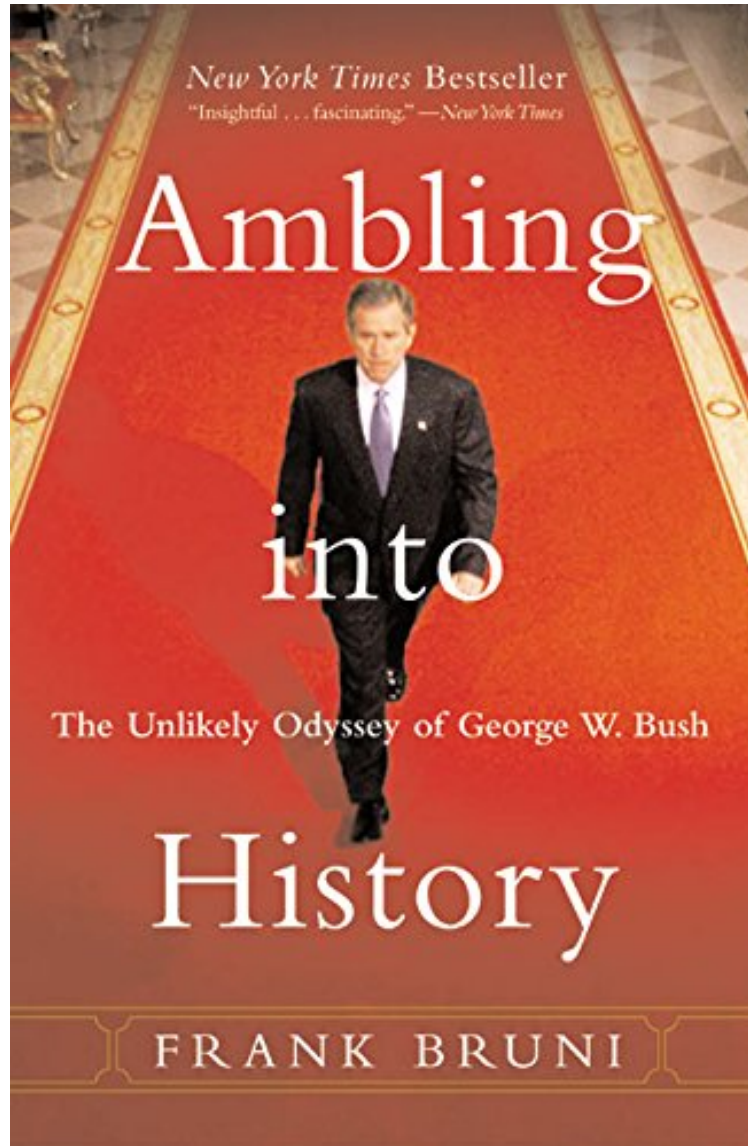


(Download free pdf) Ambling into History: The Unlikely Odyssey of George W. Bush

Ambling into History: The Unlikely Odyssey of George W. Bush

Frank Bruni

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#1828992 in Books Frank Bruni 2003-03-04 2003-03-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.311, .49 #File Name: 0060937823288 pages Ambling into History The Unlikely Odyssey of George W Bush | File size: 58.Mb

Frank Bruni : Ambling into History: The Unlikely Odyssey of George W. Bush before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ambling into History: The Unlikely Odyssey of George W. Bush:

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Bush and the Misunderestimators By Rodolfo Camacho Frank Bruni, a New York Times reporter, wrote a perceptive and eloquent book about the candidate whose campaign he covered in

1999-2000 and the president of the months previous to 9/11, when he was part of the White House press corps. With eye for the big and the small details, he tries a search for George W. Bush. But, as seems always the case in this kind of books, he succeeds, but only partially. Nevertheless, the answers to these failures stand clear in the book itself. I think it has to do something with misundereestimation. Analysts, journalists and all kinds of pundits, it seems, start at the wrong place: they measure Bush against the traditional political standards and, when he just doesn't fit into them, well, the problems begin. "In many regards, the Bush I knew did not seem to be built for what lay ahead. The Bush I knew was part scamp and part bumbler, a timeless fraternity boy and heedless cutup, a weekday gym rat and weekend napster, an adult with an inner child that often brimmed to the surface or burst through". What Bruni and others see as limitations, I think, could well be the essence of the success behind George W. Bush in the eyes of many people. In a time where professional politicians are always so self-righteous and pretend to have the right answers to all the problems around, Bush and his unpretending and fallible human nature are a breeze of fresh air. So, when reading this book, you have to look for the real Bush, the one whose own self and voice keeps joyfully and intelligently jumping out here and there throughout the text, no matter what his disciplinarians (like Karen Hughes) do to enforce him, or the journalists (like Bruni himself) think about it. Bruni's book deserves five stars because he tries really hard to measure Bush against those all traditional standards and, in the way, inadvertently discovers Bush to the reader. Another plus is his exceptionally intelligent assessment of the role the press plays in "constructing reality" and not just reporting it. Sure it does. And it's part of the misundereestimation of George W. Bush. Read it, you won't be disappointed. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Viewing George W. with a slightly jaundiced eye By S. M. Ferguson This portrait of Bush from the primaries to the presidency is a good read, not only for his intimate view of Bush as a political animal, but also for its insight on what it's like to be a reporter following him. (If this aspect appeals to you, have a look at another book, "The Boys on the Bus" by Timothy Crouse. It's a classic account of reporters following the 1972 presidential campaign trail.) Bruni's observations about Bush tend to be tart and somewhat cynical at times, which is why I gave it only four stars. Overall, though, it's excellent reporting, and will be an important part of the historical record of the Bush presidency. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. By A Reporter Who Was There By A Customer Good book by a New York Times reporter who traveled with Bush as he ran for President. Book is well written. It shows a side of Bush that one doesn't see on television. He has a bit of ornery side. The book is really funny at times, especially when reviewing some of the President's bloopers with the language. Whether you like or dislike Bush I think you'll enjoy the book.

The unlikely Odyssey of George W. Bush. As the principal New York Times reporter assigned to cover George W. Bush's presidential campaign from its earliest stages – and then as a White House correspondent – Frank Bruni has spent as much time around Bush over the last two years as any other reporter. In *Ambling Into History*, Bruni paints the most thorough, balanced, eloquent and lively portrait yet of a man in many ways ill-suited to the office he sought and won, focusing on small moments that often escaped the news media's notice. From the author's initial introduction to Bush through a nutty election night and Bush's first months in office, Bruni captures the president's familiar and less familiar oddities and takes readers on an often funny, usually irreverent, journey into the strange, closed universe – or bubble – of campaign life. The result is an original take on the political process and a detailed study of George W. Bush as most people have never seen him.

.com In *Ambling into History*, New York Times reporter Frank Bruni has drawn an informal, evenhanded, largely anecdotal, and revealing portrait of George W. Bush, whose presidential campaign he covered. Bruni initially describes Bush as "part scamp and part bumbler," but his respect grows, and he finds that, with the September 11, 2001, attacks, Bush "inherited his true purpose," thereby spurring his emergence as a leader. Bruni is not especially concerned with Bush's political philosophy, preferring instead to relate many "small moments" to show what Bush "looked and acted like on the edges of what was usually considered news." Bruni is at his best when describing--often humorously--the exhausting life of the media corps during a campaign: the 24-hour days, the harrowing deadlines, and the brutish tedium of listening to and reporting on the same speech over and over again, a process he likens to "aerobic stenography." An equal-opportunity cynic, Bruni decries the "superficiality" not only of American politics but the media's coverage of it. This is an amiable and seemingly trustworthy peek behind the presidential dais and into a reporter's notebook. --H. O'Billovich From Publishers Weekly Bruni, White House correspondent for the New York Times, aims to entice readers who want to know more about their commander-in-chief, yet he focuses on the seemingly trivial aspects of Bush's personality, small moments that he believes "reveal every bit as much about Bush as large ones": Bush sticking his fingers in Bruni's ears to indicate something is off the record. Or Bush holding his pinkie to the corner of his mouth ... la Dr. Evil in the Austin Powers movies. Most of these observations reside firmly in the Bush-as-intellectual-lightweight tradition. But Bruni also acknowledges many times when Bush surprised him with "flashes of cleverness" as when, reflecting on his patrimony, Bush offered stabbing insights into the similar advantages of top New York Times executive Arthur Sulzberger Jr., whose family has owned Bruni's newspaper for generations. Taken together, Bruni's minute observations do present a cohesive portrait of George W. Bush. The

problem is, it's Bush the Candidate, not Bush the President who appears only briefly at the end. For the most part, the book focuses on the 2000 campaign, the last period during which reporters had open access to Bush. Thus, Bruni finds himself writing about Bush on the wrong side of September 11. What does remain interesting are the glimpses that Bruni provides of the journalistic side of the campaign, which the author says reached "new depths of disingenuous behavior" (e.g., reporters manufacturing arguments between candidates in order to trump up stories, as Bruni admits he and others frequently did). These insights are surprising and instructional and far more likely to remain relevant than any caricature of the wartime president as a "timeless fraternity boy." Agent, Lisa Bankoff. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Respected New York Times reporter Bruni, who covered the Bush campaign in 2000, brings insight, wit, and intelligence to this effort to understand the makeup and character of the 43rd President of the United States. While this is a campaign chronicle, it is also an attempt to get to the roots of who George W. Bush is and the President he is becoming. Bruni portrays Bush as a more complex and contradictory man than he appears on the surface, with unrecognized strengths and obvious limitations. No intellectual, Bush is presented as a man of quirky intelligence with a capacity for applying his core values to problems but whose misuse of language and repeated malapropisms (e.g., Bush's saying that he sympathizes with the difficulties some Americans face in trying "to put food on your family") gives the impression of a man lost in the world of ideas. Full of insider stories from the campaign, this book will likely become one of the earliest available keys in deciphering the true character of George W. Bush. Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.