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Journal Of The Federal Convention: Volumes 1 & 2 (Fully Illustrated)



Synopsis

Updated October 10, 2014. Added full-color illustrations. This collection is fully illustrated and easily navigable. Compiled and written by James Madison, The Journal of the Federal Convention is a report of the proceedings and discussions of the Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 which resulted in the Constitution of the United States. It also details the individuals who were involved in its formation and the debates in the Federal Convention. Both volumes are included in this fully illustrated Kindle edition.

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Customer Reviews

The content, of course, deserves five stars. The Kindle formatting is strange. On my two Kindles (keyboard and paperwhite), the table of contents is not on the "Go To" list. You have to go to the cover and then go one page forward to the table of contents link--which works. When you get to the table of contents each of the convention days is underlined as though linked, but the links don't work. Clicking on any of them brings you to the opening page. However, the table of contents and the links all work with the PC Kindle software. So, there is something strange going on with the formatting. The PC can read it, but my Kindles can't. This means that on the Kindle you can only get

through the 805 pages 1 page at a time--unless you want to guess by location numbers. You can also read through it page by page and bookmark each day thus creating your own links. All in all, this version needs just a little work to be a useful digitally.

Is it American? Government officials in secret meeting? Not even minutes of the meetings are taken. Doors and windows locked. While a few men write a whole new body of law. It WAS America when the Constitution was being created. BUT some of them made a few notes and ONE of them, just one, made unofficial "minutes" saying who voted and how, and extensively quoting debate. You need to know... Read his record just as he wrote it!

This is the only relatively complete journal of the deliberations at the convention that handed us our constitution. It becomes apparent in reading it that the biggest flaws in our constitution stem from two distinct sources. Compromises were made that were thought to be necessary at the time to hold on to the states of South Carolina and Georgia, but actually were unnecessary due to the weak positions of those states. The other flaws stem from the hidden agendas of people like Hamilton, whose ego and desire for total federal control of the country handed us the nasty little clauses that paved the way to the out-of-control nightmare we call our current Federal Government. When reading writings that were contemporary with the convention, those during and immediately after the civil war and those of the progressives of the last century who have led us so far from the founders' vision, one feels genuine regret that the state governments did not pay more attention to the anti-federalist arguments pointing out the flaws that led directly to the abuses of power we see today. Nearly every dire prediction by the anti-federalists has come to pass. It is interesting to see Madison begin to waver in his enthusiasm as the tenor and direction of the convention changed at Hamilton's direction. This is a very important part of American history and should be required reading for every citizen in this country.

This is a long read and I am not quite finished. Madison took copious notes during the convention, never missing even a single day. He devised a method of shorthand and at the end of each day transcribed his shorthand while the day's events were fresh on his mind. He believed, correctly, that posterity would want to know how the discussions transpired. The pace of the convention, the diligence of its attendees, the concerns, the solutions considered are vicariously experienced through Madison's notes. If you're a student of the Constitution and our Republic, worth the read.

All the nitty gritty details on about the constitution. I am only about 50% through the conventions, but have learned a great deal about how the Constitution was originated. A lot of this is surprising. Several of the Gentlemen wanted to eliminate the States altogether. All of them wanted the best and liberty for the American people. They highlight the fact that all men are created equal, but knew that industriousness is what made some men better off financially than others. Another interesting fact are the discussions about the blacks (slaves). They knew that slavery was an embarrassment of the times. It is apparent that if they could have kept the states together and abolished slavery, they would have. Never was there an intent to make it part of the Constitution.

I was amazed to realize that the author had kept such voluminous notes through the Convention. It is extremely interesting to learn the various machinations that went on throughout the Convention and the ultimate product which we know today as our Constitution.

While difficult to follow as these are daily notes of who said what about various clauses, it is most interesting to see that major part was played by G Morris of Penn who we hear little of in our histories. And then to see what those who were strong participants had to say about not signing. And thrilling to read what Ben Franklin says at the end

Interesting to learn that our constitution evolved from a very extensive deliberative process, and not composed on a single night with a group of property owners in a dark smoke filled basement laden with whiskey bottles!

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