



CONTACT: Johanna Ramos-Boyer
703-646-5137
Johanna@jrbpr.biz

WE THE PRESIDENTS

How American Presidents Shaped the Last Century

by Ronald Gruner

WE THE PRESIDENTS: How American Presidents Shaped the Last Century is not a traditional presidential history. Written by former tech CEO Ronald Gruner, this history is born out of his interest in understanding how and when American politics transitioned from merely polarized to openly hostile. Beginning with Warren G. Harding in 1921 and ending with Donald Trump in 2021, Gruner examines not a single presidency but instead the development of the presidency through a century of administrations. His experience as a CEO produces a very different view on presidential history. Instead of political power, Gruner concentrates on the economic and social accomplishments over seventeen presidencies inter-connecting American history.

Growing up in Oklahoma then living most of his adult life in Massachusetts, Gruner questioned how Americans had lost the common thread of Presidents over the last century working to build an America that represented and benefitted all. His goal was to write a history of the last century devoid of politics, political battles and behind the scenes intrigue. Instead, readers will find a history of what impacted Americans and their economic well-being. **WE THE PRESIDENTS** discusses economic growth, personal income, income equality and taxation during each presidency and the influence those policies had through the decades on the American way of life.

Gruner delves into patterns across the decades including:

- Slogan patterns...in the 1920s, for example, Warren G. Harding campaigned on “America First.” Sixty years later, to rekindle American pride, Ronald Reagan ran on “Let’s make America Great Again.” Forty years after Reagan, Donald Trump based his presidential campaign on “Make America Great Again”.
- The century-old debate over supply-side and demand-side economics and their effect on taxation.
- The tension between individual responsibility and the role of government from Herbert Hoover’s response to the Great Depression to Americans’ divided response to the COVID pandemic.

Beyond a narrow presidential history, **WE THE PRESIDENTS** discusses early American tax rebellions from the Boston Tea Party to Shay’s Rebellion to the Whiskey Rebellion and their effect on American tax policy. Gruner also includes many historical anecdotes such as the death of Calvin Coolidge’s son to blood poisoning and Coolidge’s resulting decision not to run for reelection in 1928, how the final negotiations of the Cuban Missile Crisis were conducted in a Chinese restaurant, and why Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan’s promotion of low interest rates and deregulation contributed to the 2008 Financial Crisis.

There are actually three books embedded in the 600 page book — in effect, a 200 page economics history from Adam Smith to Modern Monetary Theory, a 100 page American history from the French-Indian Wars to the January 6 Insurrection, and a 300 page traditional presidential history from Harding to Trump. In the end, Gruner explains how every President has accomplishments, failures and a lasting impact on the United States of America.

ABOUT RONALD GRUNER

Ronald Gruner founded, served as chief executive, and sold three successful technology firms during his long career: Alliant Computer in 1982, Shareholder.com in 1993 and Sky Analytics in 2009. Each of Gruner's firms were a pioneer and leader in its industry: Alliant in parallel processing, Shareholder.com in investor relations and Sky in legal analytics.

Unlike many technology firms, each company delivered a healthy financial return to its investors. Alliant went public in 1986 while Shareholder.com and Sky Analytics were profitably acquired by major public corporations in 2006 and 2015, respectively.

During his thirty-five years as a chief executive, Gruner faced the challenges of making difficult decisions; balancing the interests of shareholders, customers, and employees; and focusing on the long-term even as short-term pressures seemed overwhelming.

Gruner's experience as an accomplished executive has resulted in a different breed of presidential history. Taken from his business experience, WE THE PRESIDENTS focuses on effects rather than causes, on results rather than politics; on economics rather than ideology; and WE THE PRESIDENTS on the connections linking presidential administrations rather than isolated presidencies.

Gruner lives with his wife, Nancy, in Naples, Florida where he is a private pilot, amateur radio operator and consistently poor golfer.

PRAISE FROM EARLY READERS

"This well-crafted, wonderfully readable book takes the reader on a fascinating journey through the tenures of US presidents over the past 100 years, highlighting the events that shaped America and the world and offers a candid yet balanced and objective critique of their stewardship. An absorbing and compelling tour de force."

- Howard Handy, senior manager (retired), International Monetary Fund and International Monetary Institute

"So you think you know your presidential history? Think again. Ronald Gruner has, and he sees more than most. He has balanced vision and an eye for detail. He has written a knowledgeable and easily read work. It is an excellent investment of your time. It was for me."

- Jack Falvey, Contributor to the *Wall Street Journal* and *Barron's*

"This highly readable book is a triumph. Author Ronald Gruner with meticulous research has woven a non-partisan tapestry embedded with historical parallels as seventeen presidents, from Harding to Trump, shaped the American century, up to the present day, when our democracy faces yet another crucial test of its resilience and strength."

- Nicholas G. Penniman IV, Publisher (retired), *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

“Ronald Gruner’s clear-sighted view of presidents, their times and contexts is extraordinary. We need the Gruner sensibility in the White House. *We the Presidents* is more than an absorbing read; it is a great education about how our country works. Gruner’s engaging and straightforward writing brings alive a century of presidencies from Harding to Trump, and how their actions have led to what America is today.”

- Phil Cooper, Founder and Managing Partner, Pine Island Capital Partners

“Ronald Gruner is uniquely qualified to write a penetrating presidential history. Gruner applied his significant business experience to objectively analyze the impact of past presidencies on today’s America. His extraordinary research provides facts rather than opinions. A must read.”

- Dr. John R Patrick, President, Attitude LLC

TITLE: WE THE PRESIDENTS: How American Presidents Shaped the Last Century

AUTHOR: Ronald Gruner

PUB DATE: January 11, 2022

ISBN: 978-1737823100

PAGES: 626 pages

PRICE: \$18.50 paperback, \$28.50 hardback

WEBSITE: <https://wethepresidents.us/>

For further information, please contact Johanna Ramos-Boyer, johanna@jrbpr.biz, 703-646-5137

###