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# Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story: Statesman of the Old Republic

*R. Kent Newmyer*

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## Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story

Statesman of the Old Republic

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by R. Kent Newmyer

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**R. Kent Newmyer : Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story: Statesman of the Old Republic** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story: Statesman of the Old Republic:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. ... noted that some reviewers say they found this book boring. I found the book Supreme Court Justice Joseph ...By JeanI noted that some reviewers say they found this book boring. I found the book Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story: Statesman of the Old Republic by R. Kent Newmyer fascinating.

The author provided a general overview of history that helped place Story in a timeframe for me. Story was the primary founder and guiding spirit of the Harvard University Law School and the most prolific legal author of the 19th century. Story served on the United States Supreme Court from 1811 to 1845. He served under both Chief Justice Marshall and Chief Justice Taney. Newmyer covers Story's early life growing up in Massachusetts the son of Elisha Story a physician and member of the Sons of Liberty who took part in the Boston Tea Party. Story was well versed in the aspirations and goals of the founders of the country. Story graduated from Harvard University in 1798 and read law under Samuel Sewall who later became Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court. Newmyer covers in depth Story's life as a lawyer and politician as well as his personal life. I was most interested in his life on the Court. Story was appointed to the United States Supreme Court by President James Madison in 1811. The author goes into detail about the various key cases that the Court heard and that Story either wrote the majority opinion or the dissenting opinion. The author also covered how the American law came about and how and why it is different from the British Law. Story was an expert on maritime law and created the section of Admiralty law for the U.S. legal system. While on the court he exhaustively studied the patent laws of Europe and made modifications specific for the United States. The 19th century was a critical time for patent and copyright law because the laws and protocol as well as a patent office were being established. In 1829 Story became the first Dane Professor of Law at Harvard University Law School. The author states that Story met with remarkable success as a teacher. Story was a prolific writer, publishing many reviews and magazine articles as well as legal books. Story's three volumes on Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States and Commentaries on the Law were the dominating books in the legal field in the 19th century and still remain a critical source on the law. In 1841 Story wrote the opinion for the court on the case of *United States v. The Amistad*. In the 1997 movie directed by Steven Spielberg, Justice Story was played by the retired Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun. The more I read about the Supreme Court and our founding fathers the better understanding I have of the Court today. I am enjoying this year's (2014) reading project on the Supreme Court so much I think I will continue it for another year. I read this as an e-book via the Kindle app on my iPad. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well worth reading! By Pedro Pablo Sastre Excellent scholarship by a renowned academic on US legal history. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating person and career. Obviously written by a lawyer ... By Byam K. Stevens, Jr. Fascinating person and career. Obviously written by a lawyer,

The primary founder and guiding spirit of the Harvard Law School and the most prolific publicist of the nineteenth century, Story served as a member of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1811 to 1845. His attitudes and goals as lawyer, politician, judge, and legal educator were founded on the republican values generated by the American Revolution. Story's greatest objective was to fashion a national jurisprudence that would carry the American people into the modern age without losing those values.