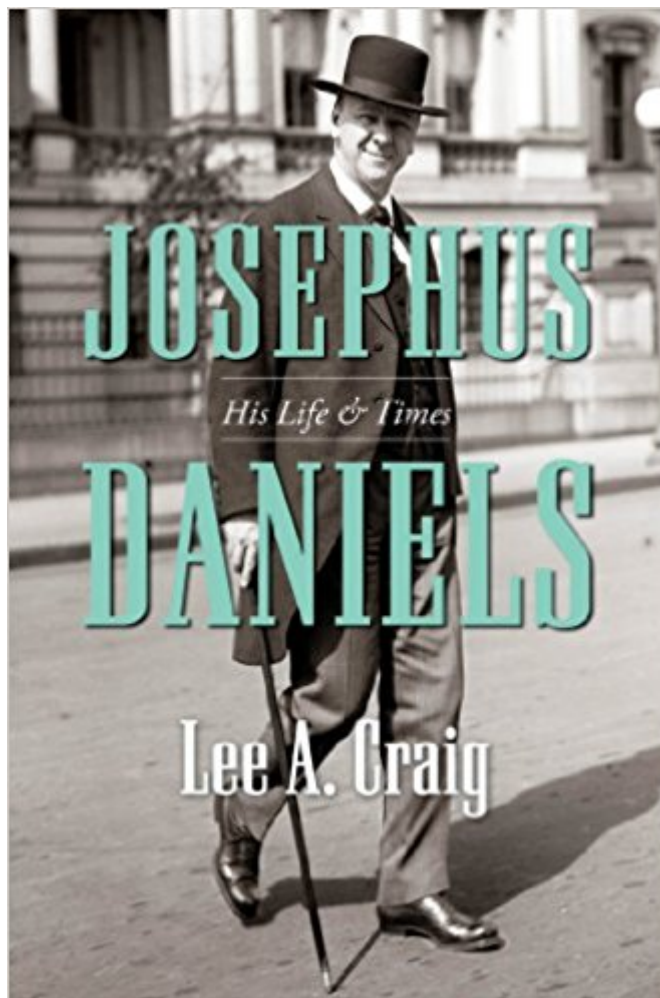


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Josephus Daniels: His Life And Times



Synopsis

As a longtime leader of the Democratic Party and key member of Woodrow Wilson's cabinet, Josephus Daniels was one of the most influential progressive politicians in the country, and as secretary of the navy during the First World War, he became one of the most important men in the world. Before that, Daniels revolutionized the newspaper industry in the South, forever changing the relationship between politics and the news media. Lee A. Craig, an expert on economic history, delves into Daniels's extensive archive to inform this nuanced and eminently readable biography, following Daniels's rise to power in North Carolina and chronicling his influence on twentieth-century politics. A man of great contradictions, Daniels--an ardent prohibitionist, free trader, and Free Silverite--made a fortune in private industry yet served as a persistent critic of unregulated capitalism. He championed progressive causes like the graded public school movement and antitrust laws even as he led North Carolina's white supremacy movement. Craig pulls no punches in his definitive biography of this political powerhouse.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For those who study southern progressives and the Wilson administration Josephus Daniels will be an essential text.--The Journal of American HistoryExcellent. . . . Mr. Craig's judgments are fair, and his prose is clear, vigorous and free of jargon.--Wall Street JournalThe definitive biography.--Rocky Mount TelegramA good biography of Daniels is long overdue, and North Carolina State University professor Lee A. Craig has filled that need.--StarNewsOnline.comSuperb. . . . Craig's effort is the

one that will stand as the definitive account of Daniels' life. . . . A thoroughly researched work that will satisfy scholars and is also a cracking good yarn for the engaged reader.--Rob Christensen, Raleigh News and ObserverI am more than happy to recommend Craig's thought-provoking and meticulously researched biography to all those interested in the evolution of journalism, the growth of the U.S. Navy, the politics of the 'New South,' and the continuing influence of southerners in the national Democratic Party throughout the Progressive Era.--H-SHGAPEThere have been several biographies of Daniels. . . [but] none of them do as thorough a job as Craig. . . . Provides a fascinating glimpse into the mind and actions of a truly American newspaper editor, progressive businessman, politician, and incontrovertibly the most influential Secretary of the Navy in [the] 20th century.--DaybookA compelling narrative that allows the reader to better understand Daniels's world, and still perceive the possibilities for a different American future that were foreclosed by his actions.--Journal of the North Carolina Association of HistoriansCraig has produced an excellent book. . . . [He] writes gracefully, forcefully, with sly humor and appropriate criticism but humane tolerance of Daniels' many failings. The book covers all aspects of Daniels' multi-faceted life.--EH.NetCraig's exhaustively researched and highly readable biography of a complicated and interesting man. . . . should be fascinating to the general reader. In Craig's hands, the story of a very complex man living in the tumult of war and depression becomes a clear and intriguing page-turner.--John Lehman, Washington PostAby-written. . . . Illuminates important aspects of Daniels' life. . . and provides a valuable understanding of why Daniels remains worth knowing.--Proceedings MagazineAn important contribution to the already rich discussion about the place of evangelicalism and Pentecostalism in American religious life.--Journal of Southern History[An] excellent work--The HistorianA splendid biography.--The News & ObserverA first-rate biography.--North Carolina Historical Review

For scholars as well as for citizens with serious interest in history and journalism, Professor Craig's biography of Josephus Daniels opens windows of insight into key moments in American history: the rise of the white supremacist "redeemers" in the post-Reconstruction South, the presidencies of Grover Cleveland and Woodrow Wilson, and the conduct and outcome of World War I. The book also tells the story of a fascinating, ambitious newspaper editor in politics.--Ferrel Guillory, University of North Carolina at Chapel HillRecent political events have rekindled interest in the formative years of progressivism, in which Josephus Daniels played a large role--before, during and after his close relationship with Woodrow Wilson. Professor Craig's briskly written biography rescues from undeserved obscurity a Southern and national politician of great consequence and

fascinating contradictions.--George F. Will

Very good bio of a controversial editor here in Raleigh, NC. Turned the Raleigh News & Observer into the North Carolina paper. Played an important role in the Wilson presidential campaign and the Wilson Administration during WWI (sec of the Navy) was a mentor of FDR and served as Ambassador to Mexico during FDR's presidency. Book tries to provide historic and economic context to Daniel's life, ideas and decisions. Does not hide that he was an ardent segregationist but does not provide a lot of detail of his actions during the terror campaign to overthrow of the Progressive/Republican administration that supported Black rights at the end of the 19th century. The violence in Wilmington as part of that campaign is detailed. Also the author gives Daniels rational for his segregationist views. Very well written book hard to put down once you start to read it.

Daniels was an important figure in North Carolina and in US history. Craig's book provided a well researched biography of a very successful newspaper man and political figure whose white supremacist views and social conservatism are hard to stomach today. It was important as a North Carolinian to learn more about him and his family, and the times they lived in.

Well researched and written biography of a newspaper publisher who helped foster progressive government in North Carolina and held leadership positions in the federal government at critical times. The biography also sheds light on the political forces active in North Carolina in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Read this book and you will learn where having "a cuppa joe" came from. Daniels was also very important to getting public education in North Carolina.

What a great book to tell a real story as how Josephus lived through his era and achieved what he planned to. Great book to let readers to know how US built its navy ...

Timely delivery. I'm satisfied

Besides being a very realistic biography of Josephus Daniels, who was my grandfather, this book has told me more about him than I ever could have learned otherwise. And it shows how a simple

person, who did not have the voice or the sense of importance to run for public office, could accomplish important things through his editorials and assisting other politicians. This book has also helped me to understand that certain prejudices---like White Supremacy ---may simply be by-products of the time. Having grown up poor, Josephus Daniels stood up for the poor white farmers against the 19th--20th century Republicans and blacks. This book is about not just the prohibitionist who left us with Cup of Joe but all the international conflicts that preceded the ones we have today.

This is a great biography. There is extensive detail about Josephus Daniels' life but more importantly for the general reader, this is also a sweeping history of the late 19th and first half 20th century North Carolina. Daniels' activities and motivations are set in a fascinating context and explained by the context. It is a story of a strong man living in a critical time in US history and his extensive influence during that time. The more controversial aspects of the times are presented in a remarkably unbiased manner, yet at the same time recognizing how some of the attitudes of the time are currently not acceptable. The author doesn't judge and doesn't justify, leaving the reader to decide how he/she feels about the more controversial aspects of the times and of Daniels' views and attitudes. People who are interested in Josephus Daniels and the newspaper business in general will love this book; but in addition, it is a "must read" for anyone interested in or studying that period of history in the South. There was a lot of work put into this book -- it shows and it is a serious and major contribution to the history of the era.

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