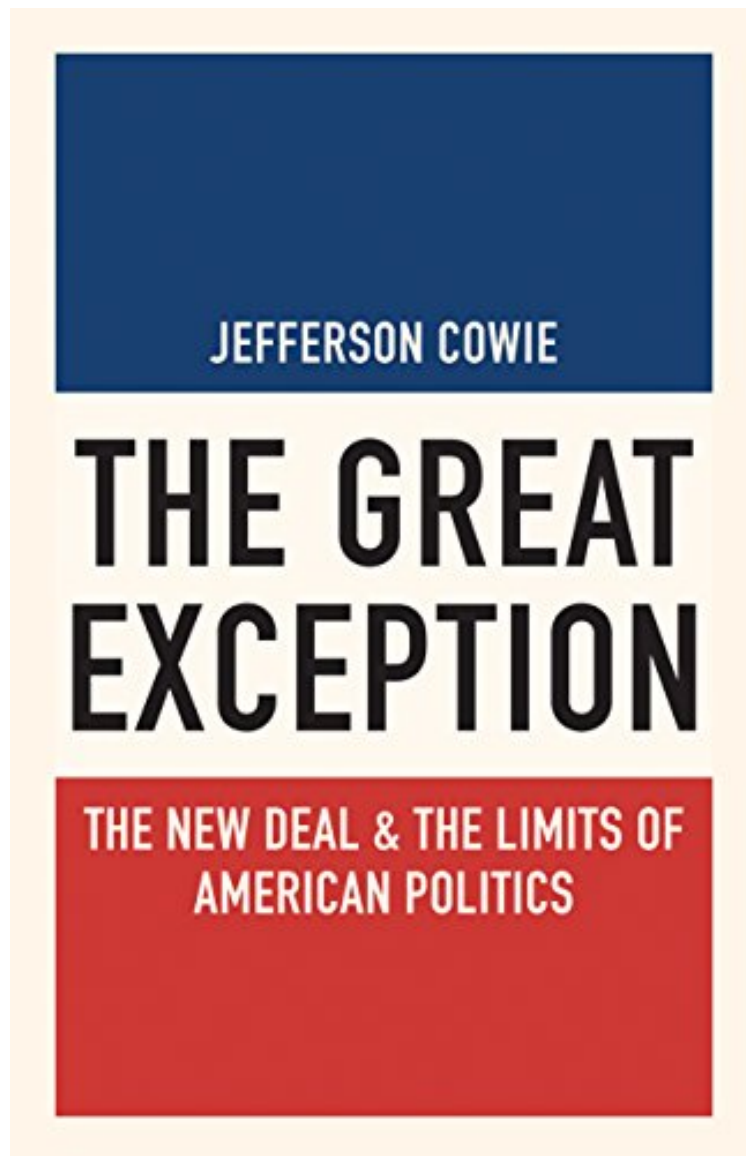


[DOWNLOAD] The Great Exception: The New Deal and the Limits of American Politics (Politics and Society in Modern America)

## **The Great Exception: The New Deal and the Limits of American Politics (Politics and Society in Modern America)**

*Jefferson Cowie*

*\*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



#530707 in eBooks 2016-01-12 2016-01-12 File Name: B0131KW63Y | File size: 69.Mb

**Jefferson Cowie : The Great Exception: The New Deal and the Limits of American Politics (Politics and Society in Modern America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Exception: The New Deal and the Limits of American Politics (Politics and Society in Modern America):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good history, but controversial thesis...By CustomerI think Cowie is

a gifted historian and I've liked his previous works, but this one is a bit pessimistic. If not for his established credentials as a lucid and forward-thinking chronicler of working class plight, I would probably mistake this book for conservative or centrist liberal reaction to leftist agitation. I think some of his assumptions are insufficiently defended and so, although historically informative, his analysis is founded on pretty considerable assumptions about the intractability of several American features: such as a break-down of worker solidarity on racial and ethnic lines. I can't predict the future, but I feel that a flat out rejection of inclusive collectivism's potential in the US belies the ever-changing nature of our politics. For instance, the rise of Bernie Sanders and the insurgent social democratic movement that is achieving the unthinkable: coalition building across race and class divides. Anyway, great food for thought in this book

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not a huge scholarly tome, but informative and thought-provoking

By Phil O. The tide of human projects comes in and recedes. Such was the nature, to my mind, of the arrival and receding of the New Deal and its progeny (into the 1970s). This is a gripping set of events that set the stage for much of my life. So, I return to the theme often. This is a nice walk-through, and I think it is aimed (at least partly, I recall some suggestion somewhere, maybe in a jacket review) at leftish people perhaps too enamored of their nostalgic and idealized visions of the New Deal, who might benefit from a little gentle confrontation about their sacred cow in this era, and the brevity and fragility of the moment in which its constituencies found harmony. This recounting does seem to situate the delicate balance of getting the New Deal in place (if I reckon correctly) in the sequence of fraught dealmaking that has characterized north-south relations (pointedly, heavily race-related), since the ratification of the Constitution. This was (IMO) made the main sticking point and bargaining chip many times, starting with the over-representation in Congress of slaveholders, by their having fractional votes based on their slave populations (who of course had no voice). This whole matter has eaten up incalculable amounts of this nation's time, attention, blood and treasure. The result has been an irresolute and half-baked set of tries at liberal high points to impose a fix on something horribly botched for decades and decades. The American voter's attention span for tough and lengthy jobs, whether in war or social fixes, is, it seems, too short to get the job done. Enthusiasm is followed by wandering away, in war and peace. The New Deal might not have happened without some deals to leave the African-Americans, at least in that legislative moment, out of the upgrade thereby experienced by so many white Americans. (I realize even those categories are slipping into archaism, as we come to realize how complex and mixed an affair "race" so frequently is.) Hence, the clusters of deals emerging as the New Deal were already straining against social limits that would become harsh in the later-mid 1960s, helping to shape the (still massively bickering) political world we live in now. This book does a serviceable job of identifying various coalitions that came together in that historic moment to take this big step. And it recounts many of the same groups and forces that have come unraveled from that pact since then. Here, the writing is colorful and readable. I did not come away with any stunning new insights, but my thinking and knowledge have been deepened, and by a reasonably short and agreeable book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By David E. Meacham Received quickly and will soon begin reading.

Where does the New Deal fit in the big picture of American history? What does it mean for us today? What happened to the economic equality it once engendered? In *The Great Exception*, Jefferson Cowie provides new answers to these important questions. In the period between the Great Depression and the 1970s, he argues, the United States government achieved a unique level of equality, using its considerable resources on behalf of working Americans in ways that it had not before and has not since. If there is to be a comparable battle for collective economic rights today, Cowie argues, it needs to build on an understanding of the unique political foundation for the New Deal. Anyone who wants to come to terms with the politics of inequality in the United States will need to read *The Great Exception*. Some images inside the book are unavailable due to digital copyright restrictions.

"Cowie--like the best work of the mid-century historian Richard Hofstadter, whom he frequently cites--has written not so much a work of American history as a brilliant meditation about a central dilemma of American history."--*In These Times*

"Jefferson Cowie offers a grand interpretation of the road blocks to change. . . . A rich survey, studded with insights culled from a generation of scholarship."--Michael Kazin, *Bookforum*

"Cowie sings the achievements of the New Deal in a tragic register, emphasizing its transformative power while lingering on its compromises. . . . Cowie's vision is coherent and arresting, and helps to make sense of recurring puzzles in American political experience. As a literary-intellectual posture, moreover, his fatalism is downright infectious."--*Democracy*

"Important."--Harold Meyerson, *American Prospect*

"One of the year's most important political books."--E.J. Dionne Jr., *Washington Post*

"Engaging and highly readable, Cowie's book provides an excellent, thought-provoking introduction to American economic and political history."--*Choice*

"Pessimistic, powerful and well-documented."--David C. Ungar, *Survival*

"A fresh, original look at a perennial historical conundrum."--Roger Biles, *Annals of Iowa*

From the Back Cover "Jefferson Cowie's *The Great Exception* is a brilliant contribution to the understanding of American politics. Cowie makes the case that the halcyon era of liberalism, from Roosevelt to Kennedy, was an outlier--and that the victories of Reagan and Gingrich were not revolutions but restorations. A must-read."--Thomas B. Edsall, *New York Times* political columnist

"The Great Exception is exceptionally brilliant in casting light on our contemporary struggle with

plutocracy. Jefferson Cowie explains why a New Deal type of labor law reform is no longer in the cards. If a labor movement is to come back, it will have to find another way. Let us be grateful for so deft an elucidation of our post-New Deal gridlock."--Thomas Geoghegan, author of *Only One Thing Can Save Us: Why America Needs a New Kind of Labor Movement*"With impressive brevity, clarity, and eloquence, Jefferson Cowie offers up a challenge to almost all previous New Deal scholarship that cannot be ignored or wished away. His insights will be disconcerting to many. But this seminal work of historical analysis should inspire historians, journalists, and political activists to rethink America's recent past and, even more so, its present and future."--Eric Alterman, columnist for *The Nation* and author of *The Cause: The Fight for American Liberalism from Franklin Roosevelt to Barack Obama*"Linking the past and present in an arresting way, Cowie urges us to see the New Deal and the postwar liberal era not as the rule but as the exception. This book will cause both academics and the interested public to sit up and take notice. I predict that it will become a key book in modern American history."--Edward D. Berkowitz, George Washington University

About the Author Jefferson Cowie is the James G. Stahlman Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class*. His work has also appeared in such publications as the *New York Times*, the *New Republic*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.