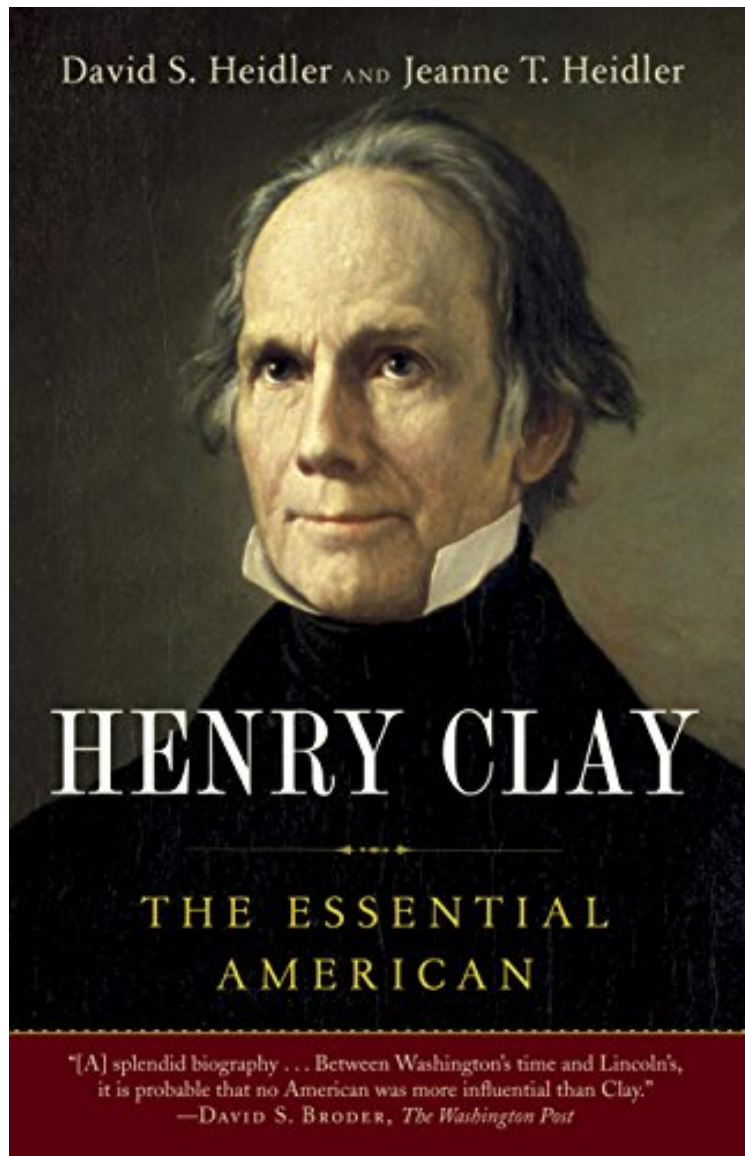


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Henry Clay: The Essential American

Von David S. Heidler, Jeanne T. Heidler
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Von David S. Heidler, Jeanne T. Heidler : Henry Clay: The Essential American before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Henry Clay: The Essential American:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Biography of the First RankVon James GallenHenry Clay is one of those historical characters who strode mightily across the nation's stage during their day but tend to be forgotten now because, after so many years the causes for

which they fought and personalities with whom they interacted no longer touch the nation's soul. With "Henry Clay: The Essential American" authors David and Jeanne Heidler strive to bring Harry of the West back to our consciousness. If they fail it will not be for deficiencies in their book. Henry Clay is mostly remembered as the senator who postponed civil war by the compromises he fashioned between North and South and as the frustrated politician who failed in three tries for the presidency. This book tells the rest of the story. It tells the story of the lawyer and land owner who served in the Kentucky legislature and the U.S. Senate before being elected Speaker on his first day in the House of Representatives. It is the story of the man who was appointed Secretary of State by John Quincy Adams after the alleged "Corrupt Bargain" under which the House elected Adams over Andrew Jackson in 1824. It follows the career of the Great Compromiser of the Senate. It tells the story of a man who saw all six of his daughters and one of his sons die. It analyzes the inconsistency in a man who opposed slavery and sought to limit its spread, while remaining a lifelong slave owner. The biography of a man who played such an important role in the life of the nation necessarily overlaps the records of other historical titans and defining issues of the subject's time. On these pages the reader becomes acquainted with the other members of the Great Triumvirate, Daniel Webster and John C. Calhoun, and the presidents with whom Clay worked and against whom he ran, from James Madison through Millard Fillmore. The issues of the day, the War of 1812, slavery, the tariff and internal improvements, roads, canals and railroads to name a few, are all examined as they relate to Henry Clay and his career. The reader acquires an appreciation for how Clay was an inspiration for others, including Abraham Lincoln who claimed to be "An old Clay Whig." The authors' writing style holds the readers' interest from cover to cover. The story captivates the imagination of any student of the ante-bellum period. On the biography shelf it stands in the first rank.

Kurzbeschreibung He was the Great Compromiser, a canny and colorful legislator whose life mirrors the story of America from its founding until the eve of the Civil War. Speaker of the House, senator, secretary of state, five-time presidential candidate, and idol to the young Abraham Lincoln, Henry Clay is captured in full at last in this rich and sweeping biography. David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler present Clay in his early years as a precocious, witty, and optimistic Virginia farm boy who at the age of twenty transformed himself into an attorney. The authors reveal Clays tumultuous career in Washington, including his participation in the deadlocked election of 1824 that haunted him for the rest of his career, and shine new light on Clays marriage to plain, wealthy Lucretia Hart, a union that lasted fifty-three years and produced eleven children. Featuring an inimitable supporting cast including Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Abraham Lincoln, Henry Clay is beautifully written and replete with fresh anecdotes and insights. Horse trader and risk taker, arm twister and joke teller, Henry Clay was the consummate politician who gave ground, made deals, and changed the lives of millions. *Pressestimmen* [A] splendid biography . . . Between Washington's time and Lincoln's, it is probable that no American was more influential than Clay. David S. Broder, *The Washington Post* A revealing portrait of Henry Clay, a man who was critical to the life of the nation in the tumultuous nineteenth century. Never president but always in the arena, Clay is a remarkable architect of the Union, and we owe the Heidlers a debt for bringing him to life in these pages. Jon Meacham, Pulitzer Prizewinning author of *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* Henry Clays unparalleled combination of skill, charisma, and energy are on display in this biography. James M. McPherson, Pulitzer Prizewinning author of *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* An enormously engaging picture of this man and his era. Heather Cox Richardson, *The Washington Post* It is a measure of the Heidlers success that they rescue Harry of the West from his own legend. . . . [They] write with one voice and contagious enthusiasm. Richard Norton Smith, *The National Interest* **Kurzbeschreibung** He was the Great Compromiser, a canny and colorful legislator whose life mirrors the story of America from its founding until the eve of the Civil War. Speaker of the House, senator, secretary of state, five-time presidential candidate, and idol to the young Abraham Lincoln, Henry Clay is captured in full at last in this rich and sweeping biography. David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler present Clay in his early years as a precocious, witty, and optimistic Virginia farm boy who at the age of twenty transformed himself into an attorney. The authors reveal Clays tumultuous career in Washington, including his participation in the deadlocked election of 1824 that haunted him for the rest of his career, and shine new light on Clays marriage to plain, wealthy Lucretia Hart, a union that lasted fifty-three years and produced eleven children. Featuring an inimitable supporting cast including Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Abraham Lincoln, Henry Clay is beautifully written and replete with fresh anecdotes and insights. Horse trader and risk taker, arm twister and joke teller, Henry Clay was the consummate politician who gave ground, made deals, and changed the lives of millions.