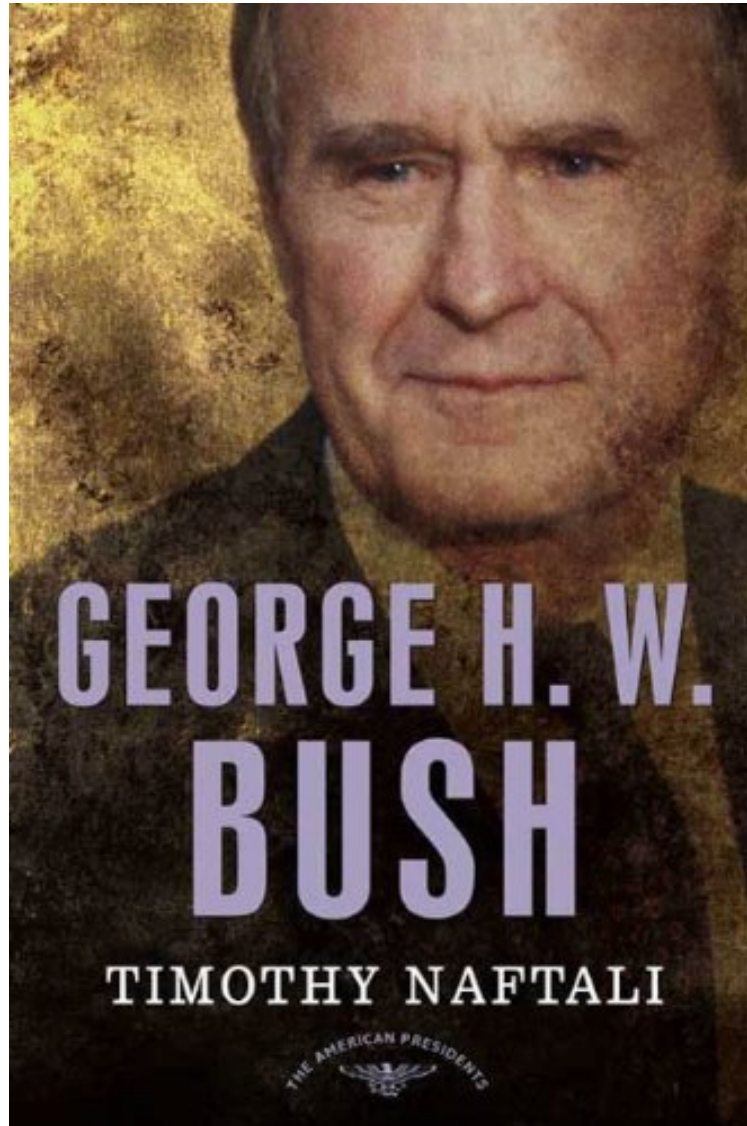


[Download] George H. W. Bush: The American Presidents Series: The 41st President, 1989-1993

## George H. W. Bush: The American Presidents Series: The 41st President, 1989-1993

*Von Timothy Naftali*

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My Lips...And Read This Book!Von James Gallen"George H.W. Bush" provides the reader with an interesting insight

into the life, career and even the soul of one of our recent presidents. Born into a patrician, political family, this son of a United States Senator was taught from an early age to value loyalty, service and character. Through the pages of this book we learn how George H.W. Bush lived out these values as he strode across the world stage. In this volume of the American Presidents Series, author Timothy Naftali was limited in the length of his, but yet he has brought us a work which digs below the surface as it analyzes the president who was hard, for many, to know. This book covers a whole life, not just his presidency. Beginning with his youth, it leads us through his service as the youngest Navy pilot in World War II, during which he lost his crew when their plane was shot down, his business career and early entry into politics. Starting as County Chairman, Bush ran an unsuccessful race for the U.S. Senate before settling in for two terms in the House of Representatives. After another defeat for the Senate, he entered a period of appointive positions, including Ambassador to the United Nations, Representative to China, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Throughout this period, Bush repeatedly angled for the Vice-Presidential nods from Nixon and Ford before getting it from Reagan. Ready to run for office again, Bush set his sights on the top in 1980, waging a valiant but unsuccessful challenge to the front runner, Ronald Reagan. Serving as a loyal vice-president, Bush gained the experience, and some taint of scandal, which would figure in his eventual succession to the Presidency. As President, Bush faced a series of challenges, including the management of victory in the Cold War, the savings and loan crisis, the lingering effects of Iran Contra, which could have tarnished Bush's reputation more than it did, Operation Just Cause in Panama and the infamous betray of the "Read My Lips" promise of no more taxes. The George H.W. Bush Administration will be mostly remembered for Operation Desert Storm in which forces of the coalition which he molded drove Saddam Hussein out of Iraq, but left him in power, only to be dealt with by another George Bush. In telling the story of the Washington end of Desert Storm, Naftali brings the reader into the rationale and the surprises which led to the victory which was obtained. He confirmed my suspicion that the administration was counting on a coup which would topple Saddam from power without the need of a military conquest. After Victory in the Desert, Bush entered a political downward spiral which led to the bitterness and disappointment that followed his defeat by Bill Clinton. The book explains why Bush was unable to connect with the people for whom he had achieved victory. Naftali does a good job at demonstrating why Bush was so unsuccessful in developing a loyal political following. He follows the development of this moderate Republican into a Reagan Conservative who then tried to become his own man without alienating the Reaganites who formed his political base. The people who elected him did not really know him and when Ross Perot offered a new and different candidate, many deserted Bush to follow a new leader. In the end, Bush suffered a rejection unprecedented since William Howard Taft. Despite his political failings, Naftali makes the point that, for a time in his administration, Bush achieved the status of greatness. When confronted with the international challenges of the end of the Cold War and the start of the struggle with Iraq, Bush skillfully brought the forces of the world together in a way that few other leaders have. In this, Bush makes his mark on history. Although short, this book enables the reader to see President Bush from a different perspective and gain a deeper understanding of him. Although not an apology for its subject, it does evidence a deep respect. It has changed my view of this period of history. A book that can do that is a valuable read.

Kurzbeschreibung The judicious statesman who won victories abroad but suffered defeat at home, whose wisdom and demeanor served America well at a critical time George Bush was a throwback to a different era. A patrician figure not known for eloquence, Bush dismissed ideology as "the vision thing." Yet, as Timothy Naftali argues, no one of his generation was better prepared for the challenges facing the United States as the Cold War ended. Bush wisely encouraged the liberalization of the Soviet system and skillfully orchestrated the reunification of Germany. And following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, he united the global community to defeat Saddam Hussein. At home, Bush reasserted fiscal discipline after the excesses of the Reagan years. It was ultimately his political awkwardness that cost Bush a second term. His toughest decisions widened fractures in the Republican Party, and with his party divided, Bush lost his bid for reelection in 1992. In a final irony, the conservatives who scorned him would return to power eight years later, under his son and namesake, with the result that the elder George Bush would see his reputation soar.

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see his reputation soar.ber den Autor und weitere MitwirkendeTimothy Naftali is the director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, having previously served as director of the Presidential Recordings Program at the University of Virginia. He is the coauthor of *Khrushchev's Cold War* and *One Hell of a Gamble: Khrushchev, Kennedy, Castro, and the Cuban Missile Crisis 1958-1964*, and the author of *Blind Spot: The Secret History of American Counterterrorism*. He lives in Los Angeles.