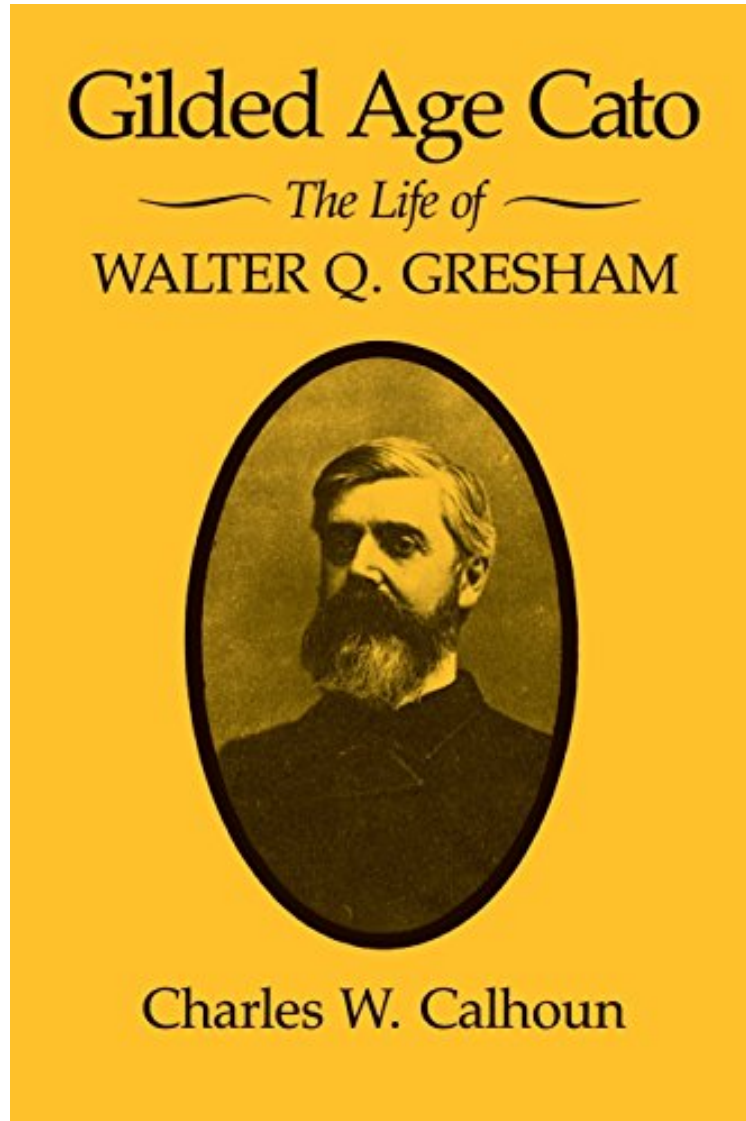


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Gilded Age Cato: The Life of Walter Q. Gresham

Charles W. Calhoun

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#5237136 in Books Calhoun Charles W 2014-07-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .65 x 5.981, .94 #File Name: 0813160073288 pagesGilded Age Cato The Life of Walter Q Gresham | File size: 29.Mb

Charles W. Calhoun : Gilded Age Cato: The Life of Walter Q. Gresham before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gilded Age Cato: The Life of Walter Q. Gresham:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Principles sometimes descend to Pig-headednessBy Richard L. HansonAs a collector of biographies of Civil War Generals, I picked up the biography of Walter Gresham to fill a gap in my collection. Civil War Buffs will be disappointed. The war is over by page 40. Gresham was rewarded with a General's rank after the war ended. He probably could have had it before, but he was reluctant to engage in the politics of self-promotion that was so prevalent in that conflict. This continues to be a constntt refrain in his life. He quarrelled

in Indiana politics with both Governor Morton and future President Benjamin Harrison, allowing both of them to outshine him because he wasn't as quick as they were to seize opportunities or organize support. He had some Presidential support in the election that finally nominated Garfield, but his diffidence and poor campaign organization doomed that to failure as well. Falling out with his party, he eventually became the Democratic President Cleveland's Secretary of State and had to deal with some touchy issues, including the Dole-led coup in Hawaii that overthrew the queen, and US relations in Samoa. An opponent of Manifest Destiny, he was out-of-step with the popular sentiment of his time. He took a lot of newspaper abuse. Despite the abuse, he worked long hours addressing aspects of his cabinet post that could have been probably delegated to others, and eventually worked himself into ill health that led to his death. This is a bare outline of a life that turned out to be far more interesting than I expected it to be. The book is well researched with good footnotes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Gilded Age Cato: The Life of Walter Q Gresham* by Charles W Calhoun By Southern Indiana Gal The subject matter of this book is written about some of the political history of the United States in the late 19th Century. Since I am an avid genealogist and the fact that Walter Q Gresham is one of my ancestors was the reason I ordered this book. Anything written about his life is of great interest to me.

Union general, federal judge, presidential contender, and cabinet officer Walter Q. Gresham of Indiana stands as an enigmatic character in the politics of the Gilded Age, one who never seemed comfortable in the offices he sought. This first scholarly biography not only follows the turns of his career but seeks also to find the roots of his disaffection. Entering politics as a Whig, Gresham shortly turned to help organize the new Republican Party and was a contender for its presidential nomination in the 1880s. But he became popular with labor and with the Populists and closed his political career by serving as secretary of state under Grover Cleveland. In reviewing Gresham's conduct of foreign affairs, Charles W. Calhoun disputes the widely held view that he was an economic expansionist who paved the way for imperialism. Gresham, instead, is seen here as a traditionalist who tried to steer the country away from entanglements abroad. It is this traditionalism that Calhoun finds to be the clue to Gresham's career. Troubled with self-doubt, Gresham, like the Cato of old, sought strength in a return to the republican virtues of the Revolutionary generation. Based on a thorough use of the available resources, this will stand as the definitive biography of an important figure in American political and diplomatic history, and in its portrayal of a man out of step with his times it sheds a different light on the politics of the Gilded Age.

About the Author Charles W. Calhoun is chairman of the department of history at Austin Peay State University.