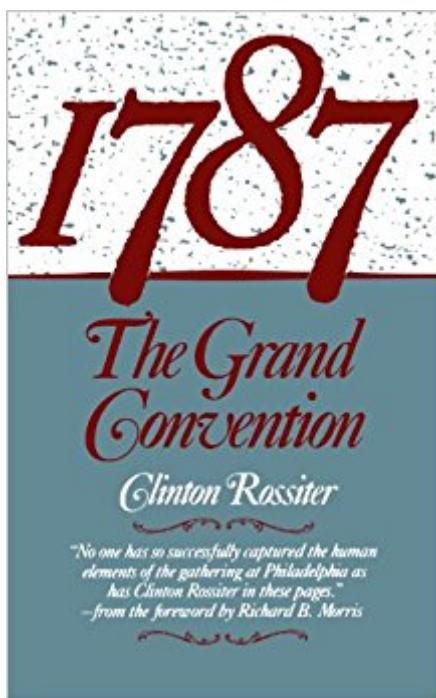


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1787: The Grand Convention



Synopsis

â œConsistently provocative . . . The political method of the framers and its historical appropriateness are luminously explained. â •Journal of American History In this masterly account of the Philadelphia summer when our Constitution was born, Clinton Rossiter establishes his claim that the year 1787 is preeminent in American history. Bringing to life the setting and the challenge, he shows how the delegates hammered out the document on which our government and institutions rest today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Overall, I found the book to be an interesting account of the men and the events of the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia during the Summer of 1787. The first third of the book is spent by Rossiter providing a brief outline of the biographies of the 55 men who participated (or were nominated to participate) at the convention. Rossiter describes these men as the elites of the American colonial societies. In some cases his assignment is accurate, yet strangely in several cases, many of the men as he described were not elites at all. Generally, he was correct in this assignment, although most notably, he points out that the architect James Madison was clearly not. Like several other points the author makes, he seems to be conflicted and contradictory in his assessments of events and the men involved. The middle third of the book is an account of the goings on of the convention. I found this portion of the book to be well researched and scholarly, but leaving me wanting for a more careful description of the actual dialogue (deliberations) of the men at the Grand Convention. Certainly this want is based on the fact that the only detailed account made

of the proceedings was recorded by Madison and later acquired by the Library of Congress - but it still left me thinking it would be more interesting as the reader 230+ years later to be able to read the exact deliberations, the exact debate, the rhetoric, the negotiations during the convention, in order to more accurately understand what the intentions of the Framers were when establishing the excellent system of checks and balances the United States of America has enjoyed for more than 230 years.

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