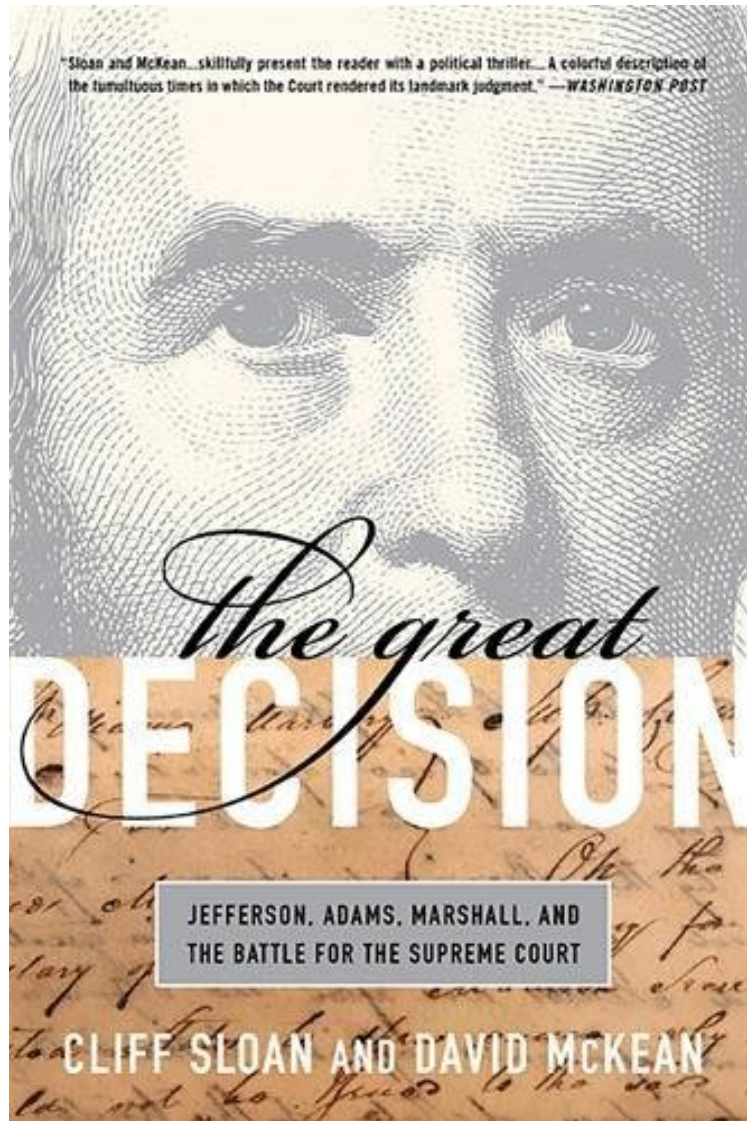


The Great Decision: Jefferson, Adams, Marshall, and the Battle for the Supreme Court

Cliff Sloan, David McKean

audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#393126 in Books 2010-03-02 2010-03-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.63 x .75 x 5.631, .56 #File Name: 1586488058288 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Cliff Sloan, David McKean : The Great Decision: Jefferson, Adams, Marshall, and the Battle for the Supreme Court before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Decision: Jefferson, Adams, Marshall, and the Battle for the Supreme Court:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazingly relevant even to an election year! By James Mikel Wilson During a contentious election year, combined with posturing to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court, the Great

Decision sheds reassuring historical light on our enduring political processes--however messy they may become. It describes how our founding fathers faith in a new democracy prevailed over the bumpy transition to transfer the reigns of government for the first time to another political party. Caught in the intersection were tremendous difference in beliefs regarding the role of a fragile Supreme Court and the future of judicial independence. The Great Decision reveals the political tensions and drama that ultimately anchored our democracy under a rule of law for the common good. The authors relate this story in a clear and immensely entertaining manner. In addition to a good read at home, this book deserves to become a classic in American History classrooms.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun and InformativeBy David HudsonMany of the other commentators on this book criticize it for not being a serious history book, or for not containing a detailed analysis of the impact of the Marbury v. Madison case at the time it was decided. These comments are probably correct, but this book is still a wonderful read. I enjoyed it from start to finish. While the book is primarily about the Marbury v. Madison case, the story sometimes wanders to facts and events not necessarily relevant to the case. I found these diversions both fascinating and fun. Anyone with even a slight interest in the Constitution of the United States, the Judicial Branch, the history of our government, or fun personal stories about our early political leaders will enjoy this book. The book is a very quick read, and the reader will probably enjoy the experience of learning something important about our history.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Marbury, Marshall, and Jefferson IntersectBy Ronald H. ClarkWe are currently in the midst of a veritable flurry of books relating to John Marshall, his nationalizing decisions, and his development of robust judicial power. See, e.g., Richard Ellis's "Aggressive Nationalism" (also reviewed on). Several of these books focus on the Marbury v. Madison decision, which laid the cornerstone for Supreme Court judicial review, and so does this one. Since this topic has been covered so extensively in the Supreme Court literature, one does not expect much that is new in a current discussion. When I first read this book I was a bit put off because it seemed to have a lot of "filler," such as discussion of a Washington Birthday celebration, the John Adams presidency, and the selection and building of Washington, D.C. After a while the great virtue of this book dawned on me: the authors are quite excellent in setting the context of Marbury for the general reader, and that is the genesis of some of this tangential material. In other words, this is not the typical history of a Supreme Court case: a bit about the facts, heavy on the reasoning, and an analysis of where the decision fits into the body of constitutional law.All the pertinent history is here and the tale is well told. One co-author is a former Supreme Court clerk; the other has written several outstanding books including the definitive study of Tommy the Cork (also reviewed on). While I have read scads of articles and books on Marbury, I found this treatment fresh and interesting. The authors really develop the human and political contexts behind the legal arguments which add a valuable dimension. The book also discusses briefly the related decision in Stuart v. Laird, which upheld the repeal of the Federalist Judiciary Act of 1801. Both decisions are included in appendices. In addition, the authors have attached a helpful "Epilogue" briefly tracing developments subsequent to the Court's decision. The book includes 14 pages of notes and a brief selected bibliography. While not a trail blazing work of scholarship, this is an interesting and valuable discussion of this most critical decision.

Following the bitterly contested election between Adams and Jefferson in 1800, the United States teetered on the brink of a second revolution. When Adams sought to prolong his policies in defiance of the electorate by packing the courts, it became evident that the new Constitution was limited in its powers. Change was in order and John Marshall stepped up to the challenge.The Great Decision tells the riveting story of Marshall and of the landmark court case, Marbury v. Madison, through which he empowered the Supreme Court and transformed the idea of the separation of powers into a working blueprint for our modern state. Rich in atmospheric detail, political intrigue, and fascinating characters, The Great Decision is an illuminating tale of America's formative years and the evolution of our democracy.

From Booklist*Starred * In 1800, when Thomas Jefferson took office as third president of the U.S., it represented the first peaceful transfer of power from one party to another in the new nation, but it also aggravated growing tensions between the outgoing Federalists and the incoming Republicans. The nascent U.S. Supreme Court, led by John Marshall, Jeffersons distant cousin and sometime antagonist, was caught in the middle when a case pitting the two political parties against each other landed before the court. Marbury v. Madison challenged Jeffersons authority to rebuff the court-packing efforts of outgoing President Adams. Sloan and McKean begin by detailing the behind-the-scenes machinations attending the transfer of power to Jefferson. They go on to focus on the particulars of the Marbury case and Marshalls efforts to shape the courts tradition by wearing black robes, deliberating, and balancing politics against legal equity, to establish gravitas for an institution that had been a laughingstock. An astute politician, Marshall managed to avoid a confrontation with Jefferson but firmly established the Supreme Court as the last word in interpreting the Constitution. In this highly accessible book, the authors skillfully build suspense and tension around an outcome readers may already know. --Vanessa Bush "Kirkus," December 15, 2008"Former Supreme Court clerk and Slate publisher Sloan and veteran political aide McKean bring to life one of the most important legal cases in American history.... Sloan and McKean supply Marbury's historical context and unravel the complex fabric of personalities, politics and law that animated the case.... The authors' enthusiasm and clear prose vivify the contention

that, as Marshall said, 'It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.' A crisp, color examination of the case that established the formidable power of the federal judiciary." Walter Isaacson, author of "Benjamin Franklin: An American Life" "The Supreme Court case of Marbury v. Madison is the most important key to understanding the separation of power in American government. "The Great Decision "makes the tale come alive. It's filled with intrigue, colorful personalities, and political maneuvers that seem astonishingly relevant to our world today." Douglas Brinkley, Professor of History at Rice University "What a deeply intelligent and well written analysis of the Madison v. Marbury case. Anyone interested in constitutional law must read this fine book by Cliff Sloan and David McKean." Laurence H. Tribe, Carl M. Loeb University Professor, Harvard Law School "As our nation emerges from a dark decade of disrespect for the Constitution, nothing could be more fitting than a new picture of the great decision that made the rule of law a living part of the American legacy. Forests have been felled writing about that decision as a legal landmark, but its place in the turbulent politics and psychology of the time has never been painted in colors more vivid than those with which Sloan and McKean created this historic portrait." Ken Burns, Filmmaker "Cliff Sloan and David McKean have taken the story of Marbury v. Madison and revealed it to be what it always was: a drama of the first order--superbly and fluidly rendered here--and a decision that would cement the power of the third and most neglected leg of the tripod that still to this day supports us all." "Kirkus," December 15, 2008 "Former Supreme Court clerk and Slate publisher Sloan and veteran political aide McKean bring to life one of the most important legal cases in American history.... Sloan and McKean supply Marbury's historical context and unravel the complex fabric of personalities, politics and law that animated the case.... The authors' enthusiasm and clear prose vivify the contention that, as Marshall said, 'It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is.' A crisp, color examination of the case that established the formidable power of the federal judiciary." Walter Isaacson, author of "Benjamin Franklin: An American Life" "The Supreme Court case of Marbury v. Madison is the most important key to understanding the separation of power in American government. "The Great Decision "makes the tale come alive. It's filled with intrigue, colorful personalities, and political maneuvers that seem astonishingly relevant to our world today." Douglas Brinkley, Professor of History at Rice University "What a deeply intelligent and well written analysis of the Madison v. Marbury case. Anyone interested in constitutional law must read this fine book by Cliff Sloan and David McKean." Laurence H. Tribe, Carl M. Loeb University Professor, Harvard Law School "As our nation emerges from a dark decade of disrespect for the Constitution, nothing could be more fitting than a new picture of the great decision that made the rule of law a living part of the American legacy. Forests have been felled writing about that decision as a legal landmark, but its place in the turbulent politics and psychology of the time has never been painted in colors more vivid than those with which Sloan and McKean created this historic portrait." Ken Burns, Filmmaker "Cliff Sloan and David McKean have taken the story of Marbury v. Madison and revealed it to be what it always was: a drama of the first order--superbly and fluidly rendered here--and a decision that would cement the power of the third and most neglected leg of the tripod that still to this day supports us all." "Booklist," 3/1 "In this highly accessible book, the authors skillfully build suspense and tension around an outcome readers may already know." About the Author Cliff Sloan is a former Supreme Court clerk. He has written about the Supreme Court for many publications, including Newsweek, The Washington Post, and Slate. David McKean is a top-level Senate aide, a veteran political strategist, and the author of Friends in High Places and Tommy the Cork.