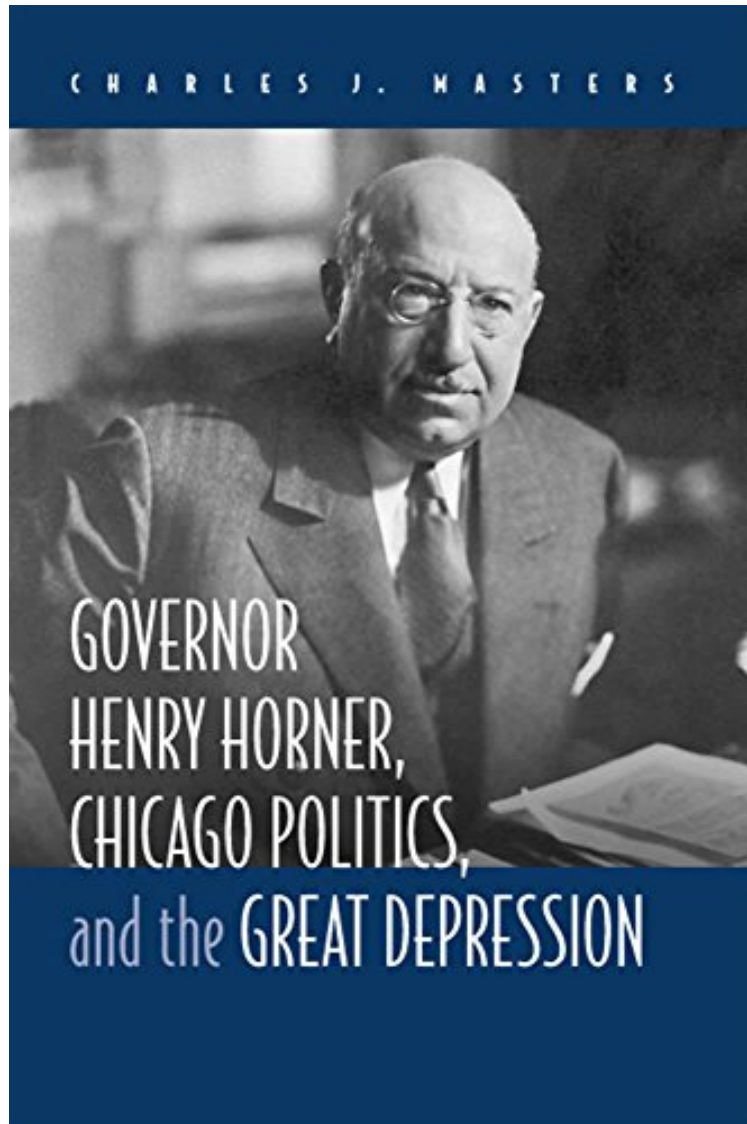


# Governor Henry Horner, Chicago Politics, and the Great Depression

*Charles J Masters*

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**Charles J Masters : Governor Henry Horner, Chicago Politics, and the Great Depression** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Governor Henry Horner, Chicago Politics, and the Great Depression:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting ReadBy Bob KWhat a great book. My wife knows how much I love Chicago history and she picked this book up for me over the holidays. I don't get a chance to read much,

and am very selective about what I spend my time reading. I had purchased two books on my own since I had a weekend off, A Michio Kaku Physics book (this guy is a genius) and a the biography of Augustus Caesar. I felt bad not reading the book my wife bough me so I thought I would give it a try. The book was truly riveting. It is hard to describe what an amazing (but definitely overlooked) figure Horner is in Chicago history. I literally did not put the book down for 16 hours. If you like Chicago history, or history at all for that matter, pick up this book. This is the first review I have ever felt compelled to write. I don't have time to read, let alone write reviews, but this book provides an insight you won't find in any class, or on any bookshelf if you aren't looking for it. I cannot tell you the last time I enjoyed a book so much. It is my sincere hope this author takes on another history book, and I really hope it is a Chicago history book. I can't remember when I read something this well written and enjoyed it so much. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Intriguing Illinois Governor Gets His Due By Gary T. Johnson Masters brings a lawyer's understanding to solving the enigma that was Henry Horner, who was Governor of Illinois from January 1933 through October 1940. Born to a well-do-do Jewish family, he had a great sympathy for the common man. His relations with the political establishment were complex. He rose from Probate Judge to Governor, but was unafraid to take on both the Kelly-Nash organization and FDR. He was married to public service, and spent his Sundays while Governor making surprise visits to mental institutions, where he would visit patients and compare purchase vouchers against supplies to see if there were any discrepancies. A dedicated collector, his extensive Lincoln collection is now among the treasures of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. This is a welcome and revealing account of a complex man. His story is a true hidden gem of Illinois history.

Many have never heard of Governor Henry Horner of Illinois, yet his story is remarkable. Governor Henry Horner, Chicago Politics, and the Great Depression focuses on Horners career in law and politics from 1915 to 1940, while examining the economic and political dynamics of Illinois during the darkest period in American history. This principled governor managed to maintain his political integrity in a climate where honesty was a liability, says author Charles J. Masters, but the few historians who include Horner in their narratives offer contradictory and dismissive characterizations of him. Masters corrects the public record and reintroduces Horner to political lore as a man who brazenly fought both the Chicago Democratic machine that worked to plot his downfall and Roosevelt's White House to steadfastly do right by the people of Illinois.

An exciting and intimate portrayal of one of the great governors of Illinois, Charles Masters's book reads like a political thriller and is sure to please those who love to explore the intersections of Illinois politics and government in the first half of the last century. A real winner. James R. Thompson, former governor of Illinois