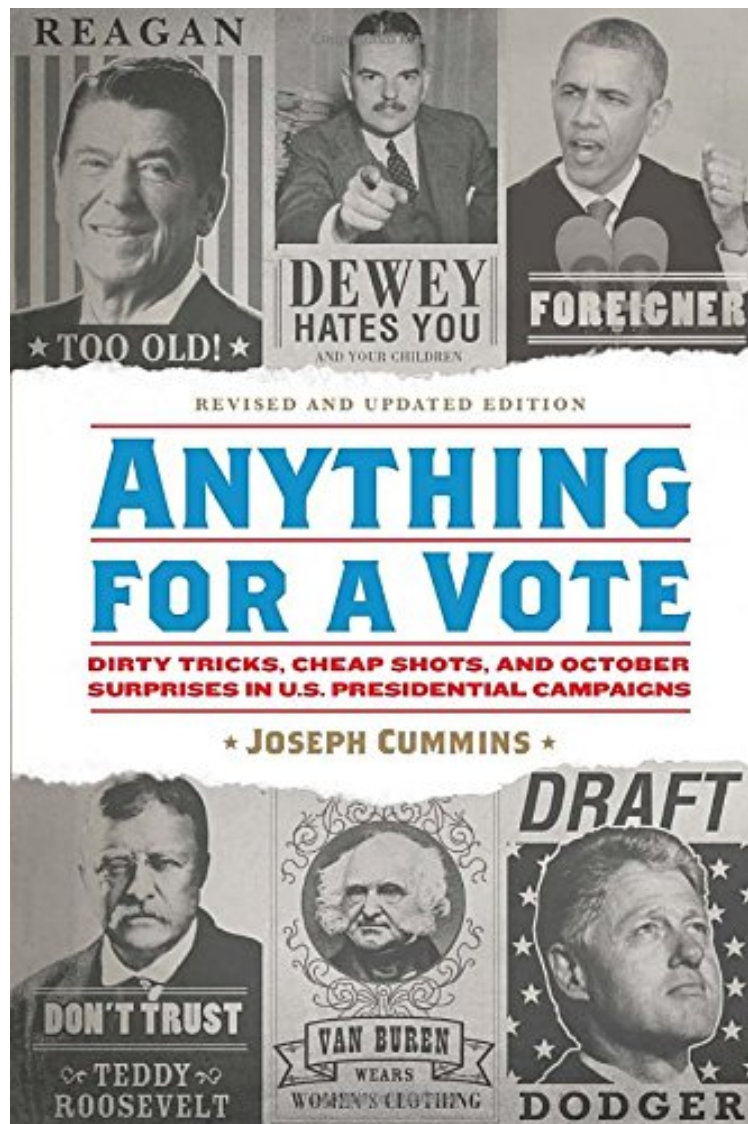


[Download free pdf] Anything for a Vote: Dirty Tricks, Cheap Shots, and October Surprises in U.S. Presidential Campaigns

Anything for a Vote: Dirty Tricks, Cheap Shots, and October Surprises in U.S. Presidential Campaigns

Joseph Cummins

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Joseph Cummins : Anything for a Vote: Dirty Tricks, Cheap Shots, and October Surprises in U.S. Presidential Campaigns before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Anything for a Vote: Dirty Tricks, Cheap Shots, and October Surprises in U.S. Presidential Campaigns:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining but superficialBy Peter J. OrvettiI found out about this

book in a magazine piece following this year's election, comparing it to elections of the past. It's a quick and enjoyable read; there's not much here that presidential history buffs won't already know, but it's interesting to see all 50-plus elections up to the time of publication considered. But while Cummins is an entertaining writer, the book comes off as slapdash. Cummins makes mistakes that contradict other parts of the book where he was correct -- after writing in his 1876 and 1880 sections that Grant had hoped for a third term, he writes in the 1940 section that FDR was the first president to even consider it; similarly, he writes in his 1952 section that Adlai Stevenson would seek the nomination again in 1956 and 1960, then says in his 1956 section that it was Stevenson's final attempt. He also says that if Robert Kennedy had not been assassinated, he would almost certainly have won the 1968 Democratic nomination, which most historians dispute. A bigger error comes in his 1988 section, where he says the Bush campaign and Lee Atwater were responsible for the "Willie Horton" ad, which was produced by an outside group. This error is significant because this is, after all, a book about dirty politics, and that's a fact he should get right. Moreover, while the historical scope here is admirable, Cummins keeps it all at surface level. Each campaign gets a very brief write-up, followed by a few examples of nastiness. He does not really explore how or why some campaigns were dirtier than others, and it is not always clear why some score worse than others on his arbitrary 1-10 scale of sleaze. He also barely mentions dirty nomination races, focusing almost entirely on general elections. As far as the last 40 years go, that's a big omission -- Gary Hart, for instance, barely gets a mention.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, brief overview of every political campaign since George ...By Thomas Good, brief overview of every political campaign since George Washington, with emphasis on the political maneuvering and tricks. Only faults I found go back 150 years; he failed to mention how the Democratic party splintered in 1860, resulting in 3 candidates who were originally in that party. In other elections he did mention third and fourth parties, so this omission is curious. Lincoln won with approximately 38% of the popular vote; he wasn't even on the ballot in many southern states. Stephen Douglas, who came in second on the popular vote, only took 1 state (Missouri) and part of another (NJ, electoral votes split between Lincoln and Douglas). Even if the Democrats hadn't split and all the votes had gone to Douglas, Lincoln still would have won the electoral college, possibly with slightly smaller number of votes. Cummins also refers to Grant's drinking, with no proof of claim. Contemporaries during Grant's presidency say he wasn't drinking, and even during the Civil War the claim was presented without proof. Grant did suffer from migraines, which the uninformed might have mistaken for the result of drinking.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dirty tricks, liesBy Dr. T Dirty tricks, lies, abuse of the truth, and voter fraud in presidential elections are nothing new to the United States! Cummings gives copious examples of the mean-spirited, often ridiculous, and sometimes even funny attacks of one opponent against another, going back to America's earliest elections. I like the clearly delineated, short chapters - one for each national election. And while it is obviously subjective, I was fascinated by the author's "Sleazometer," by which he rates each election's campaign for just how sleazy it was! Besides providing an off-beat level of entertainment, this book gives me hope that America may yet survive the current election - since it has survived political circuses in its past!

A revised and updated history of mudslinging, character assassination, and other election strategies from U.S. presidential politics of the past. Covering 225-plus years of smear campaigns, slanderous candidates, and bad behavior in American elections, this comprehensive history is the authoritative tour of political shade-throwing from George Washington to Barack Obama. You might think today's politicians play rough—but history reveals that dirty tricks are as American as apple pie. Let the name-calling begin! 1836: Congressman Davy Crockett accuses candidate Martin Van Buren of secretly wearing women's clothing: "He is laced up in corsets!" 1864: Candidate George McClellan describes his opponent, Abraham Lincoln, as "nothing more than a well-meaning baboon!" 1960: Former president Harry Truman advises voters that "if you vote for Richard Nixon, you ought to go to hell!" Full of sleazy and shameless anecdotes from every presidential election in United States history, *Anything for a Vote* is a valuable reminder that history does repeat itself, lessons can be learned from the past (but usually aren't), and our most famous presidents are not above reproach when it comes to the dirtiest game of all—political campaigning.

"Dirty tricks of the covert and the sleazy."—New York Times Magazine "While this grimy lens can be a hilarious way to look at the history of presidential politics, it's often a sobering one as well—colored by policies of discrimination and assaults on voting rights that are still relevant today."—Mother Jones "a compendium of 'dirty tricks, cheap shots and October surprises.'"—Playboy "Anything For a Vote will strike a chord."—McClatchy-Tribune News Service "a hoot to read."—The Oregonian About the Author Joseph Cummins is the author of several nonfiction books and a novel. He lives with his family in Maplewood, New Jersey.