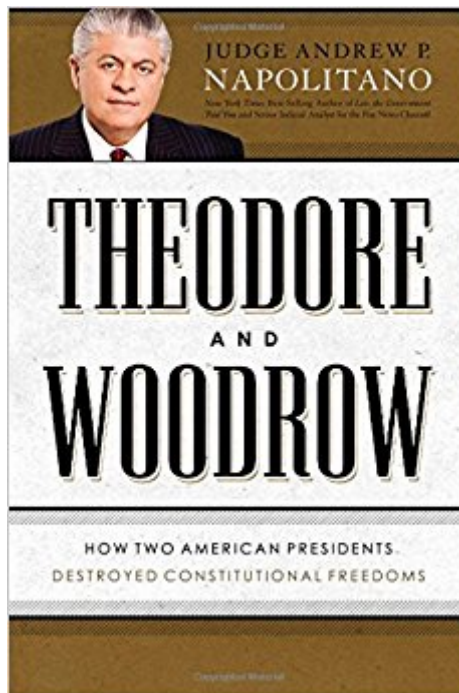




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Theodore And Woodrow: How Two American Presidents Destroyed Constitutional Freedom



Synopsis

Either the Constitution means what it says, or it doesn't. America's founding fathers saw freedom as a part of our nature to be protected not to be usurped by the federal government and so enshrined separation of powers and guarantees of freedom in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. But a little over a hundred years after America's founding, those God-given rights were laid siege by two presidents caring more about the advancement of progressive, redistributionist ideology than the principles on which America was founded. Theodore and Woodrow Wilson is Judge Andrew P. Napolitano's shocking historical account of how a Republican and a Democratic president oversaw the greatest shift in power in American history, from a land built on the belief that authority should be left to the individuals and the states to a bloated, far-reaching federal bureaucracy, continuing to grow and consume power each day. With lessons rooted in history, Judge Napolitano shows the intellectually arrogant, anti-personal freedom, even racist progressive philosophy driving these men to poison the American system of government. And Americans still pay for their legacy in the federal income, in state-prescribed compulsory education, in the Federal Reserve, in perpetual wars, and in the constant encroachment of a government that coddles special interests and discourages true competition in the marketplace. With his attention to detail, deep constitutional knowledge, and unwavering adherence to truth telling, Judge Napolitano moves through the history of these men and their times in office to show how American values and the Constitution were sadly set aside, leaving personal freedom as a shadow of its former self, in the grip of an insidious, Nanny state, progressive ideology.

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Customer Reviews

Judge Andrew P. Napolitano is Fox News Channel's senior judicial analyst, currently seen by millions of viewers weeknights on *The Big Story* and *The O'Reilly Factor*. Napolitano is the youngest person in New Jersey history to receive a lifetime judgeship. He is bright (graduate of Princeton and Notre Dame Law School), articulate (four times voted most outstanding professor at the two law schools at which he taught), and broadcast-experienced (as a daily fixture on Fox News Channel since 1998). He is the author of *Constitutional Chaos* and *The Constitution In Exile*.

I had high hopes for this book but found it even more interesting and engaging than I thought I would. I have always liked Judge Napolitano, yet have thought some of his earlier writing a bit dry. This one really does a good job focusing on the roots of the Progressive Era, and the two larger than life presidents who embodied it. As he says so clearly in the final chapter; "Jefferson believed that in the long arc of history, we can see repeated over and over again the struggle for individual freedom against a monopoly of force. The monopoly of force has killed, stolen, lied, and cheated its way into power and wealth. The first two decades of the twentieth-century America - an era arguably dominated by Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson - are not an exception to Jefferson's conclusion: rather, they are a heightened paradigm of it. In those twenty or so years the role of the federal government changed so radically that it would never be the same again." (pg. 248) Besides providing fascinating details about these oddly juxtaposed yet soul-mate-like troubled men, I especially liked how Judge N. ties the Constitutional amendments of the time together. The only one that was any good, and worth changing the Constitution for was the 19th (women's vote). All the others have damaged the Constitution beyond recognition, yet are still in place today, except for the short lived 18th (alcohol prohibition). I had never before realized how destructive the 17th was (Senators selected by popular vote and not by State appointment), and how fundamental the old arrangement was to the balance of powers established by the original framers. Before the 16th amendment (legalizing income tax) the federal government got 40% of its revenue from taxes on alcohol. The 16th amendment paved the way for the 18th, and the 17th sealed it by removing the check and balance of the State's representatives, leaving it to the masses to decide (reform minded progressives), with women rewarded with the 19th for being such supporters of Prohibition with their votes at the state level. But we all know Prohibition (which was at the hub of this first push at progressive minded reform) was an utter failure, leading to a bloom in criminalization and a

destruction of family values (sound familiar?). This book provides plenty of clear perspective on the effects of the Progressive Era - from the rise of Crony Capitalist and Union special interests, American military expansion and the draft, to the establishment of the banking cartel we euphemistically know as the Federal Reserve, compulsory education, and racist eugenic practices. I find it incomprehensible that such a movement can have any credibility today (yet many on the left still proudly identify themselves as "progressives"), and that these harmful and unconstitutional policies are now the foundation of the new American Empire. Judge Napolitano's writing style is direct and simple, even plain, yet never dumbed-down. He gives us the best overview of this pivotal phase of American history I've ever seen, and one that is timely to revisit today. The Progressive Era may have begun over 100 years ago but it isn't over yet...

In "Theodore and Woodrow", Judge Andrew Napolitano has made a good argument that the rise of the Progressive Movement in the United States can be traced to the actions of two Presidents... Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. The author examines different aspects of the Progressive movement, and each chapter looks at a different way that the unintended consequences of Progressivism has had deleterious effects on our individual liberty. The book is well organized, and the author divides a complex political movement into chapters, each of which look at a different way the movement has affected individuals and the nation. As a result of this organization, readability and enjoyment is enhanced. Each chapter has a "Conclusion" section that summarizes the points put forth in the chapter. Each facet of the movement is tied to one or both (most often both) of these very interesting figures in American history. I found the book to be very compelling....very hard to put down! I highly recommend the book to not only anyone interested in American History, but anyone who is concerned about the direction our country is heading today. This book clearly shows HOW we got to where we are today. It shows how the federal government, due in large part to the actions of these two powerful presidents, went from its constitutionally defined enumerated powers to having UNLIMITED power over our daily lives!

If you are at all interested in how things ARE suppose to be and not what you may have been taught or told they mean, then read this book. I think anyone with the ability to read will understand it all, and have the intelligence to work out for themselves where they stand on a topic, not only now but in the future. I have given away so many of this book and others to both old and young and while they haven't all enjoyed each one, they have come away with a slightly different view of things regardless of their political leanings.

Judge Napolitano recounts numerous historical recounts of both actions and objectives of our two first Progressive Presidents, in this book, along with references to the many Federal Court decisions they precipitated ushering-in the progressive era. The judge makes it clear from the onset of the book, this is a dissertation of his personal Libertarian point of view and not simply a historical review. However, in reading Theodore and Woodrow one can't help but be amazed how the initial intent of the Founding Fathers, and subsequently the Constitution have been undermined and perverted by the progressive movement in America over the last one hundred years. Understanding this history sheds new light on the actions of our Federal Government today, as well as where they intend taking the country in the future. Ultimately its up to the reader to decide if their Orwellian goals represent "progress" or repression of the American spirit.

This book is a must-read for every American, and should be an absolute necessity for every student from junior high school, high school and universities. If we don't understand how we got to the position we are in, we will not be able to change it and we will continue the slide to socialism. Well done, Judge!

Judge Napolitano is a wonderful writer, and a reliable critic of the legal domain past and present. You can trust his observations, which all Americans should avail themselves of. He writes with enthusiasm and knowledge and I like everything he says. These two Americans did more than any he (or I) can think of to send America skidding away from the vision our FOUNDERS imagined and then artfully created for us. Americans are history-deficient and this is a great step forward for remedying that.

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