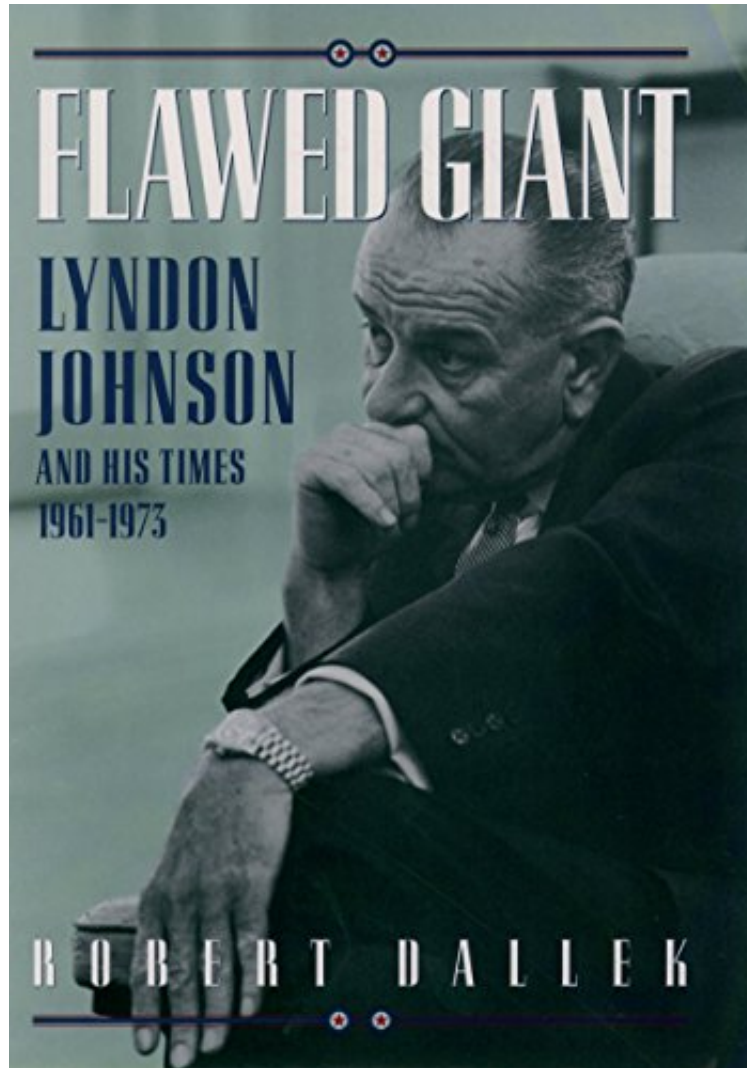


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Flawed Giant: Lyndon Johnson and His Times, 1961-1973

Von Robert Dallek

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Von Robert Dallek : Flawed Giant: Lyndon Johnson and His Times, 1961-1973 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flawed Giant: Lyndon Johnson and His Times, 1961-1973:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not as good as volume oneVon Candace ScottI admire Dalleck and think he's an able historian, but volume two is leagues inferior to volume one, "Lone Star Rising." Dalleck glosses over LBJ's Vice Presidential years in twenty pages and reveals little new material from the early 1960's. His treatment of the JFJ-LBJ political and personal relationship also is lacking.Robert Caro is writing the definitive treatment of LBJ and Caro is a more accomplished writer, but Dalleck

at least cuts Johnson a break and sees the good in this flawed giant. Dallek is particularly good at illuminating the Great Society and Johnson's sweeping social programs. His military treatment of Vietnam is hardly penetrating. This is an adequate book on Johnson as President, but not as gripping as the initial volume. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Disappointing after a splendid first volume Von Ein Kunde I strongly preferred Dallek's first volume, *Lone Star Rising*, over the two Caro books that cover most of the same period, because Dallek presented a detailed and human portrait, while Caro seemed to have so completely turned against his subject he couldn't see anything good about him. So I looked forward to Dallek's treatment of his Vice Presidency and Presidency with as much anticipation as I can recall. I was frankly disappointed in this volume. The entire Vice Presidency is handled in a single chapter and contains no insight greater than that LBJ was frustrated in the job, hardly a revelation. And the treatment of the Presidency, while providing a good general treatment, gives far less insight into his thinking and the way he made decisions, than the first volume. One can get far more insight from reading Michael Beschloss's edited transcripts in *"Taking Charge"*. One cogent example: in discussing the reaction to the 1967 Detroit riots, he quotes LBJ reacting to criticism by saying his statement was drafted by the best constitutional lawyer in the U.S. Yet one has to look at the footnotes to discover that this "lawyer" is Abe Fortas, who was then on the Supreme Court. That the president was consulting a justice about a domestic policy statement is an important issue, but one Dallek doesn't bother to tell us about. Yet it is that kind of insight that one looked forward to seeing in this volume. It's a shame it's not there. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Exemplary history writing. Von Ein Kunde This work, the final volume of Dallek's splendid Johnson biography, takes advantage of hundreds of newly-released White House tapes to illuminate the rise and fall of one of the most complex men ever to occupy the Presidency, the larger-than-life LBJ, with all his majestic intentions and all-too-human failings. Combining judicious choice of materials with mature interpretation in a wonderfully readable narrative, Dallek's work is particularly compelling in tracing the American involvement in Vietnam, which LBJ rightly feared but, tragically, could not escape, given the assumptions and world view of his generation, and his determination: "...not...to be the first American President to lose a war". (p.460). (The "score" rating is an ineradicable feature of the page. This reviewer does not "score" books.)

Kurzbeschreibung Flawed Giant--the monumental concluding volume to Robert Dallek's biography of Lyndon Baines Johnson--provides the most thorough, engrossing account ever published of Johnson's years in the national spotlight. Drawing on hours of newly released White House tapes and dozens of interviews with people close to the President, Dallek reveals LBJ as a visionary leader who worked his will on Congress like no chief executive before or since, and also displays the depth of his private anguish as he became increasingly ensnared in Vietnam. Writing in a clear, thoughtful, and evenhanded style, Dallek reveals both the greatness and the tangled complexities of one of the most extravagant characters ever to ascend to the White House..de In the opening pages of *Flawed Giant*, readers meet a downtrodden politician whose greatest ambition--the presidency--is tantalizingly close but seemingly out of reach. JFK's elder by almost 20 years, Johnson was a reluctant and unenthusiastic vice president. When he finally realized the office, his satisfaction there was marred by his difficulty in reconciling his deeply held beliefs and political expediency. In this sequel to the critically acclaimed *Lone Star Rising*, biographer Robert Dallek concentrates on Johnson's White House years. In addition to expertly covering the major events of Johnson's presidency, Dallek probes lower-profile episodes that help expose Johnson's character. His agonizing search for a vice president in 1964 is one such example--in order to salve his ego, Johnson was adamant that he should win reelection without a Kennedy on the ticket and resisted both the Democratic party and Robert Kennedy right up until the convention. Dallek is skilled at laying bare the man's complicated and even contradictory nature. At diplomacy, Johnson often seemed like a loud, brash American, yet successful trips to Southeast Asia and Africa as vice president prove his occasional adroitness in this area. One of Johnson's Achilles' heels, it seems, was paranoia; a firm believer in the fact that knowledge is power, Johnson rarely communicated his true intentions or feelings, even to his closest confidants or cabinet members, until the last. And he secretly tape-recorded thousands of conversations with people at all levels of government. Dallek avers that Johnson's impenetrability is the reason why much of his action on Vietnam defies explanation. And the dark cloud of the war now largely obfuscates Johnson's impressive congressional record. Careful to neither vilify nor deify his subject, Dallek devotes large sections of the book to both Vietnam and Johnson's major accomplishments in the area of reform and funding for programs such as civil rights, Medicare, clean air and water, the NEA, public broadcasting, and food stamps. This engrossing biography is peppered throughout with snippets of its subject's trademark: colorfully idiomatic speech that brings him vibrantly to life. Based upon exclusive interviews with Lady Bird Johnson and Bill Moyers, as well as recently released papers and transcripts, Dallek's biography is a major contribution to the collective understanding of this man whose passions had a major impact on American society. Pressestimmen "To read Robert Dallek's new book on LBJ is to be transported back to the era that he helped make so angry and turbulent.... *Flawed Giant* captures in unforgiving detail a president whose flaws were tragically larger than life." --Chicago Tribune "Dallek lets Johnson speak for himself, and no writer could create a more colorful,

entertaining, inspiring, eccentric, or troubling character."--The Boston Sunday Globe"Avoiding the demonology that has marred other accounts of this fascinating man, Dallek shows not only his failures and his excesses but also his gargantuan accomplishments and subtle mind. Here is a Johnson without tears or cheers but in a clear, steady light."--Washington Post Book World"An historical biographical tour de force."--Richmond Times-Dispatch"Poised, scholarly, and readable."--The New Yorker "To read Robert Dallek's new book on LBJ is to be transported back to the era that he helped make so angry and turbulent....Flawed Giant captures in unforgiving detail a president whose flaws were tragically larger than life."--Chicago Tribune "Dallek lets Johnson speak for himself, and no writer could create a more colorful, entertaining, inspiring, eccentric, or troubling character."--The Boston Sunday Globe "Avoiding the demonology that has marred other accounts of this fascinating man, Dallek shows not only his failures and his excesses but also his gargantuan accomplishments and subtle mind. Here is a Johnson without tears or cheers but in a clear, steady light."--Washington Post Book World "An historical biographical tour de force."--Richmond Times-Dispatch "Poised, scholarly, and readable."--The New Yorker "To read Robert Dallek's new book on LBJ is to be transported back to the era that he helped make so angry and turbulent....Flawed Giant captures in unforgiving detail a president whose flaws were tragically larger than life."--Chicago Tribune "Dallek lets Johnson speak for himself, and no writer could create a more colorful, entertaining, inspiring, eccentric, or troubling character."--The Boston Sunday Globe"Avoiding the demonology that has marred other accounts of this fascinating man, Dallek shows not only his failures and his excesses but also his gargantuan accomplishments and subtle mind. Here is a Johnson without tears or cheers but in a clear, steady light."--Washington Post Book World"An historical biographical tour de force."--Richmond Times-Dispatch"Poised, scholarly, and readable."--The New Yorker"To read Robert Dallek's new book on LBJ is to be transported back to the era that he helped make so angry and turbulent....Flawed Giant captures in unforgiving detail a president whose flaws were tragically larger than life."--Chicago Tribune"Dallek lets Johnson speak for himself, and no writer could create a more colorful, entertaining, inspiring, eccentric, or troubling character."--The Boston Sunday Globe"Avoiding the demonology that has marred other accounts of this fascinating man, Dallek shows not only his failures and his excesses but also his gargantuan accomplishments and subtle mind. Here is a Johnson without tears or cheers but in a clear, steady light."--Washington Post Book World"An historical biographical tour de force."--Richmond Times-Dispatch"Poised, scholarly, and readable."--The New Yorker