(Download) Mike Bloomberg: Money, Power, Politics

Mike Bloomberg: Money, Power, Politics

Joyce Purnick
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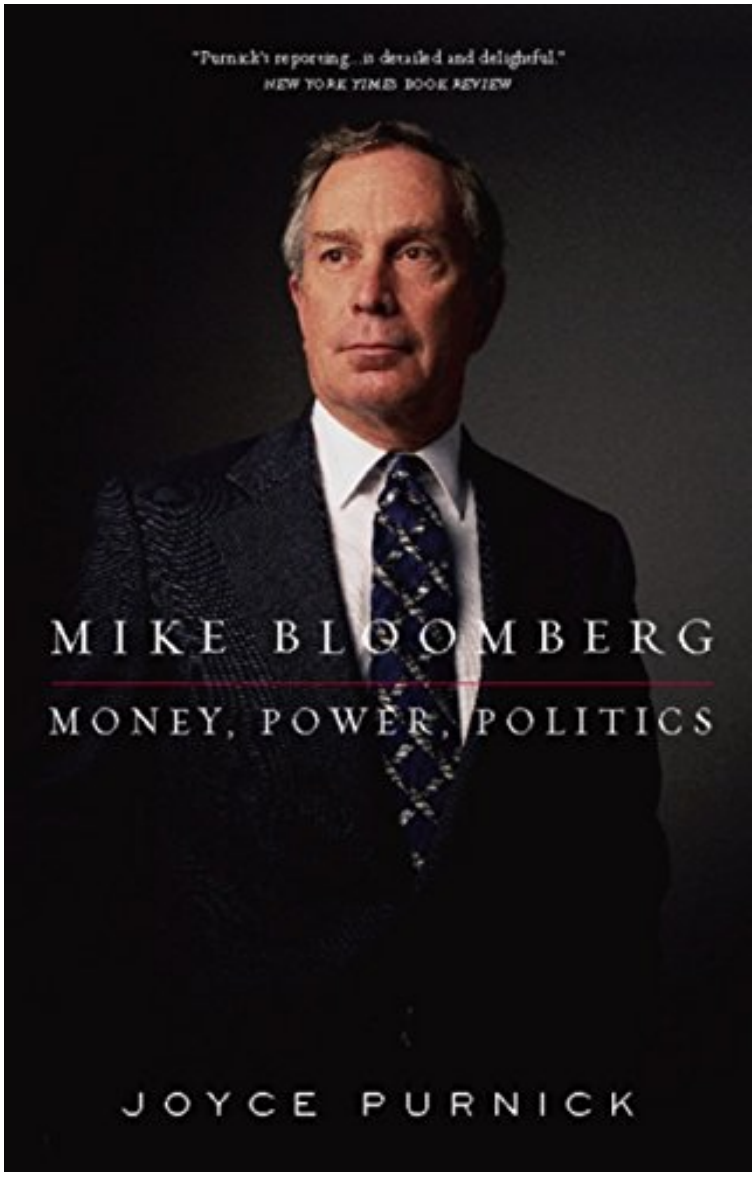

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Joyce Purnick : Mike Bloomberg: Money, Power, Politics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mike Bloomberg: Money, Power, Politics:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. MICHAEL BLOOMBERG MODERN MIDICIBy Hansen AlexanderJournalists do not generally make good biographers. Their profession constitutes hasty writing on short deadlines and broad generalizations if not outright instant history. Hardly the stuff of reasoned evaluations of a person's life. Joyce Purnick's "Mike Bloomberg, money, Power, and Politics," is the exception. A long time City Hall

reporter for The New York Times, where she covered Bloomberg on a daily basis as he served as mayor of New York in the aftermath of 9/11, Purnick has provided as accurate a portrait as is possible on a man who holds his financial empire close to his vest if not his political pronouncements.What drove Bloomberg, the son of an accountant for a milk company who was reared in the small town of Medford, Massachusetts, a stone's throw from Harvard, was "A conspicuous ego and a fierce self-discipline...He competes not only against others but against himself."Luck, Pete Rose once said, is essential for success in baseball, and Purnick shows that luck is essential in developing a global financial empire as well. The world's preeminent purveyor of financial information through his Bloomberg terminals for financial traders and the Bloomberg Television network, Bloomberg accidentally hit on the need of a programmed computer system of financial information because of his own frustration with available information and developed such a program at night while on the payroll of Salomon Brothers. Bloomberg's large ego clashed with other large egos and was eventually forced out by office politics. An unforeseen $10 million payout brought about by the buyout of Salomon Brothers made Bloomberg wealthy and he was able to use it to market his information terminals and build his empire. Bloomberg wisely retained ownership of the computers, becoming a kind of wealthy landlord, and essentially enjoying a monopoly on the order of Microsoft's monopoly on computer operating systems.Younger financial analysts and traders, however, will remember Bloomberg instead for his 24 hour financial news network that has managed to succeed in business where CNN failed for political and general news, as a worldwide network where the sun never sets on the discussion of markets, stock exchanges, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate leadership changes.Eventually bored by his business success which did not make him famous enough to be asked to join New York's social elite, Bloomberg aggressively courted New York's high society at the same time he schemed to become mayor of New York, recognizing a lifelong dream to contribute to society and achieve fame in public service.Purnick details how Bloomberg, a dull public speaker and disinterested campaigner, spent several hundred million dollars of his personal fortune to essentially "buy" three terms as mayor of New York. In perhaps the shrewdest disposition of money to achieve political ends since Lyndon Johnson, Bloomberg used his donations to charities as a lever to gain political support for his programs in New York City. To be fair to Bloomberg, however, Purnick notes that Bloomberg was a prolific dispenser of charity long before he ran for mayor of New York, totally an estimated half a billion dollars a year. Indeed Bloomberg is said to have bequeathed more than a billion dollars to his undergraduate school, Johns Hopkins University, where he was a pioneer in the field of public health.Unlike Fox News, Purnick truly is fair and balanced in this biography. On the one hand, she credits Bloomberg for both his financial and political success, such as tackling New York's budget deficit after 9/11, encouraged real estate development that revitalized New York's neighborhoods, if favoring the rich and somewhat at the expense of the middle class. Purnick credits Bloomberg for taking back control of New York City schools and at least improving standardized tests. She also credits Bloomberg for taking black activist Al Sharpton into his confidence immediately after his election in 1992 and keeping race relations stable in the City.On the other hand, Purnick reports that Bloomberg was sued for sexual harassment at his company and suggests the plaintiffs had a justifiable case. She also notes his chauvinistic behavior toward female staff members at City Hall and his many public macho pronouncements, such as his desire "to have Sharon Stone sit on my face." She also notes his discomfort with regular people and his secret weekend flights to his mansion in Bermuda to play golf.What Purnick has successfully conveyed is the story of a modern Lorenzo Medici, the Florentine banker who dominated the Renaissance city through patronage to artists, political allies, and common citizens who he entertained with public spectacles. For Michael Bloomberg's name will be seen on office buildings, his corporate empire, hospitals, institutes, and charities, especially in New York City, long after his death.[Hansen Alexander is a New York attorney and author of "An Introduction to the Laws of the United States in the 21rst Century,' an , e-book exclusive.]0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I have been reading a series of books about NY ...By READ MEI have been reading a series of books about NY mayors, including early ones, and did not find this book as fascinating or thorough as the others. It was informative, but nothing more than that. Unfortunately, I think that it the only biography on him, at least in Kindle format.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good read. I enjoyed it very muchBy H. TillemA good read. I enjoyed it very much. He should run for President.

Michael Bloomberg is not only New York City's 108th mayor; he is a business genius and self-made billionaire. He has run the toughest city in America with an independence and show of ego that first brought him great successmdash;and eventually threatened it. Yet while Bloomberg is internationally known and admired, few people know the man behind the carefully crafted public persona.In Mike Bloomberg, Joyce Purnick explores Mr. Bloomberg's life from his childhood in the suburbs of Boston, to his rise on Wall Street and the creation of Bloomberg L.P., to his mayoral record and controversial gamble on a third term. Drawing on her deep knowledge of New York City politics, and interviews with Bloomberg's friends, family, colleagues, and the mayor himself, she creates a textured portrait of one of the more complex men of our era.

Kirkus ldquo;Of interest to students of Gotham politicshellip;.The authorrsquo;s careful account of [Bloombergrsquo;s term limit] victory ndash; a worthy case study for anyone seeking ways to game a system designed to protect voters

from anti-democratic dynasties ndash; is worth the price of the book.rdquo; Financial Times ldquo;If all goes as expected, in November Mike Bloomberg will be elected mayor of New York City for the third time. The richest man in the city he governs, with an estimated wealth of $20bn, is again using this money to fund a lavish campaign. If he wins, he will have spent at least $250m for the privilege of holding one of the most aggravating and intoxicating jobs in US politics. But running for a third term carries an even higher price, according to Purnickrsquo;s biography. To do it, Bloomberg worked to overturn the cityrsquo;s two-term limit, despite previously supporting it. ldquo;Hersquo;s a different guy than he was a year ago,rdquo; Purnick quotes a friend. ldquo;He breached his own code of ethics.rdquo; Purnick, a New York Times reporter, is mostly admiring. ldquo;Ed Koch cracked the eggs, [Rudy] Giuliani assembled the ingredients, and then Bloomberg made the omelette,rdquo; she writes of his role in New Yorkrsquo;s resurgence.rdquo; New York Times Book ldquo;Purnickrsquo;s reportinghellip;is detailed and delightful.rdquo; MINT.com ldquo;The New York Times reporter Joyce Purnickrsquo;s fluid writing makes this portrait flow seamlessly. GetAbstract recommends her breezy, deft presentation of Bloombergrsquo;s uplifting story to executives, political strategists and aspiring leaders.rdquo;