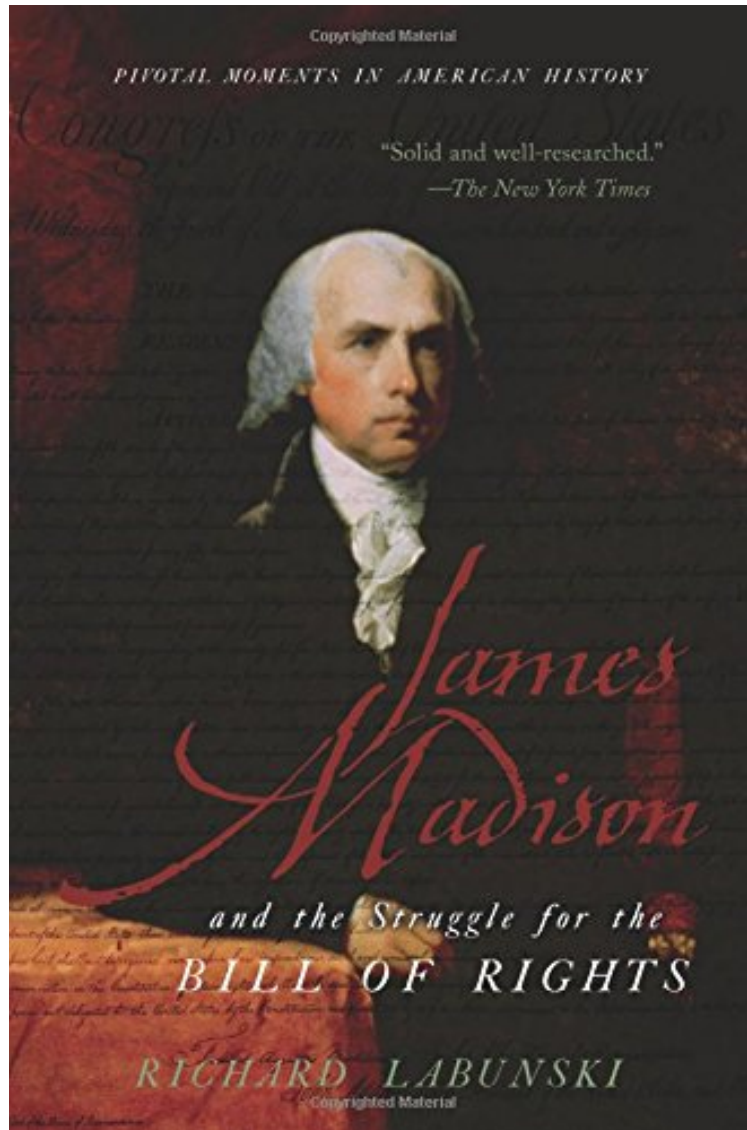


[Download] James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights (Pivotal Moments in American History)

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Richard Labunski

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Richard Labunski : James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights (Pivotal Moments in American History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights (Pivotal Moments in American History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful history By Holly Schaffter Very interesting read of the

struggle to overcome one challenge after another in the pursuit of making a nation. Wouldn't have known before reading this book that one man had been so crucial to the early formation and direction of the US government we take for granted today. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good read. I am only part way through it. By Patrick J. Corcoran. A good read. I am only part way through it. It is much more than just about Madison.. The book explores those who did not support ratifying the constitution, those who did, and those who supported it so long as there was a bill of rights. Thanks to our public education system, many people today have no idea what the bill of rights is or does. Many believe it outlines what the government can do. Not what the government can't do. Even many supporters of gun rights believe the 2nd amendment GIVES them the right to keep and bear arms. When in fact it recognizes the right to keep and bear arms, like the freedom of speech and assembly, is a God given right which the government cannot infringe. It doesn't give us that right, but protects our God given right. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent book, well written so as to give the ... By HistoryBuff. An excellent book, well written so as to give the reader the feeling of being there in history. After reading Madison's journal of the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention, this book had a lot of relevance as it is the continuation of the adoption of our constitution and the reasoning for the need for the Bill of Rights to be approved during the first congress. I highly recommend this book for insight into what was going on in this time in our development.

Today we hold the Constitution in such high regard that we can hardly imagine how hotly contested was its adoption. Now Richard Labunski offers a dramatic account of a time when the entire American experiment hung in the balance, only to be saved by the most unlikely of heroes--the diminutive and exceedingly shy James Madison. Here is a vividly written account of not one but several major political struggles which changed the course of American history. Labunski takes us inside the sweltering converted theater in Richmond, where for three grueling weeks, the soft-spoken Madison and the charismatic Patrick Henry fought over whether Virginia should ratify the Constitution. Madison won the day by a handful of votes, mollifying Anti-Federalist fears by promising to add a bill of rights to the Constitution. To do this, Madison would have to win a seat in the First Congress, which he did by a tiny margin, allowing him to attend the First Congress and sponsor the Bill of Rights. Packed with colorful details about life in early America, this compelling and important narrative is the first serious book about Madison written in many years. It will return this under-appreciated patriot to his rightful place among the Founding Fathers and shed new light on a key turning point in our nation's history.

From Publishers Weekly. It will come as little surprise to learn that Poe is a veteran Broadway performer: in reading Labunski's chronicle of James Madison's efforts to ratify the Constitution and pass the Bill of Rights, his voice echoes with effortless assurance, carrying into the virtual back row of any room. Thankfully, Poe mostly avoids the vocal equivalent of theatrical preening and posing. His reading is careful, unassuming and avoids wholly unnecessary showboating. Labunski's narrative revolves around Madison's struggle with fellow Virginian Patrick Henry over ratification, and Poe does a fine job of conveying the steadily ratcheting tension of their battle. Poe colors Labunski's tale with an appropriate array of significant pauses, emphases and hushed mock-whispers, bringing his book to life without resorting to overworked theatrical tricks. He may be a stage veteran, but Poe's reading is anything but stagy. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist. Had the Constitution of 1787 not been ratified, the U.S. could conceivably have fallen apart. How the state of Virginia gave the ultimate thumbs-up may not, on the surface, make for a barn-burning history, but journalist Labunski manages affairs so well as to warrant attention from buffs of the early republic. The book quotes substantially from Federalists and anti-Federalists at the rostrum, but as nascent democracy required the cerebral James Madison to campaign for votes, much of Labunski's narrative takes place outside, too. Ensnared in Philadelphia and New York during the years 1787-89, Madison had to travel frequently to Virginia, and the author underscores how bone shaking that journey could be. At home, and against the machinations of patriot Patrick Henry, Madison won election to the ratifying convention, and again to the First Congress under the Constitution. There he legislatively engineered amendments that tradition has venerated as the Bill of Rights. A work interesting within its ambit, and capably carried off by Labunski. Gilbert Taylor. Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "With Labunski's book we now have a very readable and reliable narrative of how Madison gave birth to the Bill of Rights."--Gordon S. Wood, Professor of History, Brown University. "Watch the wig powder fly as James Madison and Patrick Henry slug it out over the constitutional freedoms we take for granted today."--Atlantic Monthly. A virtue of Labunski's account is the generous attention he gives to Anti-Federalist luminaries like Patrick Henry, George Mason, and Richard Henry Lee--figures too often overlooked in our reverential regard for the founding. For those used to thinking of the Bill of Rights as carved in stone, it is also instructive to see just how large a role accident played in its creation."--Gary Rosen, The New York Times Book Review. "This engaging study views the Bill of Rights as the crowning achievement of America's constitutional architect... An interesting story, full of sonorous oratory and colorful details of 18th-century politicking. The result is a lively look at the rickety early republic and Madison's great balancing act."--Publishers Weekly. "Carefully and lucidly examines how Madison and his political supporters and opponents (mostly Anti-

Federalists) shaped the initial parameters of the Constitution and then further expressed their constitutional philosophies in the amendments that followed... A highly recommended analysis that will be useful for public and academic libraries."--Library Journal (starred review)