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Stephen B. Adams

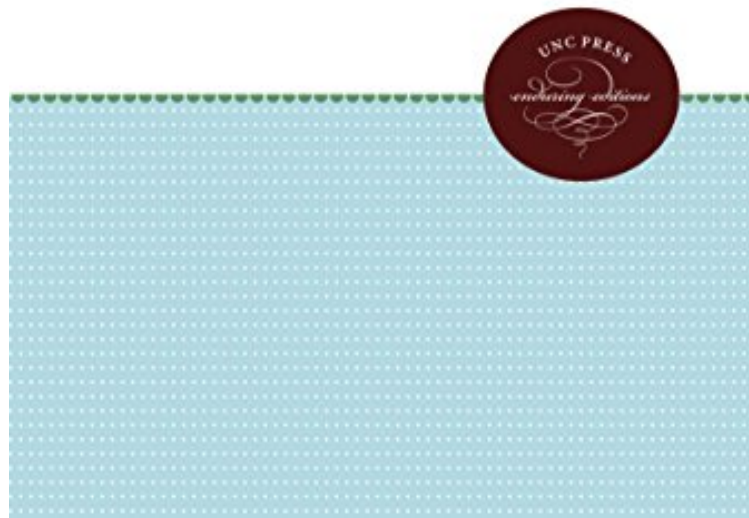
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MR. KAISER GOES TO WASHINGTON

The Rise of a Government Entrepreneur

STEPHEN B. ADAMS



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Stephen B. Adams : Mr. Kaiser Goes to Washington: The Rise of a Government Entrepreneur (The Luther H. Hodges Jr. and Luther H. Hodges Sr. Series on Business, Entrepreneurship, and Public Policy) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mr. Kaiser Goes to Washington: The Rise of a Government Entrepreneur (The Luther H. Hodges Jr. and Luther H. Hodges Sr. Series on

Business, Entrepreneurship, and Public Policy):

1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. War, for fun and profitBy C. HintzMr. Kaiser was the quintessential war contractor. His motto: "Find a need and fill it" was modified to 'bomb a hole and fill it.' This book is a must read for students of history, civics, and political corruption. The "Liberty Ships" made of concrete are well known for the distances that they could - and did travel. Sometimes it wasn't all THAT far. But once built and provisioned, the corporate liability was transferred to the public commons while the assets were privatized - much like today.5 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous Henry Kaiser or Kaiser Henry the Sordid.By Richard D. Smith, MDMr. Adams remarkable book exposes H. Kaiser as a sociopath, war profiteer, and con-man. Reading his treatment of workers at Boulder Dam in the early 1930s where 110 people died, cases of carbon monoxide poisoning and heat exhaustion written off as 'non-industrial' by (guess who)Sidney Garfield, the project's medical director. Kaiser lost 100 claims by workers, settled out of court, that shook Kaiser awake that he is not above decency and morality, that the 'rules' actually applied to him in the only way he could understand: monetarily. Out of this sordid, disgusting beginning came Kaiser 'Permanente', and its step-child managed care.

In the 1940s, the name Henry J. Kaiser was magic. Based on the success of his shipyards, Kaiser was hailed by the national media as the force behind a 'can-do' production miracle and credited by the American public with doing more to help President Roosevelt win World War II than any other civilian. Kaiser also built an empire in construction, cement, magnesium, steel, and aluminum--all based on government contracts, government loans, and changes in government regulations. In this book, Stephen Adams offers Kaiser's story as the first detailed case study of 'government entrepreneurship.' Taking a fresh look at the birth of modern business-government relations, he explores the symbiotic connection forged between FDR and Kaiser. Adams shows that while Kaiser capitalized on opportunities provided by the growth of the federal government, FDR found in Kaiser an industrial partner whose enterprises embodied New Deal goals. The result of a confluence of administration policy and entrepreneurial zeal, Kaiser's dramatic rise illustrates the important role of governmental relations in American entrepreneurial success.Originally published in 1997.A UNC Press Enduring Edition -- UNC Press Enduring Editions use the latest in digital technology to make available again books from our distinguished backlist that were previously out of print. These editions are published unaltered from the original, and are presented in affordable paperback formats, bringing readers both historical and cultural value.

From Library JournalIn an expansion of his doctoral dissertation, Adams focuses on the relationship between the government and Henry Kaiser, noted shipbuilder during World War II. The government, wishing to open markets and increase production during the Great Depression, looked for businessmen willing to enter fields that needed large capital investments. Adams argues that Kaiser took advantage of the situation to become a government entrepreneur during the period. Kaiser would send proposals to key government people and secure loans and grants for entering those fields the government was interested in. This book discloses the fine line Kaiser walked to gain government support while maintaining the myth of the "self-made man." It would best serve as a text for academic collections exploring government and business relations. Recommended.?Patricia Hatch, Inst. for Bus. Home Safety, BostonCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. Adams's study is an exceptionally valuable addition to the history of American business and of the New Deal.Diana Davids Olien, University of Texas of the Permian Basin Adams does an excellent job of recounting the history of Kaiser's economic rise. More important, by developing his argument that Kaiser exemplifies a new type of economic figure--the 'government entrepreneur'--he sheds light on the interface between government and private enterprise during the Roosevelt years and also on the workings of the government itself.--Naomi R. Lamoreaux, University of California, Los AngelesAdams focuses on the relationship between the government and Henry Kaiser, noted shipbuilder during World War II. . . . Adams argues that Kaiser took advantage of the situation to become a government entrepreneur during the period. . . . Recommended.--Library JournalAdams has written an important book. He probed in depth issues that others, myself included, passed over lightly. He presents his arguments clearly and convincingly. Adams's research is impressive; he has consulted the important manuscript collections, and he interviewed virtually every available key player. Equally important, he consulted all relevant secondary source literature, providing a useful, sophisticated conceptual framework. Finally, the book is logically organized and well written, mercifully free of jargon.--Journal of American HistoryFor his case study of a government entrepreneur, Adams could scarcely have found a better figure than Henry J. Kaiser. A promoter of absolutely dazzling ability and breathtaking audacity, Kaiser developed what Adams calls a symbiotic relationship with Roosevelt's New Dealers, translating their ideologically framed goals into business reality. Adams's study is an exceptionally valuable addition to the history of American business and of the New Deal.--Diana Davids Olien, University of Texas of the Permian BasinA case study of government entrepreneurship, this fascinating book provides an excellent introduction to government-business relations at that point in time when the federal government became a major purchaser of goods and services.--Choice[Adams] approaches Kaiser from a fresh angle. . . . Where capitalism,

entrepreneurialism, war, economic depression, and governmental power (specifically during the administration of Franklin Roosevelt) converge.--Technology Culture