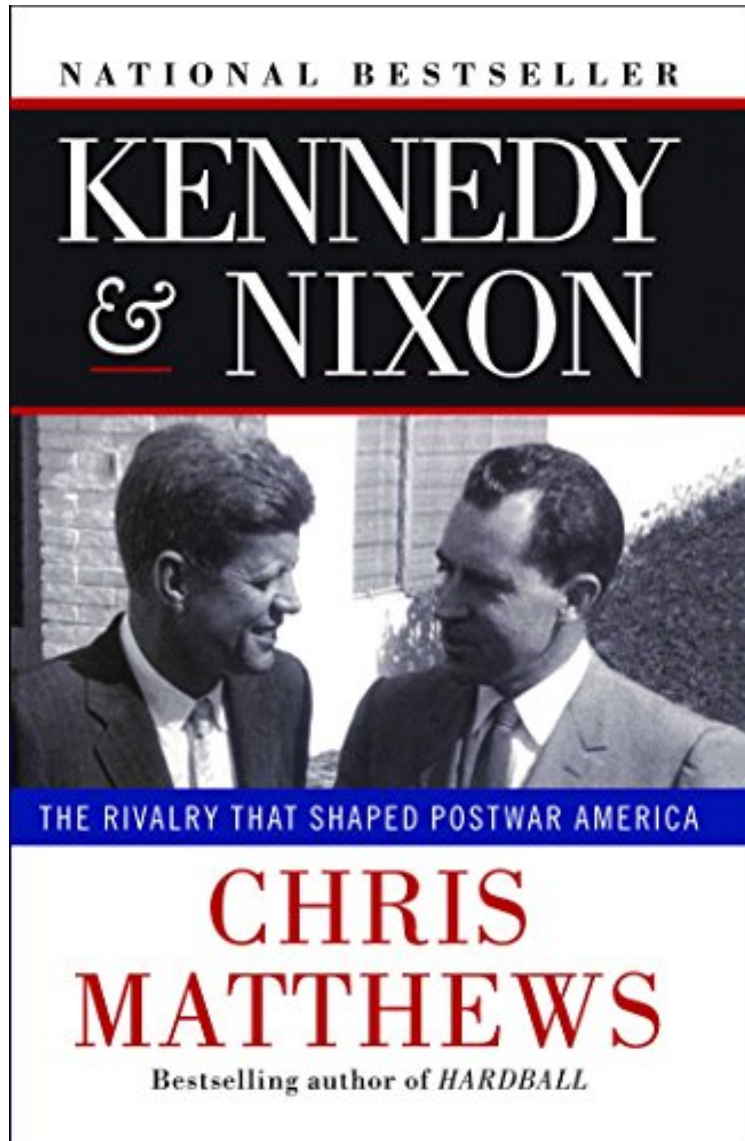


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Kennedy Nixon: The Rivalry that Shaped Postwar America (English Edition)

Von Chris Matthews

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Von Chris Matthews : Kennedy Nixon: The Rivalry that Shaped Postwar America (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kennedy Nixon: The Rivalry that Shaped Postwar America (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Balanced and Fast PacedVon Wayne A. SmithChis Mathews writes a fast paced and very readable book. Unlike many

treatments of Nixon, he balances the story and successfully lets the events and recollections portray both men's strengths and weaknesses. On the whole, Nixon comes off better, though still fatally flawed, and Kennedy comes off worse, though every bit as charismatic, as usually thought of in the public mind. This book could have used better editing. Some sentences contain grammatical mistakes and there are more than a few minor misstatements. This does not detract from a very interesting book. Political junkies will enjoy the hardball tactics and strategies both Nixon and Kennedy employed. History fans will appreciate the back door view of two of the larger figures in recent American history.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 25 Years of History Becomes One Personal Rivalry Von Todd Winer I am very impressed with Chris Matthews's narrative on the political careers of John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. His book is well-researched, well-written, and his conclusions are well-proven. At first, I was suspicious of Mr. Matthews's claim that their jousting was "the rivalry that shaped postwar America." But in completing the book, I can appreciate that Kennedy and Nixon were the American version of Disraeli and Gladstone. They both served in the South Pacific during World War II and were elected to Congress in the same year, 1946. Nixon ran as a "pragmatic liberal." Kennedy ran as a "fighting conservative." Excuse me? But beneath the contradictory rhetoric lay an ideological similarity: a passionate hate of communism and a deep suspicion of the New Deal, Eastern Establishment. American leaders during the Cold War, they rallied their nation against Communist threats at home and abroad. They further overthrew the old Washington rules of political cordiality and fairness. To substitute, the first leaders of the G.I. Generation created a winner-take-all political culture that forever changed the Beltway. Kennedy started as the more ruthless pol. His early political career was filled with charges of bribery, vote-stealing, and other low-ball maneuvers. Nixon, of course, would not be outdone. His relentless pursuit of Alger Hiss gave him his first political break and cemented his fear that the Elite was out to break him. Similar in political style and ideology, Kennedy and Nixon became genuine friends in the 1950s. This surprised me but Mr. Matthews documents this point prodigiously. Nixon was invited to the Kennedy wedding in 1953. When Kennedy was near death in 1954, Nixon was in tears. "Oh God, don't let him die." Jackie Kennedy told friends that Jack admired Nixon more than any other man he knew. What forever changed the relationship was the 1960 presidential election. Kennedy beat Nixon by an incredibly narrow margin and the loser was forever convinced that the election was stolen. Mr. Matthews emphasizes the role of "imagery" in the 1960 campaign. All things being equal, Nixon should have topped Kennedy that year. But Kennedy's good looks and aristocratic style contrasted favorably with Nixon's common looks and straight talk. When Kennedy was assassinated, the manufactured mythology of "Camelot" masked an average presidency. When Nixon was finally elected president in 1968, it was the ideal of Camelot that haunted him throughout his term. No matter what Nixon did, he could never measure up to Kennedy in the eyes of the American people. The Eastern Establishment viewed Nixon especially distastefully; they saw him as an illegitimate president. Nixon knew that he was in a constant struggle against the liberals who carried the torch for Camelot. Nixon was determined to use every weapon in his arsenal to save himself and his presidency - constitution de damned. Mr. Matthews is especially fluent in describing the step-by-step political destruction of Richard Nixon. The Kennedy-Nixon rivalry ends in 1974 with Nixon's resignation in disgrace. Kennedy had bested Nixon one last time. But in a true sense, both men were equal winners. It was their Cold War zealotry and political ruthlessness that defined Washington after 1960. Our communist-free world is largely their child. Our cynical political culture is largely their creature too. For better and for worse.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Two Lives, Two Careers, and Broken Hearts Von Ein Kunde "Kennedy and Nixon" is a fascinating account of two intertwined lives which greatly affected each other, the nation and the world in which they acted. Coming to Congress in 1946, Kennedy, the "Fighting Conservative" and Nixon, the "Pragmatic Liberal" brought with them an innate resentment of the Establishment against which they launched their careers. In their early days in Congress, Kennedy and Nixon quickly developed a mutual affection and respect, recognizing each other as a "comer." Nixon was the first in his class to move to the Senate in 1950 and the vice-presidency in 1952. During these early years each would be a friend and supporter of Sen. Joseph McCarthy, both because of personal friendship and because of a shared abhorrence of Communism. Kennedy would later deny that he had once delivered a campaign contribution from his father directly to Nixon's office. Robert Kennedy, after working on the Stevenson campaign, cast his vote for Eisenhower and Nixon. Later Joseph P. Kennedy would tell Nixon; "Dick, if my boy can't make it, I'm for you!" Throughout the 50s, Nixon was the star who was moved to tears at the prospect that Jack was going to die, as he nearly did. The first rivalry began 1956 when Kennedy made an unsuccessful attempt to obtain the Democratic vice-presidential nomination which would have pitted him against Nixon. The rivalry would intensify and destroy their friendship in the following years. As 1960 approached, it became apparent that Nixon and Kennedy would go face to face for the prize coveted by both. By now the tide had turned. Now it was Kennedy who appeared healthy and vigorous while Nixon appeared ill and gaunt. Nixon, who had sought and received Jack's warm cordiality, was now met only with cold disregard and contempt. On the issues, Kennedy was able to proceed with the reckless abandon of an outsider, while Nixon was chained to an administration which he could not undermine. While Kennedy and Nixon were both aware of the preparations for the Bay of Pigs, Nixon, while complaining privately about delays in the operation, had to hold his tongue while Kennedy lashed the administration for doing nothing about Castro. In this campaign that Nixon learned that the Kennedys played hard and had the money

to win. With defeat in 1960, Nixon, who had been at the heart of Washington for 14 years, was suddenly out in the cold. Returning to California, he tried to keep his career alive by running for Governor California. This was not just a race for governor. It was a race between Nixon and the President who did not want to face him again. It was a race which Nixon lost in part, he thought, due to the actions of the Kennedys and their allies in the press. After the "Last Press Conference" Nixon appeared to be finished to most, but not to the Kennedys. Throughout his Presidency, Kennedy was plagued by the realization that he, as leader of the party which even he had attacked for "Losing China", could not afford to lose any territory to the Communists. This may have influenced the coup against Diem, which led to so much grief in Vietnam. Over the next year Nixon kept up the pressure on Kennedy with a view to keeping himself on the political playing field. In November, 1963 John F. Kennedy became the unassailable fallen hero who would forever haunt Richard Nixon. In death, John Kennedy became the hero he could never be in life. Idolized by millions, he became the President against whom his successors would be measured for the rest of the century. The memory of a Camelot, an invention of Jacki Kennedy which had never really existed, would influence the political life of America for decades. Emerging as the Republican hero of the Congressional gains in 1966, Nixon geared to face LBJ in 1968. To his dismay, it then appeared that a Kennedy would again stand between him and the White House until gunfire, again, intervened. Then the possibility of a Teddy Kennedy candidacy briefly marred Nixon's prospects. Even with no Kennedy on the ticket, Nixon faced the enmity of those who yearned for a restoration and who regarded Nixon as an illegitimate usurper. Even victory in 1968 could not diminish the specter of JFK. Whenever Nixon faced a public relations failure, he marveled at what the Kennedys got away with. Nixon even tried to emulate the Kennedys in ways that he just could never pull off, while the Kennedy crowd continued to treat Nixon with utter contempt. As 1972 approached, Teddy Kennedy remained the figure which disturbed Nixon's slumber. Chappaquiddick went a long way toward damaging Teddy's prospects, but still it appeared that he would "get away with it." This book suggests that Watergate was an effort to get information which could be used against Kennedy. It also suggests that the intense Democratic opposition to the War in Vietnam may have been influenced by the Kennedy team's desire to "Get Nixon." After Nixon's reelection in 1972, it was largely Teddy Kennedy who pushed the move to "Get Nixon" leading, ultimately, to his resignation. In the end, these intertwined lives had seen two assassinations, one resignation and the destruction of the presidential prospects of another aspirant, as well as disastrous war. The book tells much of why the 60s and 70s shaped up the way they did. At the end of the book, I felt a bit remorseful that personal ambition destroyed so much that was good in each of them and detracted from the greatness that each could have achieved. But, as a Kennedy advisor remarked, "To be Irish is to know, in the end, that the world will break your heart." That is what it did to these two Irish American politicians and, to an extent, to each of us.

Kurzbeschreibung In this compelling, smart, and well-researched dual biography, Chris Matthews shows how the contest between the charismatic John F. Kennedy and the talented yet haunted Richard Nixon propelled America toward Vietnam and Watergate. John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon each dreamed of becoming the great young leader of their age. First as friends, then as bitter enemies, they were linked by a historic rivalry that changed both them and their country. Fresh, entertaining, and revealing, *Kennedy Nixon* reveals that the early fondness between the two men Kennedy, for example, told a trusted friend that if he didn't receive the Democratic nomination in 1960, he would vote for Nixon degenerated into distrust and bitterness. Using White House tapes, this book exposes Richard Nixon's dread of a Kennedy restoration in 1972 drove the dark deeds of Watergate. "Matthews tells his stories well, and Americans have a seemingly bottomless need to have these stories retold" (The New York Times Book Review). Christopher Matthews, the Washington bureau chief for the San Francisco Examiner and a former aide to Tip O'Neill, offers a fascinating look at the connections between the two most well-known politicians in the last 40 years. He traces the symmetries of their beginnings--both were elected to the House of Representatives in 1946 and assigned to the same committee--as well as their similar thirst for power. While both men's rise and fall, events that had profound effects on America, have been well chronicled, Matthews' book is one of the few, if not only, that places the two in parallel historical context. Christopher Matthews, the Washington bureau chief for the San Francisco Examiner and a former aide to Tip O'Neill, offers a fascinating look at the connections between the two most well-known politicians in the last 40 years. He traces the symmetries of their beginnings--both were elected to the House of Representatives in 1946 and assigned to the same committee--as well as their similar thirst for power. While both men's rise and fall, events that had profound effects on America, have been well chronicled, Matthews' book is one of the few, if not only, that places the two in parallel historical context.