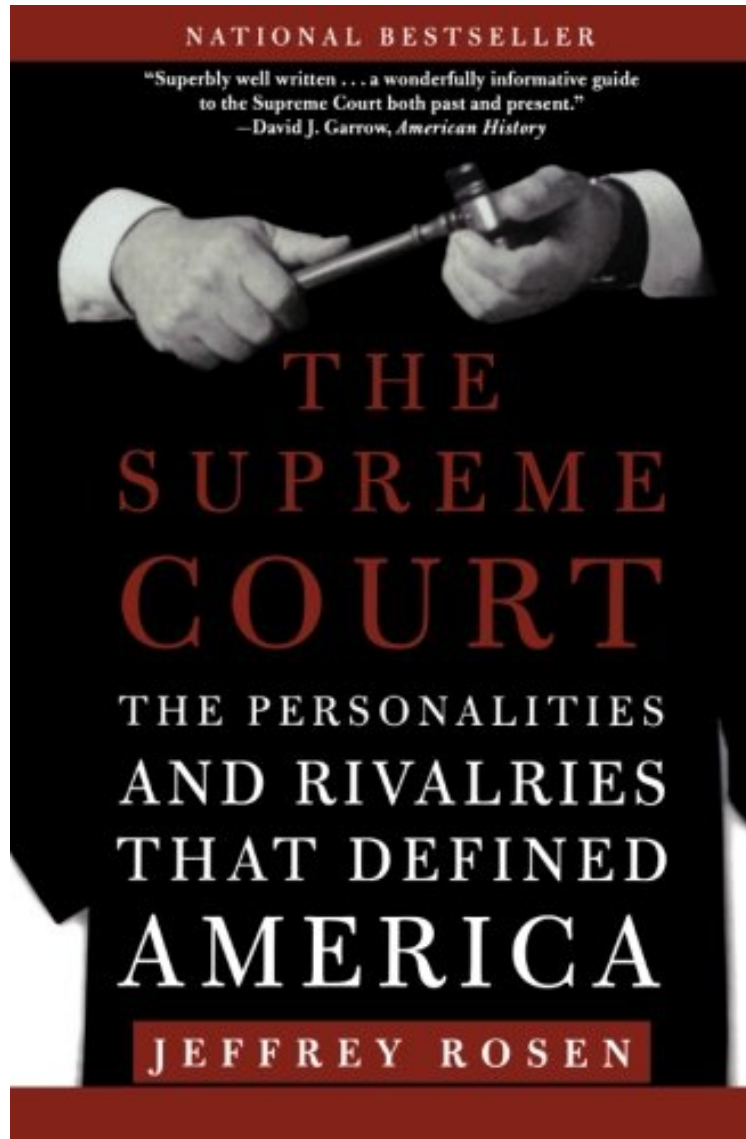


# The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries That Defined America

Jeffrey Rosen, *Thirteen/WNET*  
ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#950176 in Books Jeffrey Rosen 2007-12-26 2007-12-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.251, .54 #File Name: 0805086854288 pages The Supreme Court The Personalities and Rivalries That Defined America | File size: 44.Mb

Jeffrey Rosen, *Thirteen/WNET* : The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries That Defined America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries That Defined America:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good overall thesis, but average writing and analysisBy

Anonymous The larger point of this book is interesting and convincing. That collegiality and consensus-building may be more important traits than sheer intellect in determining long-term influence is a thesis that has legs. This book falters in a few ways though. First, Rosen seems to have an axe to grind with certain justices. His characterizations of Holmes, for example, were a bit over the top. Second, in some areas he seemed to cherry pick the evidence. In other areas, the conclusions were all over the place. On Holmes, Rosen had virtually nothing positive to say nor did he attempt to introduce any balance. On Black though, his arguments were all over the map. Was Black's style really that effective towards the end? Also, is Scalia really that ineffective? Is he really that much of an ideologue considering how often he departs from conservatives on criminal justice issues and a loner considering Ginsburg is one of his closest friends? Third, I think he missed the mark by not adding a chapter on Burger versus Brennan. Finally, the writing could have been better. Too many gratuitous "big" words. The writing was just gaudy with very little reward in elegance. I should note the interview with Justice Roberts was illuminating. I think that might have been one of the stronger chapters in the book. Also, Rosen's assessment of Harlan (mostly the first one, but to a lesser extent, the second) and Rehnquist were interesting. There are some gems, but overall, this is a mediocre book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting Hypothesis Regarding Success As A Justice of the Supreme Court By Frederick S. Goethel The theory laid out by the author is that the justices on the court who have the most ability to build consensus are the most successful and the ones most likely to have their cases stand the test of time. He utilizes 3 sets of justices and a justice and a president to attempt to make his argument. While the book is interesting, and offers interesting insights into the minds of the people involved as well as a look at their judicial philosophies, I think the book suffers from one major flaw. While making the case using these justices, he ignores numerous other justices. It is my suspicion, although I cannot verify it, that if he used different pairs of justices, his conclusions might have been a bit different. Put another way, it is very possible that the author cherry picked these justices to make his point. To be a valid hypothesis, the author would have to look at other pairs of justices and see if his idea holds water. Until that happens, this is just another book that examines the quirks of the various justices involved. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful. By Srabalais Enjoyable read. Concise and relevant. I learned a lot.

"Superbly well written . . . a wonderfully informative guide to the Supreme Court both past and present." David J. Garrow, *American History* Jeffrey Rosen recounts the history of the Supreme Court through the personal and philosophical rivalries that have transformed the law and by extension, our lives. With studies of four crucial conflicts: Chief Justice John Marshall and President Thomas Jefferson; post-Civil War justices John Marshall Harlan and Oliver Wendell Holmes; liberal icons Hugo Black and William O. Douglas; and conservative stalwarts William H. Rehnquist and Antonin Scalia Rosen brings vividly to life the perennial rivalry between those justices guided by strong ideology and those who cared more about the court as an institution, forging coalitions and adjusting to new realities. He ends with a revealing conversation with Chief Justice John Roberts, who is attempting to change the court in unexpected ways. The stakes, he shows, are nothing less than the future of American jurisprudence.

From Publishers Weekly In his second book this year (after *The Most Democratic Branch*), Rosen examines how temperament and personal style shape decision making at the U.S. Supreme Court. The author, a law professor and legal affairs editor at the *New Republic*, profiles four pairs of contrasting personalities: President Thomas Jefferson and Chief Justice John Marshall; Justices Oliver Wendell Holmes and John Marshall Harlan; Justices William O. Douglas and Hugo Black; and finally Justice Antonin Scalia and Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Jefferson, Holmes, Douglas and Scalia are Rosen's exemplars of judicially counterproductive temperaments: they are ideologues, too invested in promoting the purity of their ideas to exert long-term influence on constitutional law. Far more persuasive for Rosen are Marshall, Harlan, Black and Rehnquist, distinguished by collegiality, willingness to compromise and subordinate their own agendas to the prestige of the Court. Most of the book consists of anecdotes about these eight judges, along with summaries of their most celebrated decisions and brief but perceptive explanations of their judicial philosophies. All this is entertaining, although it dilutes the book's stated focus on judicial temperament. Considering today's Court, Rosen believes Chief Justice Roberts will display a successful talent for consensus-building. As Rosen is well aware, a lot rides on the accuracy of this prediction. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Authoritative analysis of how the justices' quirks of personality and temperament have shaped American law and made the Court one of our strongest institutions An illuminating look at the human side of the highest court." - Kirkus s About the Author Jeffrey Rosen is a professor of law at George Washington University and the legal affairs editor of *The New Republic*. He is the author of *The Most Democratic Branch*, *The Naked Crowd*, and *The Unwanted Gaze*. His articles have appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *The New Yorker*. He is a frequent contributor to National Public Radio and lives in Washington, D.C.