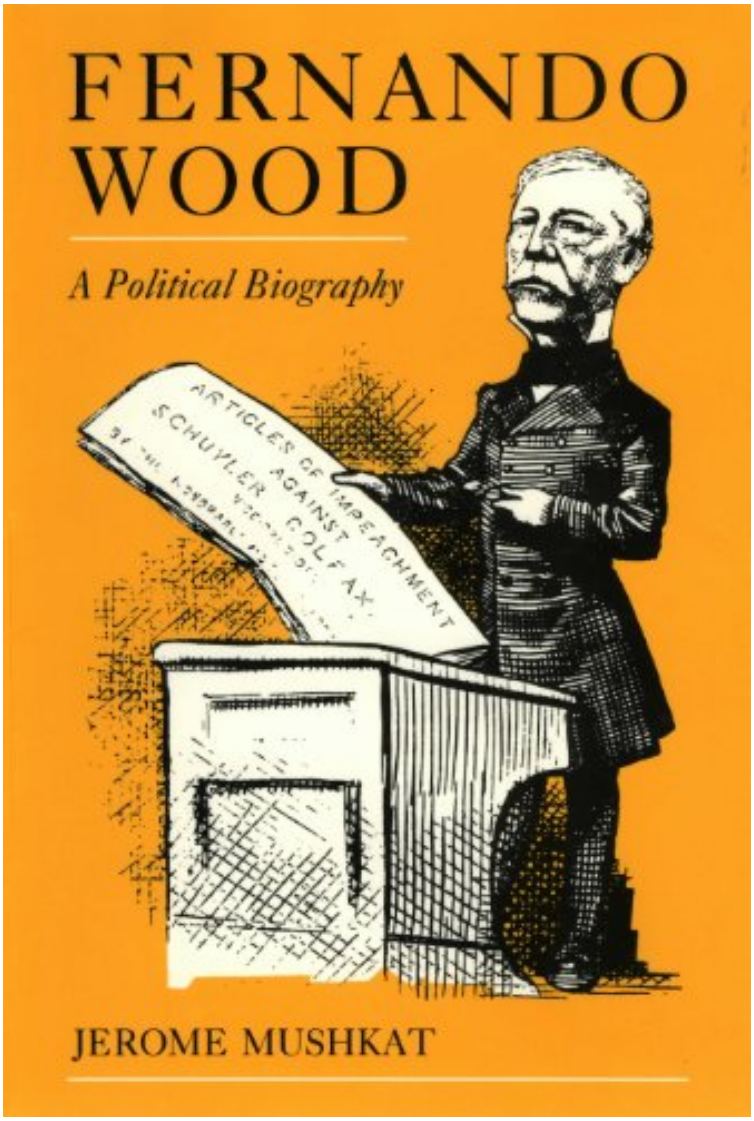
[Free] Fernando Wood: A Political Biography

Fernando Wood: A Political Biography

Jerome Mushkat
*audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC*



Download Read Online

#2756359 in eBooks 1990-11-01 2013-02-04File Name: B00BAXEB8I | File size: 47.Mb

Jerome Mushkat : Fernando Wood: A Political Biography before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fernando Wood: A Political Biography:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Skip it...By John Paul SassoneAs a born and bred NYer, I'm always interested in NYC history. Fernando Wood is a very familiar name to those who study NYC history and I was happy to finally find a book that dealt with his life. Unfortunately I was very disappointed in the book and had to really work to get through it. Reading more as textbook than biography, it took the story of a very colorful mayor and turned it into a dry text. I was hoping for better, and while it was informative, it wasn't entertaining at all.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent BiographyBy O. PflugIt is a shame this book appears to be just about out of print

because Mushkat produced an excellent work. Wood was a proslavery northern Democrat with a questionable ethics record. He served three terms as mayor of New York and several more terms in Congress. While Mushkat does not shy away from pointing out Wood's racism and shady business practices, he gives Wood credit for modernizing New York city government and fighting for its civic independence from Albany Republicans. Wood was a congenial man who had Republican friends and he was a defender of Catholic immigrants in an era of Protestant intolerance. His good nature however did not extend to blacks.

Fernando Wood was one of the most controversial figures of nineteenth-century America. His fellow New Yorkers either respected or despised him, depending whether they considered his policies beneficial or harmful to their interests. The character revealed herein possessed some admirable qualities; high intelligence, sharp analytic skills, great capacity for hard work, and a clear talent to set his ex3ecutive agenda. But equally evident are Wood's less admirable qualities; ruthless business practices, shoddy personal ethics, corrupt politics, dictatorial tendencies. What emerges is the story of a very complex person: a successful businessman, consummate politician, resourceful three-time may of New York City, and nine-term congressman, beneath which lurked mean and self-destructive tendencies. Take as a whole, Wood's colorful career was a unique microcosm of American history both during and after his lifetime. His business achievements mirrored popular beliefs in upward mobility. And Wood's mayoralty held a promise of revitalizing municipal government, giving it a social conscience, and setting new standards for the future. Despite his shortcomings, Fernando Wood played a major but unappreciated role in the urban and political history of time.

About the AuthorJerome Mushkat is Professor of History at the University of Akron.