

The Once and Future Presidents

Introduction

The annals of American history are replete with the names of those who sought the highest office in the land, only to fall short of their aspirations. These also-rans, as they are often called, have played a significant role in shaping the course of American politics, even if their names are not as well-known as those of the presidents they sought to replace.

In this book, we will explore the world of also-rans, from the earliest days of the republic to the present day. We will examine the challenges they faced, the strategies they employed, and the impact they had on American politics. We will also consider the lessons that can be learned from their experiences and the ways in which the American political system can be improved to make it more inclusive and representative.

Also-rans come from all walks of life, and their stories are as varied as the nation they sought to lead. Some are well-known figures who came close to winning the presidency, such as William Jennings Bryan and Al Gore. Others are lesser-known figures who made a significant impact on their party or their era, such as Margaret Chase Smith and Shirley Chisholm. Still others are complete unknowns who ran for president simply because they believed they had something important to say.

Regardless of their level of fame or success, all also-rans share one thing in common: they were willing to put their names on the line and compete for the highest office in the land. They believed that they had something to offer the American people, and they were willing to fight for their beliefs.

The stories of also-rans are often stories of heartbreak and disappointment. They are stories of candidates who came close to achieving their dreams, only to see

them dashed at the last moment. However, they are also stories of courage, resilience, and perseverance. They are stories of individuals who refused to give up on their beliefs, even when the odds were stacked against them.

The stories of also-rans are important because they remind us that the American political system is not perfect. They show us that there are still barriers to entry for those who do not fit the traditional mold of a presidential candidate. However, they also show us that it is possible to overcome these barriers and make a difference in the world.

Book Description

In the annals of American history, countless individuals have aspired to the highest office in the land, only to see their dreams dashed at the ballot box. These also-rans, as they are often called, have played a significant role in shaping the course of American politics, even if their names are not as well-known as those of the presidents they sought to replace.

The Once and Future Presidents delves into the world of also-rans, from the earliest days of the republic to the present day. This comprehensive examination explores the challenges they faced, the strategies they employed, and the impact they had on American politics. The book also considers the lessons that can be learned from their experiences and the ways in which the American political system can be improved to make it more inclusive and representative.

The Once and Future Presidents is a fascinating and informative read for anyone interested in American history, politics, or the stories of those who dared to dream of leading the nation.

Inside, you'll discover:

- The stories of famous also-rans, from William Jennings Bryan to Al Gore
- The challenges facing also-rans, from lack of name recognition to lack of funding
- The advantages of being an also-ran, such as the outsider status and the ability to connect with voters
- The future of also-rans in American politics
- Lessons that can be learned from the experiences of also-rans
- Ways to improve the American political system to make it more inclusive and representative

The Once and Future Presidents is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the full story of American democracy.

Chapter 1: A History of also-rans

The earliest also-rans: Who were they and what were their stories

The history of also-rans in American presidential elections is a long and storied one. From the earliest days of the republic, there have been candidates who have run for president and failed to win. Some of these candidates were well-known and respected figures, while others were complete unknowns. But all of them shared one thing in common: they were all willing to put their names on the line and compete for the highest office in the land.

One of the earliest also-rans was Aaron Burr. Burr was a brilliant politician and a close friend of Thomas Jefferson. He served as vice president under Jefferson and was a leading candidate for president in the election of 1800. However, Burr lost the election to

Jefferson, and he was forced to settle for the vice presidency.

Another early also-ran was John C. Calhoun. Calhoun was a brilliant orator and a gifted politician. He served as vice president under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. He was also a leading candidate for president in the elections of 1824 and 1828. However, Calhoun lost both elections, and he was forced to settle for the vice presidency.

In the 19th century, there were a number of other notable also-rans. These included Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and Stephen Douglas. Clay was a brilliant politician and a leading candidate for president in the elections of 1824, 1832, and 1844. However, Clay lost all three elections, and he never became president. Webster was a brilliant orator and a leading candidate for president in the elections of 1836 and 1848. However, Webster lost both elections, and he never became president. Douglas was a brilliant politician

and a leading candidate for president in the election of 1860. However, Douglas lost the election to Abraham Lincoln, and he never became president.

The tradition of also-rans continued in the 20th century. Some of the most notable also-rans of the 20th century include William Jennings Bryan, Al Smith, and Adlai Stevenson. Bryan was a brilliant orator and a leading candidate for president in the elections of 1896, 1900, and 1908. However, Bryan lost all three elections, and he never became president. Smith was a brilliant politician and a leading candidate for president in the election of 1928. However, Smith lost the election to Herbert Hoover, and he never became president. Stevenson was a brilliant politician and a leading candidate for president in the elections of 1952 and 1956. However, Stevenson lost both elections, and he never became president.

The stories of these also-rans are often stories of heartbreak and disappointment. They are stories of

candidates who came close to achieving their dreams, only to see them dashed at the last moment. However, they are also stories of courage, resilience, and perseverance. They are stories of individuals who refused to give up on their beliefs, even when the odds were stacked against them.

Chapter 1: A History of also-rans

The changing landscape of politics: How have the qualifications and backgrounds of also-rans changed over time

The qualifications and backgrounds of also-rans have changed dramatically over time. In the early days of the republic, most presidential candidates were wealthy, white, and male. They typically had a background in law or politics, and they often came from prominent families.

As the American population became more diverse, the pool of presidential candidates also began to diversify. In the 20th century, we saw the first female and African American candidates for president. More recently, we have seen candidates from a wider range of backgrounds, including business, academia, and the military.

The changing demographics of the American population have also had an impact on the qualifications and backgrounds of also-rans. In the past, candidates who were not from the majority population often faced significant barriers to winning the presidency. Today, candidates from a variety of backgrounds are more likely to be considered viable candidates for president.

The changing landscape of politics has also been shaped by the rise of social media. In the past, candidates relied on traditional media outlets, such as newspapers and television, to reach voters. Today, candidates can use social media to directly connect with voters and bypass the traditional media. This has made it possible for candidates with limited resources to compete with candidates from the major parties.

The changing qualifications and backgrounds of also-rans reflect the changing nature of American politics. As the country has become more diverse and the media

landscape has changed, the pool of potential presidential candidates has also expanded. This has made it possible for a wider range of voices to be heard in the presidential election process.

The changing qualifications and backgrounds of also-rans have also had a significant impact on the way that presidential campaigns are conducted. In the past, campaigns were often focused on issues and policies. Today, campaigns are often more focused on the candidates themselves. Candidates are more likely to appeal to voters' emotions and to try to connect with them on a personal level.

The changing qualifications and backgrounds of also-rans are a reflection of the changing nature of American society. As the country becomes more diverse and the media landscape changes, the pool of potential presidential candidates is also expanding. This is making it possible for a wider range of voices to be heard in the presidential election process, and it is

also changing the way that presidential campaigns are conducted.

Chapter 1: A History of also-rans

The role of third parties: How have third-party candidates impacted the outcomes of presidential elections

Third-party candidates have played a significant role in American presidential elections throughout history. In some cases, they have even tipped the balance in favor of one major party candidate over another.

One of the most famous examples of a third-party candidate impacting a presidential election is the case of Ralph Nader in 2000. Nader was the candidate of the Green Party, and he received over 97,000 votes in the state of Florida. This was a significant number of votes, and it is widely believed that Nader's candidacy cost Al Gore the election.

In other cases, third-party candidates have helped to bring about major changes in American politics. For example, the candidacy of Ross Perot in 1992 helped to

raise awareness of the issue of budget deficits. Perot's candidacy also helped to pave the way for the election of Bill Clinton, who made deficit reduction a major focus of his campaign.

Third-party candidates can also play an important role in holding major party candidates accountable. For example, the candidacy of Eugene McCarthy in 1968 helped to pressure Lyndon Johnson to end the Vietnam War. McCarthy's candidacy also helped to galvanize the anti-war movement and to lay the groundwork for the eventual end of the war.

In recent years, third-party candidates have become increasingly common. This is due in part to the rise of social media, which has made it easier for third-party candidates to reach voters. It is also due to the growing dissatisfaction with the two major parties, which are seen as increasingly out of touch with the concerns of ordinary Americans.

The role of third parties in American presidential elections is likely to continue to grow in the years to come. As the two major parties become more polarized, third-party candidates may find it easier to appeal to voters who are looking for an alternative to the status quo.

In addition to the examples above, there are many other instances in which third-party candidates have had a significant impact on presidential elections. Some of these instances include:

- In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt ran as the candidate of the Progressive Party. Roosevelt's candidacy split the Republican vote, which allowed Woodrow Wilson to win the election.
- In 1948, Strom Thurmond ran as the candidate of the States' Rights Democratic Party. Thurmond's candidacy drew support from Southern voters who were opposed to Harry Truman's civil rights policies.

- In 1968, George Wallace ran as the candidate of the American Independent Party. Wallace's candidacy drew support from voters who were opposed to the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement.

These are just a few examples of the many times that third-party candidates have had a significant impact on presidential elections. As the American political landscape continues to change, it is likely that third-party candidates will continue to play an important role in American politics.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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