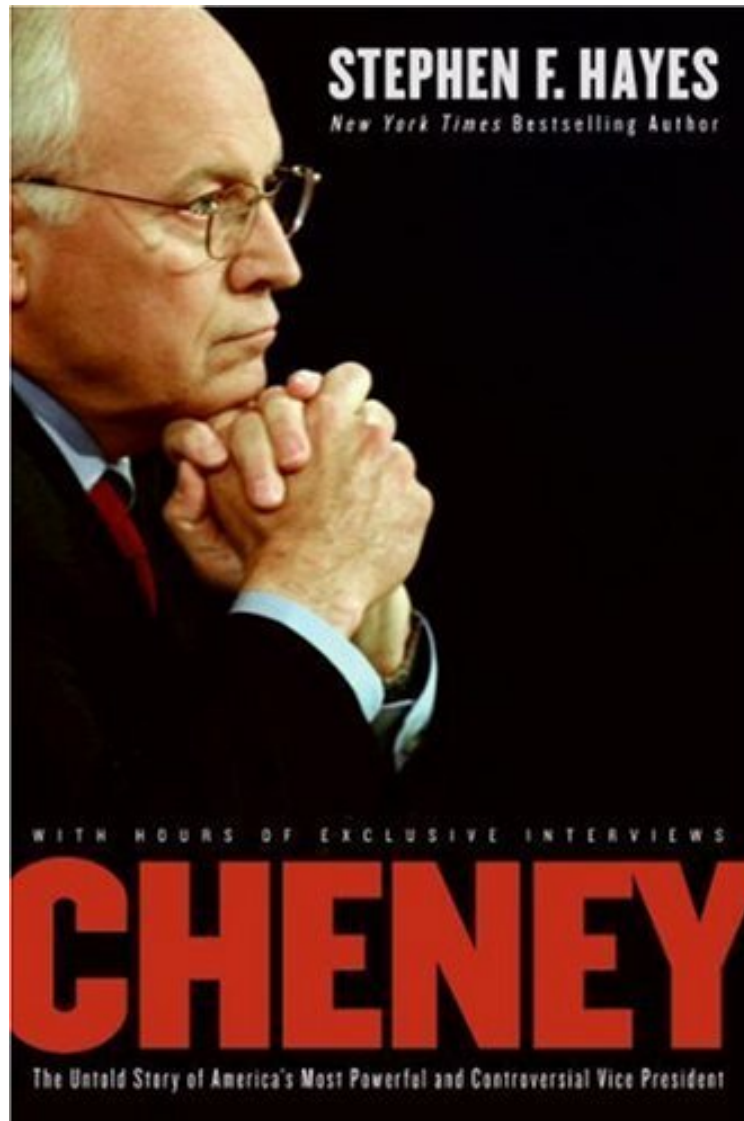


[Library ebook] Cheney: The Untold Story of America's Most Powerful and Controversial Vice President

Cheney: The Untold Story of America's Most Powerful and Controversial Vice President

Von Stephen F. Hayes

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Von Stephen F. Hayes : Cheney: The Untold Story of America's Most Powerful and Controversial Vice President before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cheney: The Untold Story of America's Most Powerful and Controversial Vice President:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Life of Choices and ConsequenceVon James Gallen"Cheney" Is a life long-biography of the man whose vice-presidency

was merely the culmination of a long span of public service. I would describe it as fairly even handed in its approach. Author Stephen F. Hayes overlooks neither his early drunk driving charges nor the controversy over the Scooter Libby conviction, but does not dwell on them merely to bash his subject. Overall I would rate the treatment as favorable, but not a campaign biography. As I mentioned, this is a whole life biography and as such gives the reader a remarkable perspective on the man and an insight into our public figures. It begins with his youth and continues through his high school years in Wyoming, his unsuccessful studies at Yale and the completion of his degree at the University of Wyoming, all while his relationship with Lynne was deepening. At the age of 37 Cheney would suffer his first heart attack. From then on his cardiac health would always be just below or breaking the surface of his life voyage. I think that we often think of political figures as one dimensional characters driven by political success to the exclusion of all else. This book reveals a man whose life story was shaped by a series of career choices which could have altered that story profoundly. Initially expected to pursue an academic career, Cheney eventually had to choose between that and government service. He chose government. His rapid ascent to chief of staff in the Ford White House sets the stage for a segment of this book which takes readers not only into Cheney's role but also gives us a fly on the wall's view of the Nixon pardon, earned re-entry for Vietnam war resisters and the unsuccessful 1976 campaign. For me this was the first really good part of the book. After that defeat, Cheney had to choose between a private life and an entry into the political arena. While contemplating a run for the U.S. Senate, an opening in the Wyoming House seat led to the decision that would send him back to Washington. A rapid rise into the House Leadership set up another choice when President George H.W. Bush invited him back into the executive branch. After weighing his options, he again set his life story on its course which included crucial time spent as Secretary of Defense during the Gulf War. This segment of the book provides the reader with an invitation into the meetings that set the war into motion and carried it to victory. Here we see President Bush and Gen. Collin Powell up close. With Bush's defeat in 1992, Cheney faced another choice and this time renounced politics as he chose private business by joining the Halliburton firm, a decision that would bring him wealth, enhanced prestige and credentials. At this point it seemed that Dick Cheney's public career was over and he would make his mark in the realm of international commerce. The offer to run for vice-president with George W. Bush presented another choice between public and private life. As readers of my reviews know, I have read many biographies, but rarely do I encounter a subject whose life took so many turns of significance to himself and the world. The last roughly half of the book covers that part of his career. In this segment we see up close the role of the man chosen to help govern, not campaign. We are brought up close to two campaigns, the molding of an administration, over which Cheney exerted enormous influence, 9-11 and its aftermath and the gradual unraveling of the administration and Cheney's personal influence. I think that this is an excellent biography which helps us understand a man who, through his choices, guided his life and affected all of ours. Full disclosure is called for. I voted for the Bush-Cheney ticket twice and am glad that I did. A reader who is a Cheney hater and wants to find sinister motives in his every move will not enjoy this book. For a Cheney fan or a reader with an open mind, it presents a rare insight into a very real man and the national affairs of his era.

Kurzbeschreibung During a forty-year career in politics, Vice President Dick Cheney has been involved in some of the most consequential decisions in recent American history. He was one of a few select advisers in the room when President Gerald Ford decided to declare an end to the Vietnam War. Nearly thirty years later, from the presidential bunker below the White House in the moments immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001, he helped shape the response: America's global war on terror. Yet for all of his influence, the world knows very little about Dick Cheney. The most powerful vice president in U.S. history has also been the most secretive and guarded of all public officials. "Am I the evil genius in the corner that nobody ever sees come out of his hole?" Cheney asked rhetorically in 2004. "It's a nice way to operate, actually." Now, in *Cheney: The Untold Story of America's Most Powerful and Controversial Vice President*, New York Times bestselling author and Weekly Standard senior writer Stephen F. Hayes offers readers a groundbreaking view into the world of this most enigmatic man. Having had exclusive access to Cheney himself, Hayes draws upon hundreds of interviews with the vice president, his boyhood friends, political mentors, family members, reticent staffers, and senior Bush administration officials, to deliver a comprehensive portrait of one of the most important political figures in modern times. The wide range of topics Hayes covers includes Cheney's withdrawal from Yale; his early run-ins with the law; the incident that almost got him blackballed from working in the Ford White House; his meteoric rise to congressional leadership; his opposition to removing Saddam Hussein from power after the first Gulf War; the solo, cross-country drive he took after leaving the Pentagon; his selection as Bush's running mate; his commanding performance on 9/11; the aggressive intelligence and interrogation measures he pushed in the aftermath of those attacks; the necessity of the Iraq War; the consequences of mistakes made during and after that war; and intelligence battles with the CIA and their lasting effects. With exhaustive reporting, Hayes shines a light into the shadows of the Bush administration and finds a very different Dick Cheney from the one America thinks it knows. From Publishers Weekly Before he became George W. Bush's running mate in

the 2000 election, Hayes reports, Dick Cheney called the vice presidency a cruddy job. But during his tenure, Hayes argues, Cheney transformed this traditionally inconsequential office into a focal point of presidential power. While emphasizing Cheney's role as vice president, this biography follows his entire political career, beginning with a 1968 congressional fellowship and including key positions in the Ford and George H.W. Bush administrations, as well as 21 years as a congressman. Drawing on interviews with Cheney and others, as well as TV interviews and other journalistic reports, Hayes covers this material engagingly and efficiently. A reporter for the Weekly Standard and author of a previous book on the connection between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein, Hayes approaches Cheney sympathetically, countering more critical accounts in the popular press for example, he laments the way Ambassador Joseph Wilson's flawed storyline regarding forged evidence that Iraq had attempted to acquire uranium from Niger hardened into conventional wisdom. The book may not convince detractors, but it sketches a vivid portrait of Cheney as an intelligent, quiet leader committed throughout his career, even as a member of Congress, to strengthening the power and authority of the executive branch. (July 24) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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