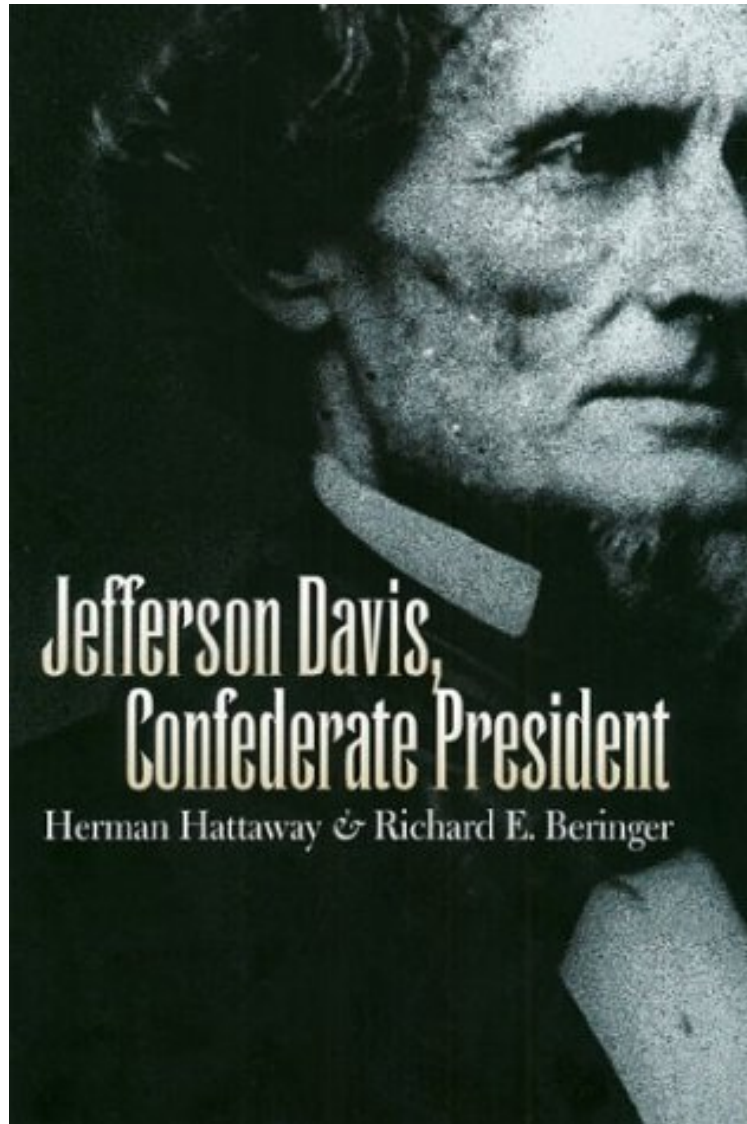


(Free read ebook) Jefferson Davis, Confederate President

Jefferson Davis, Confederate President

Herman Hattaway, Richard E. Beringer

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Herman Hattaway, Richard E. Beringer : Jefferson Davis, Confederate President before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jefferson Davis, Confederate President:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Incredible barriers to creating an infrastructure while fighting a warBy C. CollinsThis book focuses on the Confederate Presidency of Jefferson Davis and is not meant to be a full biography. However it is fascinating and is very informative regarding the incredible challenges faced by Jefferson Davis. The task of serving as the first President of the Confederacy was a challenge of great magnitude since it

involved setting up governmental infrastructure in the Southern states as well as conducting a war with the Union states. The most interesting aspect of the book was that the dynamics that caused the southern states to break from the union were the same dynamics that created barriers in creation of a new Confederacy. Suspicion of a central government, concern over state's rights, and rising tension between slave owners and non-owners all undermined the ability to coordinate and compress a government that could withstand the blows of the more powerful Northern Union. Everything seemed to eventually work against the stability of the Confederate government including a legislative branch that could undermine the strength of the Confederate government due to ideology around state's rights. It is a very interesting read. Davis was an incredible person to withstand such amazing set-backs and hardships and I grew to appreciate what an almost impossible task he faced. The governors of Georgia and North Carolina were such hard-line state's rights advocates that they continually presented barriers to establishing a solid government or to conduct the war. The book was realistic in telling of the growing dissatisfaction among the citizens of the South in regard to the Confederate government and to the course of the war. The book is long and detailed, but gives a balanced view. The authors use a model of Presidential leadership based on whether the President was focused on solving problems or not and whether the President naturally enjoyed the struggles. They identify Davis as both active and negative in that he worked tirelessly to solve problem after problem but that he became joyless and exhausted by the struggle, became more pessimistic, and had difficulty renewing his emotions and spirit. This seemed like a fair analysis given the incredible hurdles history threw at this man. I recommend the book and found it insightful. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Dry and dull but somewhat informative. By Dennis Phillips Do not be confused by the title for this book is not a biography of Jefferson Davis. It is a biography of the Confederate government with Davis at the helm. There is some new information to be found in this book but not much and unfortunately most of the new information will be found in the form of a psychological profile of Davis. Of course the reader will find a few tidbits of interest such as the price the government would pay in certain parts of Georgia for sweet potatoes. Sadly, that is about the most interesting bit of new information one will find and one will have to persevere to get to that information for the writing is dry as dust. In fact, most of the information in this book comes from William Davis and William Cooper who have written excellent studies on both Davis and his era. To the authors' credit they don't try to hide this fact as again and again they openly repeat what Davis and Cooper have written. The sad but true conclusion I have come to is that one would be far better off to buy books written by William Davis and William Cooper. I have read both authors and their writing is much more clear and to the point than anything that will be found in this book. The only parts of this book I really found interesting dealt with the operation of the Confederate congress. On this book's strength on that subject alone I have to give this book three stars although two were a distinct possibility. Quite frankly, I get the feeling that the authors' ego may have gotten the best of them as they wrote this book. If they will stop trying to impress the boys at Harvard and Vanderbilt these two gentlemen could do much to further the study of the Confederacy. When not quoting W. Davis or W. Cooper their research is first rate but they have got to loosen up and have fun with their work. Then maybe their readers will be able to enjoy their subject as much as the authors have. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book. By Lewis I thought this book was absolutely fascinating and I couldn't put it down. One of the first books that I have read totally from the Confederate Government perspective, from the forming of this new nation, the congress, the financing, the maintenance of a huge army, impressment, conscription, the confederate constitution, the money, the battles, the wins and losses, and, oh, yes, the President of the confederacy, Jefferson Davis. Great book.

He was one of the most embattled heads of state in American history. Charged with building a new nation while waging a war for its very independence, he accepted his responsibilities reluctantly but carried them out with a fierce dedication to his ideals. Those efforts ultimately foundered on the shoals of Confederate defeat, leaving Davis stranded in public memory as both valiant leader and desolate loser. Now two renowned Civil War historians, Herman Hattaway and Richard Beringer, take a new and closer look at Davis's presidency. In the process, they provide a clearer image of his leadership and ability to handle domestic, diplomatic, and military matters under the most trying circumstances—without the considerable industrial and population resources of the North and without the formal recognition of other nations. Hattaway and Beringer examine Davis's strengths and weaknesses as president in light of both traditional evidence and current theories of presidential leadership. They show us a man so respected that northern colleagues regretted his departure from the U.S. Senate, but so bent on Southern independence he was willing to impose unthinkable burdens on his citizens—an apologist for slavery who was committed to state rights, even while growing nationalism in his new country called for a stronger central government. In assessing Davis's actual administration of the Confederate state, the authors analyze the Confederate government's constitution, institutions, infrastructure, and cabinet-level administrators. They also integrate events of Davis's presidency with the ongoing war as it encroached upon the South, offering a panoramic view of military strategy as seen from the president's office. They tell how Davis reacted to the outcomes of key battles and campaigns in order to assess his leadership abilities, his relations with civilian and military authorities, and—his own personal competency notwithstanding—his poor judgment in selecting generals. Rich in detail and exhilaratingly told with generous selections from Davis's own letters and speeches,

Hattaway and Beringer provide the most insightful account available of the first and only Confederate presidency—suggesting that perhaps it was the Confederate government, rather than Davis himself, that failed. More than that, it shows us Jefferson Davis as an American leader and offers a new appreciation of his place in our country's history.

"Succeeds in bringing this unusual American to life for contemporary readers. Particularly recommended for buffs of the Civil War."—Profile (National Portrait Gallery)"This thoughtful and well-written analysis, strongly grounded in quality recent studies and primary sources on Jefferson Davis, is a welcome addition to the emerging scholarly literature on the relationship between the way in which the nature of Confederate society and beliefs affected the conduct of the war."—Louisiana History"A tremendously valuable work that captures the Confederate perspective on the Civil War and serves as an excellent departure point for further studies into the military, political, social, and economic history of the Confederacy."—Historian"This book goes past biography and is in reality a far-reaching history of the Confederate experience based on some of the best recent scholarship available. . . . It is a fine, well-written study and one of the most useful analyses of the Confederate leadership to appear in several years. It deserves a place next to Emory Thomas's classic *The Confederate Nation* on the shelf of essential books on the Civil War South, and is highly recommended."—American Nineteenth Century History"A vivid portrait of the man, the office, and the southern nation during the star-crossed struggle for independence. This engaging approach allows the reader to derive a sense of the challenges, both personal and professional, that Davis encountered as a president at war. . . . [Readers] will treasure the fresh insights that Hattaway and Beringer provide into a failed American president and his short-lived Confederate nation."—Arkansas Historical Quarterly"Probably the best single volume treatment of the confederate experiment."—Civil War News"This book delivers more than its title suggests. It is, in fact, a comprehensive history of the Confederacy, in which Jefferson Davis naturally figures as the chief character. . . . This is an excellent book on both Davis and the Confederate experience for all levels and collections."—Choice"[This book is] an extended essay about the Confederacy itself. . . . Much of what these authors say deserves thoughtful attention."—Journal of Military History"Hattaway and Beringer have written the first full-length study of Jefferson Davis's presidency that offers a detailed analysis of his Civil War career and how he profoundly shaped the Confederacy. The final result is an even handed, often insightful work that places Davis successfully in the historical context of nineteenth-century politics. . . . Hattaway and Beringer have produced an exhaustive study of an 'American president' as well as a sweeping history of the political, financial, and military plight of the Confederacy. . . . It is a book that will interest Civil War buffs as well as challenge the assumptions of some Civil War historians."—Ohio History"At once thorough and thought provoking. The authors paint the first true administrative portrait of Davis, making bold and even controversial judgments."—William C. Davis, author of *Jefferson Davis: The Man and His Hour*"A sprawling and detailed chronicle of the Confederate presidency that touches upon almost every aspect of Confederate history, ranging from battle accounts, to logistical matters, to fiscal policy, to the course of slavery."—William J. Cooper, Jr., author of *Jefferson Davis, American: A Biography*"The authors have created nothing less than a panorama of the rise and fall of the Confederate States."—Daniel E. Sutherland, author of *Seasons of War: The Ordeal of the Confederate Community, 1861–1865*From the Back Cover"At once thorough and thought provoking. The authors paint the first true administrative portrait of Davis, making bold and even controversial judgments."—William C. Davis, author of *Jefferson Davis: The Man and His Hour*"A sprawling and detailed chronicle of the Confederate presidency that touches upon almost every aspect of Confederate history, ranging from battle accounts, to logistical matters, to fiscal policy, to the course of slavery."—William J. Cooper, Jr., author of *Jefferson Davis, American: A Biography*"The authors have created nothing less than a panorama of the rise and fall of the Confederate States."—Daniel E. Sutherland, author of *Seasons of War: The Ordeal of the Confederate Community, 1861–1865*About the AuthorHerman Hattaway is professor of history and religious studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and an ordained Anglican priest. He is author of six other books, including *How the North Won* and *Shades of Blue and Gray*. Richard E. Beringer is Chester Fritz Professor Emeritus of History at the University of North Dakota. He is coauthor of *Why the South Lost the Civil War* and *The Anatomy of the Confederate Congress*.