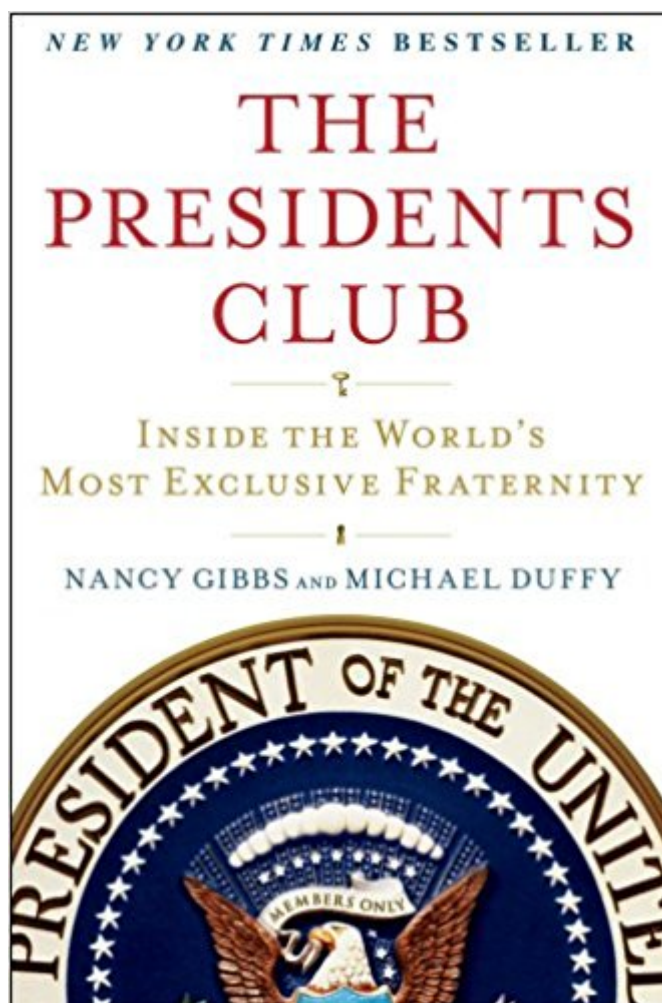


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The Presidents Club: Inside The World's Most Exclusive Fraternity



Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling history of the private relationships among the last thirteen presidents—the partnerships, private deals, rescue missions, and rivalries of those select men who served as commander in chief. The Presidents Club, established at Dwight Eisenhower's inauguration by Harry Truman and Herbert Hoover, is a complicated place: its members are bound forever by the experience of the Oval Office and yet are eternal rivals for history's favor. Among their secrets: How Jack Kennedy tried to blame Ike for the Bay of Pigs. How Ike quietly helped Reagan win his first race in 1966. How Richard Nixon conspired with Lyndon Johnson to get elected and then betrayed him. How Jerry Ford and Jimmy Carter turned a deep enmity into an alliance. The unspoken pact between a father and son named Bush. And the roots of the rivalry between Clinton and Barack Obama. Time magazine editors and presidential historians Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy offer a new and revealing lens on the American presidency, exploring the club as a hidden instrument of power that has changed the course of history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, April 2012: It's hard to imagine a more obviously fascinating prism through which to look at American history and politics since the end of World War II. Starting with the surprisingly effective relationship of Harry S. Truman and Herbert Hoover, and following through "Obama and His Club," TIME Magazine's Executive Editor Nancy Gibbs and Washington Bureau Chief Michael Duffy trace the surprising, complicated story of "the world's most exclusive fraternity."

Sitting presidents and their predecessors have at times proved remarkably simpatico, at others impossible thorns in each other's sides. The authors' extensive research demonstrates that ex-Presidents have a penchant for morphing from consummate team players into irascible rogues, sometimes within weeks, as they strive both to remain relevant and to shape their own legacies. In Gibbs and Duffy's hands, their stories never fail to captivate. --Jason Kirk --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This is essential reading for anyone interested in American politics." --Robert Dallek, bestselling author of "An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963" "Michael Duffy and Nancy Gibbs have taken us inside one of the most powerful and unusual families in American life--the brotherhood of former presidents of the United States. Political junkies, historians, psychologists and main street citizens will find the tales of friendship, envy, conspiracy, competition and common cause irresistible." --Tom Brokaw, bestselling author of "The Greatest Generation" "Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy have given us a great gift: a deeply reported, highly original, and wonderfully written exploration of a much-overlooked part of American history. The tiny world of U.S. presidents is our Olympus, and Gibbs and Duffy have chronicled the intimacies and rivalries of the gods." --Jon Meacham, bestselling author of "American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House" "A fabulous book . . . I absolutely love it." --Greta Van Susteren, FOX News "Michael Duffy and Nancy Gibbs offer more than a fresh and fascinating first look at the world's most exclusive men's club. It's a book of real substance about clashing egos and strange bedfellows at the top." --Jonathan Alter, bestselling author of "The Promise" "The Presidents Club "is magnetically readable, bursting with new information and behind-the-scenes details. It is also an important contribution to history, illuminating the event-making private relationships among our ex-Presidents and why we should do a far better job of drawing on their skills and experience." --Michael Beschloss, bestselling author of "The Conquerors" "This is a great scoop . . . Amazing." --Chris Matthews, NBC "This is a brilliant idea for a book, wonderfully written! At Eisenhower's inauguration, Hoover and Truman half-jokingly decided to form a 'President's Club.' With surprising reporting and insights, this book reveals the relationships and rivalries among the few men who know what it's like to be president. It gives a new angle on history by exploring the essence of the presidency." --Walter Isaacson, bestselling author of "Steve Jobs "and "Benjamin Franklin" "The Presidents Club" is a lucid and well-written glimpse into the modern presidency and its self-sustaining shadow organization. It's worth reading and rereading for its behind-the-scenes insights." --"USA Today" "Forget Rome's Curia, Yale's Skull and Bones and the Bilderbergs--the world's most exclusive club never numbers more than six. . . .

Michael Duffy and Nancy Gibbs have penetrated thick walls of secrecy and decorum to give us the most intimate, revealing, and poignant account of the constitutional fifth wheel that is the ex-presidency. Readers are in for some major surprises, not to mention a history they won't be able to put down." --Richard Norton Smith, author of "Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation"

The Presidents Club is a must read for anyone that is truly interested in the fine line that exists with current Presidents and their successors. It opens the chapters of history from a perspective that is seldom seen by the general public. Exciting -- The book is an easy read that keeps the reader engaged as the authors tell the narrative of Presidential interaction. From Hoover to Obama the dynamics are shaped by the most powerful men in the world. From ego's to self-empathy the authors tell the real life history of how the club has grown and shrunk over the last 50 years. Credible - Well sourced and full of citing the authors took the job seriously and gave readers insights only found by scouring thousands and thousands of pages of Presidential material. Insightful - Discover how Hoover was a tremendous help at the end of WWII. Put yourself in President Reagan's post-presidential office as he teaches another President how to salute. Perception Changing - The book opened this readers eyes to the decisions that Presidents have to make. Foreign Policy rules the land and I would bet each of us are hard pressed to ever look at our leaders through the same lens as we did before reading this book.

Absorbing, detailed and factual - this interesting book describes how ex-presidents co-operate with one another and, for the good of the country, will neither offend nor criticize an incumbent. Although I chose to read the book on my Kindle Fire, I recommend a hardcover version to share with others. Having lived thru decades of presidents, I knew quite a bit of the more recent acts of friendship and cooperation between Carter/Ford, Clinton/Bush, Eisenhower/Truman, etc. but there were some surprises! I especially enjoyed the chapter on Herbert Hoover and am sending for his biography - a great man whose gifts to the nation have gone largely unnoticed. If you enjoy reading about the American presidents and especially what they accomplish after their stint in the White House ends, then you may agree with me, this is one of the better books published on the subject - the author writes well and holds your attention. Since I am an independent voter, I appreciate reading about "both sides" and knowing that there are usually a few ex-presidents alive and ready to help an incumbent if asked, no matter which party reigns. Reading about this unique "Club" will make you proud to be an American.

Interesting read. Exposes the human condition as it exists, even if one is the most powerful leader in the World. No mystique when looking at decisions made with benefit of time revealing the impact. Good read that reveals no matter the Administration, decisions and policies are best rendered with the beneficial support of experience. I now recognize that what is occurring in real time I might be sell consider that what I am seeing isn't nuance; it's very possible a previous Administration may have encountered similar states of affairs. Recommended reading.

Once a person has been the President of the United States, that person has become an advisor, a mentor, a teacher, a friend, and sometimes an ambassador for the sitting President. No person can possibly imagine the loneliness of the difficult decisions facing the sitting President except those who have gone before him. There is no official "The Presidents Club", it is simply an ad hoc group of ex-Presidents who have helped the sitting President in many situations over time. The exegesis begins with Truman and how he enlisted Hoover to help in distribution of supplies to foreign countries, and it passes through Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford, Kennedy, LBJ, Carter, Reagan, Bush Sr., Clinton, Bush Jr., Obama in sequential fashion and the book provides an excellent account of the relationships that occurred during those administrations. It is a fascinating account of backdoor politics, gives great insights to the personalities of the various Presidents, and it allows the reader to have a peek into some of the most sensitive situations that have faced modern United States. I learned a great deal about history, about politics, and about the importance of having an informal group of advisors to help the current President preside over America with wisdom and equity.

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