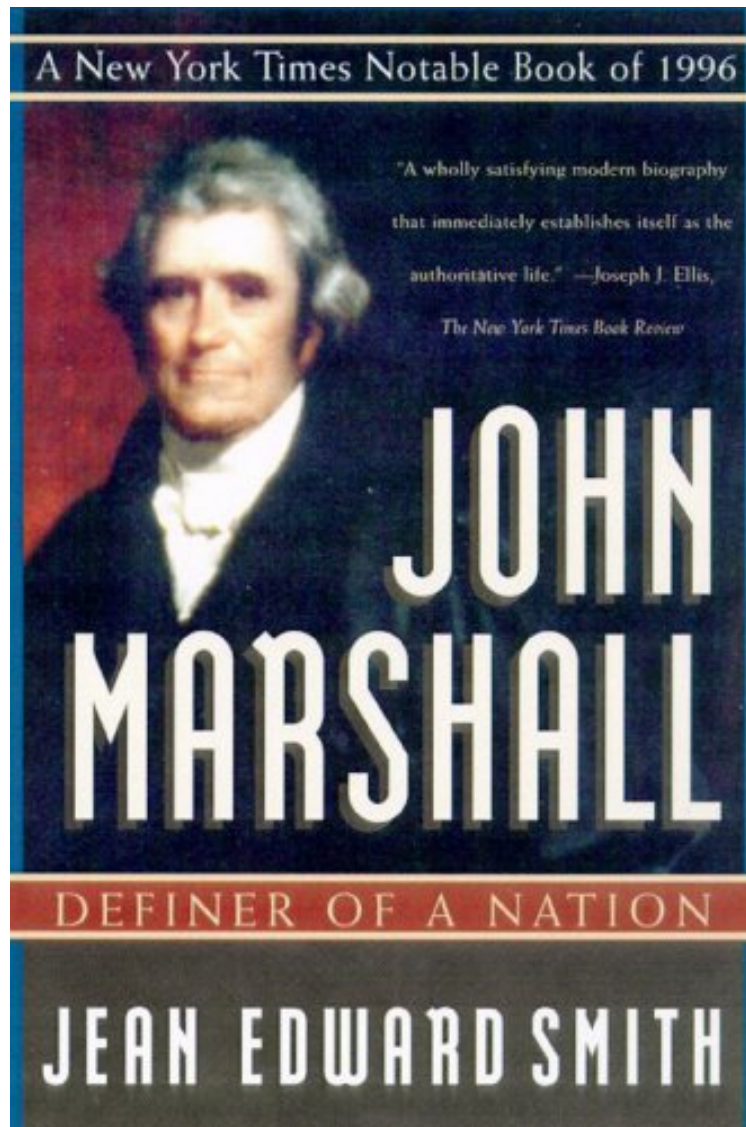


(Download ebook) John Marshall: Definer of a Nation

John Marshall: Definer of a Nation

Von Jean Edward Smith

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Von Jean Edward Smith : John Marshall: Definer of a Nation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Marshall: Definer of a Nation:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent, balanced biographyVon Ein KundeAlthough a long-time Jefferson fan, I could not put this book down about his "nemesis". Marshall turns out to have been every bit as patriotic, anti-party and fair minded as Jefferson is reputed to have been. As the author points out, it is hard to believe how two men that were so alike could dislike each other so much. Rather than ascertain the cause of their dislike, the author was very honest in stating that there doesn't

seem to be any one particular instance to give reason to such enmity. As a matter of fact, the two men were related and Jefferson, as president, had appointed Marshall's father to an important surveyor's post. The author goes to great length to give Jefferson his due and to not be vindictive. While the author obviously likes Marshall, he does not play favorites or make excuses for his subject. He explains both men's actions and motivations and stresses that both were generally after the same goals for America. As he has in recent works, Jefferson did come across as a bit petulant and vindictive in some of his actions and reactions. I couldn't help many times agreeing with Marshall's points of view when looked at from a practical or legal point (independence of the courts, commerce clause protection, laws of contracts, strong national government and anti-nullification). He was also anti-slavery in a mild, southern way. Mr. Marshall comes across as a very bright, unpretentious, extremely likable man to friend and foe alike. He was able to prevent political differences from damaging friendships and always displayed a big heart (including leading local efforts to raise money to help the estate of the deceased Jefferson). Because of his personality and leadership style, this man was able to dignify the Supreme Court's position and led it to record an astounding proportion of unanimous decisions, helping the court not to avoid looking divided on important issues. The book is very well written and despite its apparent thickness it was a delight to read about such a relatively little-known giant in our history. I rank Marshall and Madison as probably the two least credited men in our history for getting the republic on firm ground and for tempering the extreme positions that people like Jefferson, Patrick Henry, state rightists and several High Federalists were advocating. No student or aficionado should miss reading this important work.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Past Sheds Light On Present Von Ein Kunde Those who decry the current state of judicial affairs in this country will be interested to learn that our modern court system has changed very little since its inception back in the 18th Century. This, along with many other scholarly insights, is the compelling undercurrent running through Jean Edward Smith's *John Marshall: Definer of a Nation*. Smith, no stranger to scholarship himself, guides the reader in painstaking detail through the rise of one of the most renowned jurists of early American history, John Marshall. Marshall, who served his country first as a soldier under General George Washington and later as the first truly influential chief justice of the Supreme Court, is a figure ripe for investigation at this particularly legal-oriented period in our history. For it was Marshall who, in his landmark decision, *Marbury v. Madison*, first gave rise to the notion of judicial review, the concept that suggests that the Supreme Court indeed has final say over the constitutionality of a given state action. What is fascinating about Marshall's life is how bitterly he had to fight to establish what we today take for granted, the Court's supreme authority. Marshall's relentless pursuit of a powerful judiciary was often at odds with the vision of his fellow founding father, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson, who pushed for a small, decentralized federal government in a largely agrarian America, was constantly at odds with Marshall, and the tale of their stormy political battles resonates throughout the pages of Smith's biography. Of course, the philosophical musings and feindishly political battles of our founding fathers may not make for interesting reading for everyone. Smith's book is chock full of obscure anecdotes and oftentimes difficult-to-get-through detail. All the same, the interested reader seeking to understand just how our current court system got to be this way can do worse than pick up Smith's tome for some insight. For, in the end, the battles fought between America's early political titans bear a strong correlation to -- and perhaps even explain -- blips on the judicial radar screen now called things like "O.J."

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Incredible American Story Von Book Lover This is the story of one of our greatest Americans. Many people know that John Marshall was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who instituted many of the practices we take for granted today, such as judicial review of laws, and the ability to declare laws unconstitutional. What you may not know is that even before becoming the Chief Justice, Marshall had a very distinguished life. Officer in the Continental Army of George Washington, member of the Virginia House of Delegates, and one of the key orators who convinced the Virginia Assembly to ratify the Constitution, Congressman, U.S. Secretary of State. He took a principled stand and became a minor hero for his role in the famous "XYZ Affair." His life is basically a phenomenal history of the early U.S. Adams appointed him as Chief Justice almost as an afterthought, and Marshall succeeded by brilliantly uniting the court and always keeping an eye on the larger political winds. As wonderful as this book is in covering his tenure on the Supreme Court, though, I found it most entertaining covering his earlier roles. This is as good as it gets in a biography. You really feel like you know the man and his times.

Kurzbeschreibung A New York Times Notable Book of 1996 It was in tolling the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall in 1835 that the Liberty Bell cracked, never to ring again. An apt symbol of the man who shaped both court and country, whose life "reads like an early history of the United States," as the Wall Street Journal noted, adding: Jean Edward Smith "does an excellent job of recounting the details of Marshall's life without missing the dramatic sweep of the history it encompassed." del It's taken for granted today that the Supreme Court has final say on how the Constitution is interpreted, but this principle--hotly debated in the republic's early years -- was established by John Marshall (1755-1835), the fourth Chief Justice. Historian Smith's definitive biography, detailed and lucid, is a model of scholarly writing for the general public. The author claims our admiration for the justice and sparks affection

for the man: warm, gregarious, fond of drink, a Federalist with the common touch, a seasoned political infighter who remained on good terms with his opponents. Pressestimmen "A wholly satisfying modern biography that immediately establishes itself as the authoritative life." --Joseph J. Ellis, The New York Times Book "A richer, more accurate and more balanced view of Marshall and his achievements than we have ever had."--Gordon S. Wood, The New Republic "Any reader who wishes to watch Marshall work in context can ask for no better source."-- Dennis Hutchinson, Chicago Tribune "Smith's well-written biography brings Marshall's achievement alive."--Jack N. Rakove, The Boston Globe