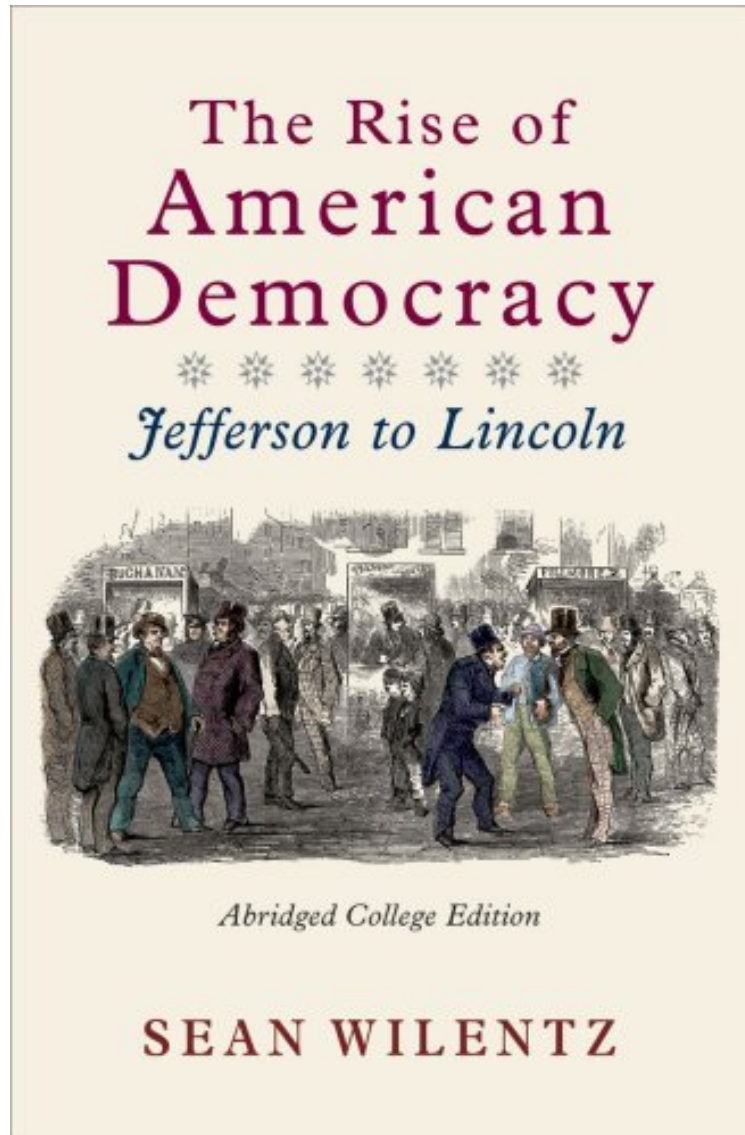


The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln (Abridged College Edition)

Sean Wilentz

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Sean Wilentz : The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln (Abridged College Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln (Abridged College Edition):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read for history buffs interested in 1790 through 1860

national political history. By Robert S. Smith Outstanding detailed survey of the evolution of democratic opposition politics from the democratic republican committees during the Washington and John Adams administrations to the formation of anti federalist Republican Party of the Jefferson and Madison administrations and through the strong populist president of the people during the Jackson administration (that's as far as I have gotten so far. It is helpful if the reader is very familiar of the biographies of the presidents before taking on this scholarly adventure. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Superb and Detailed Survey of American Political Life from Jefferson to Lincoln By C. M. Mills The Rise of American Democracy will, hopefully, raise interest in the relatively neglected period from the inauguration of Jefferson to the election of Lincoln in 1860. Wilentz is a scholar who also knows how to write in an understandable way in which the reader can digest what he is saying. The book is divided into three parts dealing with Jeffersonian Democracy; the rise of the Jacksonian era and in the final tragic section the slow descent into the hell of Civil War. Slavery was a curse on the American political scene destroying the Whig Party and leading to the death of over 600,000 young Americans. The book deals in detail with all the presidential administrations in the period. Such fascinating politicians as John and John Quincy Adams, the great senators Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster and great leaders in the antislavery cause such as William Lloyd Garrison, the half black Frederick Douglass and Henry Ward Beecher stride across the many pages in this tome. Wilentz discusses literary works such as Moby Dick and Uncle Tom's Cabin and how they were influenced by the inflammatory events ensuing from the Truce of 1850. It is all here! The Missouri Compromise, Dred Scott Decision, Wars of 1812 and the Mexican War; the clash between urban labor movements and aristocracy; the story behind the admission of states to the Union and complex discussions of the Bank of the United States and economic concerns. This is a classic text which is the sine qua non for the period. It is sure to become a standard work in courses on American history. The book does assume some basic understanding of American history; demands concentration and is often a challenge to read. The mysteries of economics is still beyond my liberal arts mind! Wilentz has marshalled all of the skills he possesses as an astutely brilliant historian. This book won the Bancroft Prize for History and will be used by this reviewer several times in the future. A very long book of almost 900 small print pages but a great way to understand our past. Excellent! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Definitive history of the antebellum era By CJAThis is the definitive history of the critical formative period in American history in which the nation moved from its aristocratic and republican roots to more of a pure democracy. The great irony is that during this same time the South became more and more invested in its hierarchical society based on slave power. Wilentz tells the story forcefully and meticulously. He also tells it with some flair. The sketches of Clay, Jackson, Van Buren, Webster, Calhoun, and Polk are particularly compelling and interesting. You will have to be patient with the long wind-up that sets the background of the book and brings the reader up to the War of 1812. Once you get to the War of 1812, the book takes off, and the characters that pepper the history of this period come to life. Although the flyleaf compares Wilentz to Hofstadter, Wilentz lacks Hofstadter's interpretive flair and breadth of vision. He sticks to his narrative and to a handful and relatively simple but important themes. Also, Wilentz is not quite the narrative historian that David Potter and James McPherson are. Potter's "The Impending Crisis" is still the great history of the immediate antebellum era (1848-61) and James McPherson's "Battle Cry of Freedom", which also runs from 1848 but through the end of the Civil War, is also a leading work of the period. Wilentz, however, ties the period into the context of the first half of the 18th century. His contribution in that regard is invaluable. Stick with this book despite its slow beginning and great length. It's definitely worth the effort.

Winner of the Bancroft Award: "Monumental a tour de force awesome in its coverage of political events." Gordon Wood, New York Times Book Review Acclaimed as the definitive study of the period by one of the greatest American historians, *The Rise of American Democracy* traces a historical arc from the earliest days of the republic to the opening shots of the Civil War. Ferocious clashes among the Founders over the role of ordinary citizens in a government of "we, the people" were eventually resolved in the triumph of Andrew Jackson. Thereafter, Sean Wilentz shows, a fateful division arose between two starkly opposed democracies a division contained until the election of Abraham Lincoln sparked its bloody resolution. Winner of the Bancroft Award, shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize, finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, a New York Times 100 Notable Books of 2005 and best book of New York magazine and *The Economist*.

About the Author Sean Wilentz is the George Henry Davis 1886 Professor of American History at Princeton University and author of the Bancroft Prize winning *The Rise of American Democracy*, *Bob Dylan in America*, and many other works. He is completing his next book, *No Property in Man*, on slavery, antislavery, and the Constitution, based on his Nathan I. Huggins Lectures delivered at Harvard in 2015.