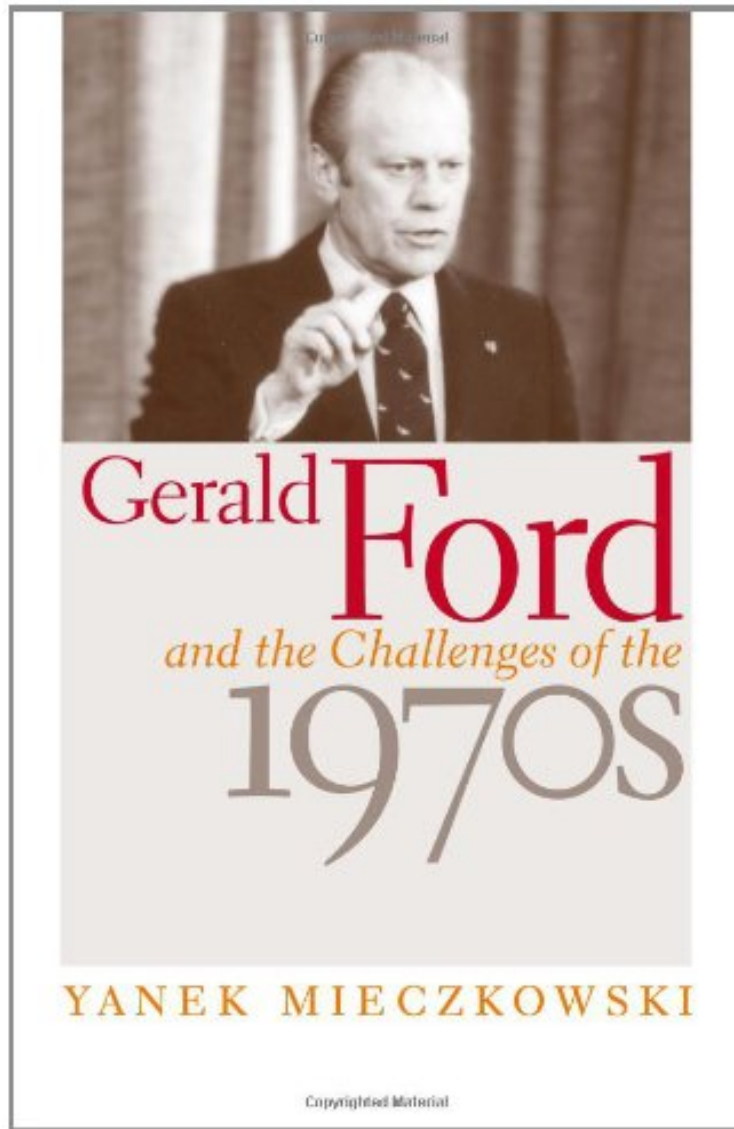


(Get free) Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s

Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s

Yanek Mieczkowski

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Yanek Mieczkowski : Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Title says it all.By Nicholas RobertsThis book is about how Gerald Ford confronted the numerous problems that confronted the nation during the 1970s. The book is divided into several parts. The first involves the constitutional crisis of pardoning Nixon and getting respect back to the Presidency. Ford's upfront approach and willingness to work with others helped to heal the wounds of Watergate, but did not seal them.

Time would prove Ford right in the end however. Second part covers the economic crisis at the time. Inflation was high, unemployment was high, and the economy was in a severe recession. The author presents Ford's economic plan, the effects and how it improved the nation. Third part involves the energy crisis and the fourth his bid for re-election. Everything is covered and explained in an easy to read format. It gives you a greater appreciation for Ford as a man and a politician. It is unfortunate that we do not have more of this type of politician in office today. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great political work By Lehigh History Student This is an excellent book not only for summarizing the presidency of Gerald Ford but also for understanding of how the 1970's changed America. For those who wish to understand 2008 and the problems facing the election and the country they only have to look back to this time in history where unbridled disgust of the government and economic woes were abound. As past reviewers have stated this book does an excellent job of looking at how the Ford presidency shaped the America and provides a necessary reevaluation of the times. While Truman got his mythical bounce during the Ford era it may be in the times of the 2008 election and George W Bush that Ford may see his redemption. Ford faced a challenge unlike many presidents and as the author states "Ford may have been elected at the most unlucky time in history" with a host of internal political strife, economic woes of inflation and soon to be rising unemployment, as well as falling world prestige. He approached these problems with honesty and common sense providing leadership that saved the Republican Party and possibly allowed the country to heal from the rifts. Despite not winning reelection Ford shaped the future by marshaling the economic forces of the time trying to give the Carter administration a policy to work with. As you read the energy policies in this book they smack of the very things being discussed in 2008 from CAF standards to development of alternate energy standards. In all this is a fascinating book to read and I recommend it to all students of political history. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Best Ford Biography By J. Smallridge Although this reads like an academic text, it is a GOOD academic text. The work fully illuminates the problems that Ford dealt with, (both domestic and foreign) and brings to life the 1970s. Mieczkowski is a great writer and is very good at throwing in numerous details to keep the reader engaged.

History has not been kind to Gerald Ford. His name evokes an image of either America's only unelected president, who abruptly pardoned his corrupt predecessor, or an accident-prone man who failed to provide skilled leadership to a country in domestic turmoil. In *Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s*, historian Yanek Mieczkowski reexamines Ford's two and a half years in office, showing that his presidency successfully confronted the most vexing crises of the postwar era. Surveying the state of America in the 1970s, Mieczkowski focuses on the economic challenges facing the country. He argues that Ford's understanding of the national economy was better than that of any other modern president, that Ford oversaw a dramatic reduction of inflation, and that his attempts to solve the energy crisis were based in sound economic principles. Throughout his presidency, Ford labored under the legacy of Watergate. Democrats scored landslide victories in the 1974 midterm elections, and the president engaged with a spirited opposition Congress. Within an anemic Republican Party, the right wing challenged Ford's leadership, even as pundits predicted the death of the GOP. Yet Ford reinvigorated the party and fashioned a 1976 campaign strategy against Jimmy Carter that brought him from thirty points behind to a dead heat on election day. Mieczkowski draws on numerous personal interviews with the former president, cabinet officials, and members of the Ninety-fourth Congress. In his reassessment of this underrated president, Ford emerges as a skilled executive, an effective diplomat, and a leader with a clear vision for America's future. Working to heal a divided nation, Ford unified the GOP and laid the groundwork for the Republican resurgence in subsequent decades. The first major work on the former president to appear in more than ten years, *Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s* combines the best of biography and economic, social, and presidential history to create an intriguing portrait of a president, his times, and his legacy.

"One of the best presidential biographies I have read. It explains the rise of the Republican Party as a ruling majority today. It is fast paced and extremely well written. It is a worthy assessment of Mr. Ford's presidency." (Lanett, AL) *Valley Times-News* "The reader come away from reading this fine and impeccably researched book with a new appreciation for Gerald Ford as a sophisticated thinker and a person with a consistent vision for the nation's domestic and international policy. . . . Succeeds admirably as a political biography." *Business History* "In this impressive book, he argues that Ford's tenure as president deserves more consideration and even praise than it has often received. After reading it, one is hard pressed to disagree with the author's conclusion." *H-Net* "A welcome study of an unusual American president." *Journal of American History* "This ambitious work calls for a reexamination of the Ford presidency in light of the formidable challenges he faced upon taking office. A welcome and important addition to the literature on the Ford presidency." *Library Journal* "Adds a great deal to our understanding of Ford's priorities and guiding philosophy for the nation's domestic and international policies. Mieczkowski shows within a broad historical context how Ford dealt with the challenges the country faced during the mid-1970s." *Michigan Historical* "By a masterful analysis, Mieczkowski shows how Ford restored credibility to government and promoted amicable relations with Congress." Richard Lowitt, University of Oklahoma About the Author Yanek Mieczkowski, professor of history at Dowling College, is the author of *The Routledge Historical Atlas of Presidential Elections and Eisenhower's Sputnik*

Moment: The Race for Space and World Prestige.