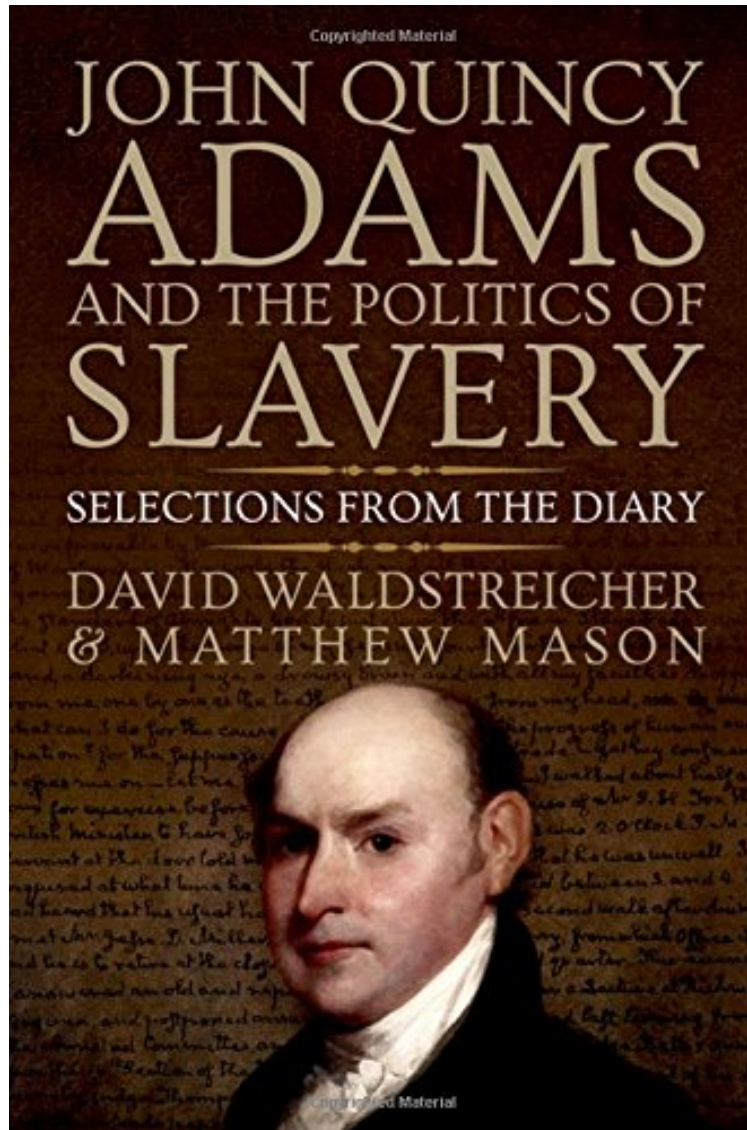


(Ebook free) John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery: Selections from the Diary

John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery: Selections from the Diary

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#1193825 in Books Waldstreicher David 2016-12-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.50 x 1.30 x 9.40L, .0 #File Name: 0199947953336 pagesJohn Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery Selections from the Diary | File size: 23.Mb

David Waldstreicher, Matthew Mason : John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery: Selections from the Diary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery: Selections from the Diary:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. John Quincy Adams and the enduring battle against slavery.By

Ronald H. Clark There certainly appears currently to be a serious rebirth of interest in the life and career of J.Q. Adams (1767-1848). Fred Kaplan's recent bio, and several more just now coming out, is one indication of this renewed focus on JQA. This interesting and well-edited collection of excerpts from the diary he kept most of his life is another. In fact, the diary is so valuable a source on Adams and the politics and diplomacy of his time, that the Library of America soon will be releasing a substantial two-volume edition of the diary, edited by one of the editors of this volume. Adams was involved in many diplomatic and political endeavors during his long life, not to mention being the sixth President. This volume, however, follows his involvement with slavery exclusively, and I found it somewhat surprising. It is surprising because we associate Adams with his famous defense before the Supreme Court of the Amistad escaped slaves, as well as his fight while serving in the House during the final stage of his career where he challenged at no small cost to himself the pro-slavery forces (especially their "gag rule"). Yet as this book demonstrates, via his own words, throughout his long career not until late in his House service did he adopt a firm anti-slavery position. Not a typical New England abolitionist was he. During his long career, he came into contact with the slavery issue not infrequently, but the issue did not really grab him until fairly late. The book is well edited. It begins with entries made in 1785 and follows through until 1844 or so, chronologically. In addition to affording us an invaluable perspective on Adams, as he reveals his own thinking explicitly, the diary entries paint a valuable background of the vital political and diplomatic events with which Adams came into contact. Each extract, whether short or long, is preceded with a brief note by the editors (both major scholars of JQA) placing the excerpt into its proper historical context. The footnotes also contain important sources and information, though not overwhelming in numbers. At several points, Adams remarks burn with intensity that still sears. One example is the incredibly poisoned and combustible hostility between the pro and anti-slavery groups in the House during Adams tenure (1836 - 1846). Adams graphically recounts the bitter fights leading up to the Missouri compromise from his perch as an insider. It is no wonder that the Civil War shortly was to follow such extreme bitterness. Another example is when Adams recounts his intensive fight to protect the right of citizens to petition the House seeking an end to slavery in the District of Columbia. Despite the imposition of a "gag rule" nullifying these petitions, Adams fought on until his coalition terminated it in 1844. A third example is the intensity with which Adams undertook his Amistad Supreme Court argument, to a bench comprised of some slave owners. Rarely has history "so come alive" as in this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By George A. Marshall Thanks 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good read By Kindle Customer a very interesting read

In the final years of his political career, President John Quincy Adams was well known for his objections to slavery, with rival Henry Wise going so far as to label him "the acutest, the astutest, the archest enemy of southern slavery that ever existed." As a young statesman, however, he supported slavery. How did the man who in 1795 told a British cabinet officer not to speak to him of "the Virginians, the Southern people, the democrats," whom he considered "in no other light than as Americans," come to foretell "a grand struggle between slavery and freedom"? How could a committed expansionist, who would rather abandon his party and lose his U.S. Senate seat than attack Jeffersonian slave power, later come to declare the Mexican War the "apoplexy of the Constitution," a hijacking of the republic by slaveholders? What changed? Entries from Adams's personal diary, more extensive than that of any American statesman, reveal a highly dynamic and accomplished politician in engagement with one of his generation's most challenging national dilemmas. Expertly edited by David Waldstreicher and Matthew Mason, *John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery* offers an unusual perspective on the dramatic and shifting politics of slavery in the early republic, as it moved from the margins to the center of public life and from the shadows to the substance of Adams's politics. The editors provide a lucid introduction to the collection as a whole and frame the individual documents with brief and engaging insights, rendering both Adams's life and the controversies over slavery into a mutually illuminating narrative. By juxtaposing Adams's personal reflections on slavery with what he said-and did not say-publicly on the issue, the editors offer a nuanced portrait of how he interacted with prevailing ideologies during his consequential career and life. *John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery* is an invaluable contribution to our understanding of the complicated politics of slavery that set the groundwork for the Civil War.

The diary should help [readers] understand [Adams's] conflicting commitment to the nation his father helped create and its Constitution, in which slavery was embedded... Adams's argument is often visible in the illuminating diary entries [the authors] provide."--Wall Street Journal "This meticulously annotated selection from the diaries of our sixth president reads like the banner headlines of today's news reports of political intrigue, raw ambitions and the same existential crisis that divides our nation today... The diary entries have a dramatic climax to them that would be worthy of a serious film treatment by someone. In the meantime this book is a great read and an informative reality check on issues that vex us even now."--Washington Times "The editors have shown discerning judgment in the material they have chosen for their pages. In a thoughtful and judicious introduction, they have spelled out the historiographical odyssey of the diary as well as the motivation governing Adams's own relations with slavery and the South. On the latter point they deserve special commendation in a time when many tout John Quincy as an antislavery hero with

little thought to the complex road he took to reach that place."--Civil War Book "Provides important insight into John Quincy Adams's views on the most divisive issue of his generation. Waldstreicher's and Mason's work should command an impressive place on the growing shelf of works exploring the life of the sixth president."--Civil War Monitor About the Author David Waldstreicher is Distinguished Professor of History at the City University of New York's Graduate Center whose work spans political history, cultural history, slavery and antislavery, and print culture in the early republic of the United States. His books include *Slavery's Constitution: From Revolution to Ratification* and *Runaway America: Benjamin Franklin, Slavery and the American Revolution*, and he is the editor of *A Companion to John Adams and John Quincy Adams*, *A Companion to Benjamin Franklin* and *The Struggle Against Slavery: A History in Documents*. Matthew E. Mason is an Associate Professor of History at Brigham Young University. He has written and co-edited several books, including *Slavery and Politics in the Early American Republic*, *The History of the Life and Adventures of Mr. Anderson*; and *Contesting Slavery: The Politics of Bondage and Freedom in the New American Nation*.