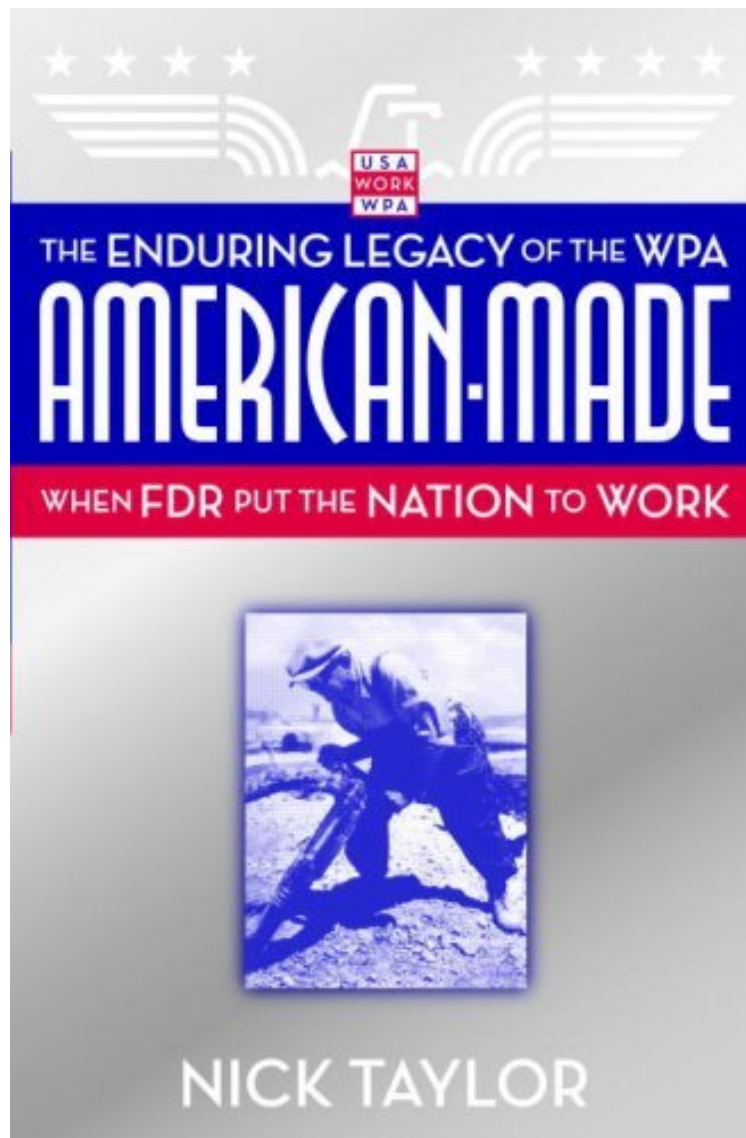


(Mobile pdf) American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work

American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work

Von Nick Taylor

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Von Nick Taylor : American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work:

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comprehensive history of the WPA Von K. King the book is very entertaining and informative as well as comprehensive. It includes pictures, case studies as well as biographical information about the major participants.

Kurzbeschreibung If you've traveled the nation's highways, flown into New York's LaGuardia Airport, strolled San Antonio's River Walk, or seen the Pacific Ocean from the Beach Chalet in San Francisco, you have experienced some part of the legacy of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) one of the enduring cornerstones of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. When President Roosevelt took the oath of office in March 1933, he was facing a devastated nation. Four years into the Great Depression, a staggering 13 million American workers were jobless and many millions more of their family members were equally in need. Desperation ruled the land. What people wanted were jobs, not handouts: the pride of earning a paycheck; and in 1935, after a variety of temporary relief measures, a permanent nationwide jobs program was created. This was the Works Progress Administration, and it would forever change the physical landscape and the social policies of the United States. The WPA lasted for eight years, spent \$11 billion, employed 8 million men and women, and gave the country not only a renewed spirit but a fresh face. Under its colorful head, Harry Hopkins, the agency's remarkable accomplishment was to combine the urgency of putting people back to work with its vision of physically rebuilding America. Its workers laid roads, erected dams, bridges, tunnels, and airports. They stocked rivers, made toys, sewed clothes, served millions of hot school lunches. When disasters struck, they were there by the thousands to rescue the stranded. And all across the country the WPA's arts programs performed concerts, staged plays, painted murals, delighted children with circuses, created invaluable guidebooks. Even today, more than sixty years after the WPA ceased to exist, there is almost no area in America that does not bear some visible mark of its presence. Politically controversial, the WPA was staffed by passionate believers and hated by conservatives; its critics called its projects make-work and wags said it stood for We Piddle Around. The contrary was true. We have only to look about us today to discover its lasting presence. From the Hardcover edition. From Publishers Weekly Starred. Launched in 1935, at the bottom of the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) served as a linchpin of FDR's New Deal. Through the WPA, Roosevelt put millions of unemployed Americans to work on public construction projects, from dams and courthouses to parks and roads. The WPA's Federal Writers Project employed a host of artists and writers (among them Jackson Pollock, Saul Bellow, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston and Studs Terkel); theater and musical artists also received funding. Taylor (Ordinary Miracles: Life in a Small Church) vividly and painstakingly paints the full story of the WPA from its inception to its shutdown by Congress in 1943, at which point the war boom in manufacturing had made it unnecessary. In an eloquent and balanced appraisal, Taylor not only chronicles the WPA's numerous triumphs (including New York's LaGuardia Airport) but also its failures, most notably graft and other chicanery at the local level. Taylor details as well the dicey intramural politics in Congress over which states and districts would get the largest slice of the WPA pie. All told, Taylor's volume makes for a splendid appreciation of the WPA with which to celebrate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the New Deal's beginnings in 1933. (Mar. 4) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Pressestimmen A must-read for history buffs and government wonks.... Taylor is at his best in describing the different projects and the lives of the people who worked on them. USA Today Brisk. Taylor's American-Made is bigger than its title suggests; he provides a succinct survey of the Great Depression and particularly its consequences for workers. He interweaves personal stories with explanations of policy. Washington Post Book World Vividly rendered a near-definitive account of one of the most massive government interventions into domestic affairs on American history. The book is filled with plucky, fast-talking characters who by dint of charm and grit pulled themselves up by their bootstraps to participate. Kirkus S, starred review Eloquent and balanced. A splendid appreciation of the WPA. Publishers Weekly, starred review A paean to the WPA ... balanced and engaging. Boston Globe "An immensely detailed book telling the epic story of an equally immense agency, American-Made does an incomparable job of chronicling an important chapter in American history, one which many of us only know from the classroom and some of us know all too well." New Hampshire Business A quick read engagingly written. There is something here for everyone to learn. San Francisco Chronicle "Well-written and helpfully structured.... Taylor intersperses individual stories to give body to stark statistics an admiring, as well as admirable, history of FDR's main job-creation program." Chicago Sun-Times "A lively 'people's history' of the WPA." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Vastly informative, popular history at its finest. A straightforward, relentlessly chronological, clearly written account. Dallas Morning News "Chock-full of facts.... Taylor captures the drama and idealism of the program's early years." Time Out New York [Taylor] has produced what is likely the most complete account yet of the much-written-about agency, just in time for the 75th anniversary of the New Deal. Milwaukee Express "A lively and uplifting look at hard times and a government program that worked." Arizona Republic American-Made might be one of the most empathetic stories ever told. It also is among the greatest. Miami Sun Post Pertinent and timely. Filled with both insight and wisdom. It is highly readable, absolutely terrific and highly recommended. Tucson Citizen Taylor's book is both a paean to American

resourcefulness and a staunch defense of the New Deal. New Yorker