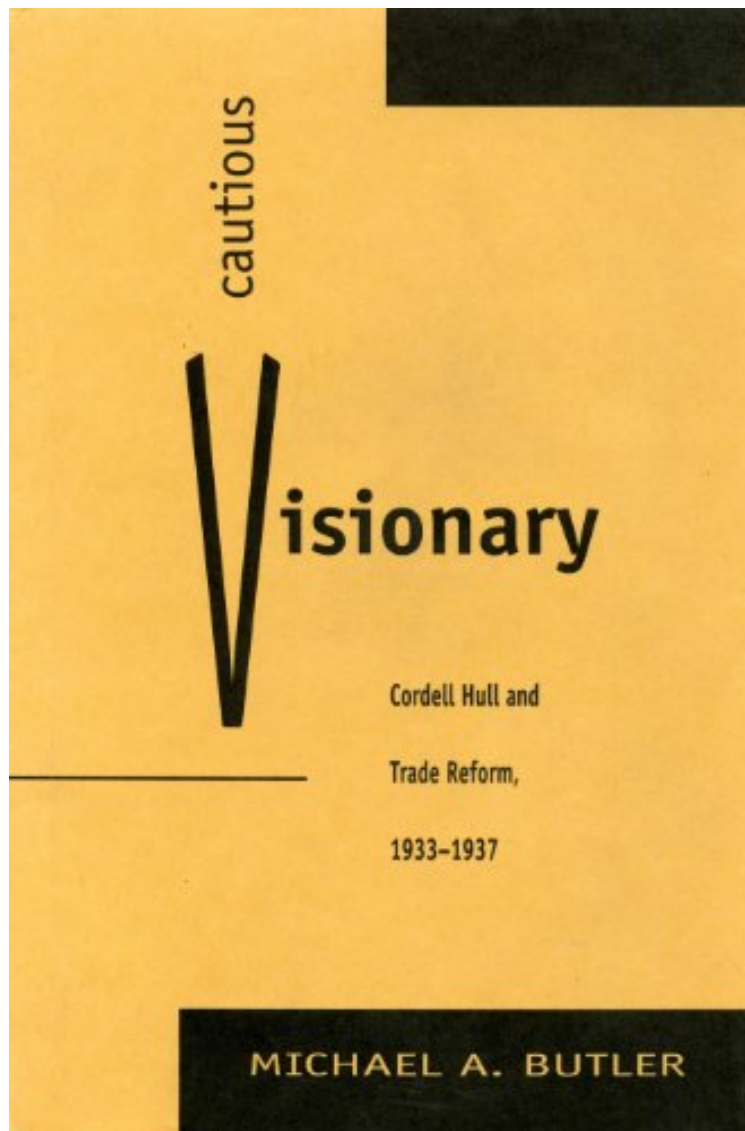


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Michael A. Butler

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Michael A. Butler : Cautious Visionary: Cordell Hull and Trade Reform, 1933-1937 (American Diplomatic History S) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cautious Visionary: Cordell Hull and Trade Reform, 1933-1937 (American Diplomatic History S):

Cordell Hull's persistence and legislative experience were determining factors at every stage in the development of the Trade Agreements Act of 1934. Rarely has such important legislation owed itself to a single man. The Trade Agreements Act resolved the long-running debate between high and low-tariff proponents, made the United States a truly international economy, and served as the first step in the creation of the political and commercial order founded at Breton Woods. The political struggles surrounding the passage and the implementation of the Act had an important, and largely underestimated, impact on the politics of the first Roosevelt administration. A number of politically influential economic nationalist, most notably Raymond Moley and George N. Peek, were forced out of the administration after losing confrontations with Hull. Yet, while Hull won the political and bureaucratic battles, his opponents had far greater influence on journalists and historians of the period. To the degree that the nation had a coherent diplomacy during the first Roosevelt administration, it was based on Hull's vision of a liberal international economic order. By outlining Hull's crucial role in the passage and implementation of the Trade Agreements Act, *Cautious Visionary* will restore Hull's reputation as one of the major political and diplomatic figures of the first half of our century.

From *Library Journal* Career diplomat Butler argues that Cordell Hull's vision of a liberal international economic order shaped American diplomacy in Franklin Roosevelt's first administration. Hull's Wilsonian convictions grew out of horror at World War I, which he blamed on great-power economic rivalry. During the Paris Peace Conference, he stoutly defended Wilson's Point Three, insisting that a liberal trade regime would dampen the impulse to competition and avert a new conflagration. Secretary of State Hull's liberalizing efforts culminated with the passage of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act, authorizing the State Department to negotiate bilateral agreements reflecting his philosophy. In a remarkable feat of diplomacy, Hull engineered 20 such agreements by 1939. The act marked a decisive victory for champions of low tariffs and foreshadowed the postwar Bretton Woods system. An insightful look at a capable statesman whose concept of the link between security and economics remains influential; recommended for academic libraries. —James Holmes, Student, Fletcher Sch. of Law Diplomacy, Tufts Univ., Medford, MA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Michael A. Butler is Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs at the Embassy of the United States in Oslo, Norway. He holds a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Virginia.