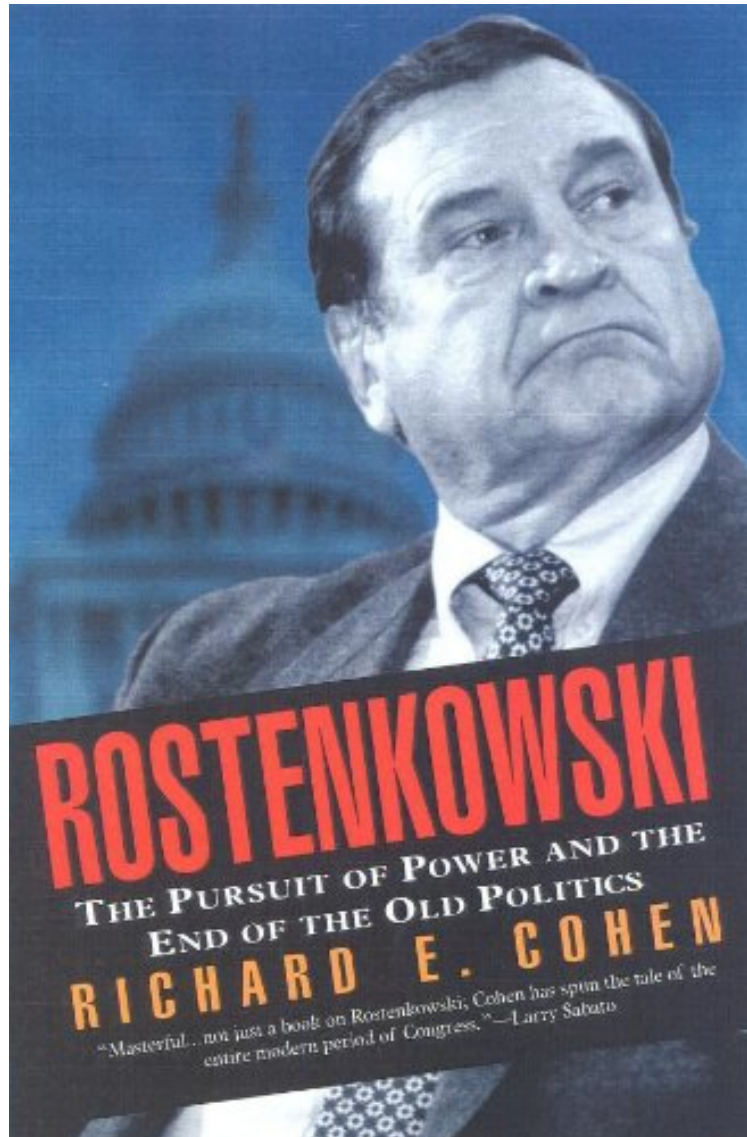


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Rostenkowski: The Pursuit of Power and the End of the Old Politics

Von Richard E. Cohen

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Von Richard E. Cohen : Rostenkowski: The Pursuit of Power and the End of the Old Politics before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rostenkowski: The Pursuit of Power and the End of the Old Politics:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great tale of a human being and American politics Von Ein Kunde COHEN's book takes us from boyhood to the ignominious end of a political career -- and does so while telling a second and equally fascinating story about the changes in the

American political system that accompanied, and ended, with the ROSTENKOWSKI era. For those who find Chicago politics -- where tombstones sometime vote -- to be worth a good read, this is a wonderful view of how all that worked in and around a Congressional district. For those who find the story of this Polish-American icon to be worthy of a book investment, this volume delivers 200%. For those who appreciate what a professional journalist with 30 years of Washington reporting can add to the ROSTENKOWSKI story by way of historical perspective and evolution, this is a book that cannot be missed.

KurzbeschreibungFor thirteen years, during a time of Democratic congressional dominance in Washington, Dan Rostenkowski became one of the most influential American legislators of the twentieth century. As chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, the representative from Illinois influenced the nation's tax laws, international trade, Social Security, health care, welfare, and a good many other areas policies that affected most Americans. Richard Cohen's scrupulous political biography of Rostenkowski follows his rise to power from modest origins in the Democratic ward politics of Chicago's Polish northwest side, to his legislative triumphs, and ultimately to his criminal conviction and imprisonment for abuses of House practice. Because Rostenkowski served so many years in Congress (1959-1995), his career offers a prism into the changing nature of the institution and of the Democratic party, a change that gradually brought a new bitterness to Washington politics. Even when the congressman gained national influence, he remained close to Chicago politics and his boss, Richard J. Daley; but as he lost touch with local voters, opposed to political reforms, and clung to his personal stubbornness, he greased the skids for his downfall. Mr. Cohen has written a compelling, eye-opening story of American politics at work, portrayed through his career of one of its most fascinating practitioners. With 8 pages of photographs..deDan Rostenkowski-- Chicago ward politician, 36-year congressman, and former chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee--went from the pinnacle of power to federal prison when he was convicted of corruption in 1994. His downfall makes for fascinating political drama, and Richard E. Cohen, a veteran Congressional reporter for the National Journal and author of three books on Washington, D.C., is well-placed to examine the long and colorful career of this Chicago bull's political life. Rostenkowski's father was a city alderman in Chicago and a Democratic ward boss who taught his son the importance of taking care of constituents. For Danny, politics was the family business. However, this book is as much about the way Congress worked under Democratic leadership in the '60s, '70s, and '80s as it is about Rostenkowski. Plenty of attention is devoted to internal Democratic power struggles, for instance, while Rostenkowski's kickback scandal receives comparatively little space. At times, Cohen even seems to downplay his wrongdoings, quoting aides and colleagues who said of Rosty, "In the 1990s he used 1950s' rules. The standards changed and he didn't change with them." Cohen writes that the end of Rostenkowski's political career also marked the end of an era in politics and that characters like "Rosty" have "all but disappeared from increasingly bland American politics.... we won't see many more like him." Some might say that's a good thing. --Linda KillianPressestimmenWitty and riveting...a lesson in how politics really works.--Clarence Page "Chicago Tribune" "Cohen has written a compelling and insightful biography that does justice to his significant legislator.--Norman OrnsteinAn authoritative and balanced study.--Steve Neal "Chicago Sun-Times" "Masterful...not just a book on Rostenkowski; Cohen has spun the tale of the entire modern period of Congress.--Larry Sabato, Author of "Feeding Frenzy" and "Dirty Little Secrets" A legislative biography with a knowing eye.--Robin Toner "The New York Times" "A valuable contribution to public understanding...an insider's story.--Jim Wright, Former Speaker of the HouseAn important, revealing, anecdote-laden biography...written by an enormously gifted journalist.--Charles Lewis "Washington Monthly "