The President as Statesman

Stid, Daniel D.

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The President as Statesman: Woodrow Wilson and the Constitution.

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WITH A NEW FOREWORD BY TRYGVE THrontveit

A political scientist who went on to become president, Woodrow Wilson envisioned a “responsible government” in which a strong leader and principled party would integrate the separate executive and legislative powers. His ideal, however, was constantly challenged by political reality. Daniel D. Stid explores the evolution of Wilson’s views on this form of government and his endeavors as a statesman to establish it in the United States. The author looks over Professor and then President Wilson’s shoulder as he grappled with the constitutional separation of powers, demonstrating the importance of this effort for American political thought and history. The President as Statesman contributes significantly to ongoing debates over Wilson’s legacy and raises important questions about the nature of presidential leadership at a time when this issue is at the forefront of public consciousness.

“Stid shows convincingly how Wilson both attacked and adapted the American system of separation of powers. An original, intelligent book.”—Harvey C. Mansfield, author of Taming the Prince

“A very original and well-done account of Woodrow Wilson’s failure to accomplish his goal of reshaping the national polity. This is an instructive, well-researched, and refreshing essay in the enduring character of American government.”—Choice

“A detailed study, rich in nuance, that should interest students of American history, political theory, constitutional development, the presidency, and the American party system. Its contributions to current discussions of the wisdom of separated powers and the place of Woodrow Wilson in the evolving American political tradition are considerable.”—Perspectives on Political Science

“A thoughtful and detailed intellectual biography that provides a convincing account of how Wilson shifted between idealism and pragmatism as he moved from scholarship to political practice.”—Journal of Southern History

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