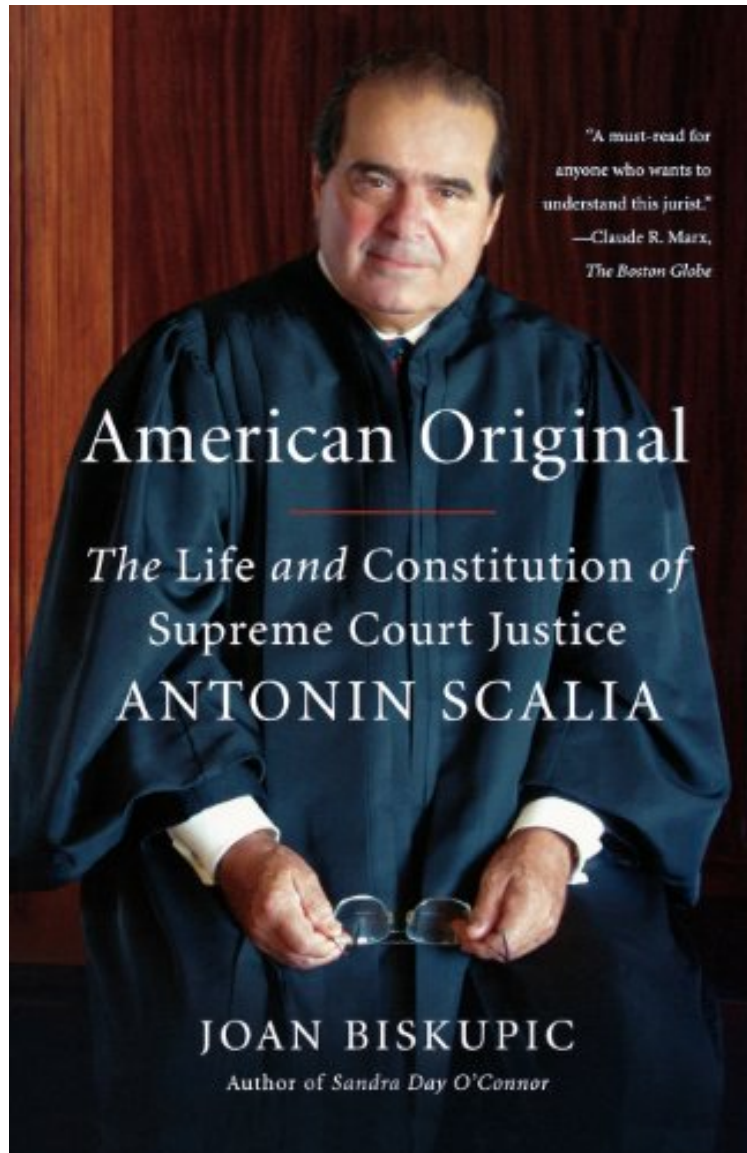


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American Original: The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia

Joan Biskupic

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#378748 in Books Joan Biskupic 2010-08-17 2010-08-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x 1.02 x 5.50l, .94 #File Name: 0374532443448 pagesAmerican Original The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia | File size: 71.Mb

Joan Biskupic : American Original: The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Original: The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Donald J HillI'm a history and politics buff. Really balanced and fascinating treatment.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good book about Justice Scalia, but...By FanYeI felt the author (understandably) was too focused on the hot button issue. Crawford and other important criminal procedure cases were inadequately covered.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Prompt service. Book arrived as described.By Jacqueline SimonelliPrompt service. Book arrived as described.

If the U.S. Supreme Court teaches us anything, it is that almost everything is open to interpretation. Almost. But what's inarguable is that, while the Court has witnessed a succession of larger-than-life jurists in its two-hundred-plus-year history, it has never seen the likes of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Combative yet captivating, infuriating yet charming, the outspoken jurist remains a source of curiosity to observers across the political spectrum and on both sides of the ideological divide. But for all his public grandstanding, Scalia has managed to elude biographers until now. In *American Original: The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia*, the veteran Washington journalist Joan Biskupic presents for the first time a detailed portrait of this complicated figure and provides a comprehensive narrative that will engage Scalia's adherents and critics alike. Drawing on her long tenure covering the Court and on unprecedented access to the justice, Biskupic delves into the circumstances of his rise and the formation of his rigorous approach on the bench. This book shows us the man in power: his world, his journey, and the far-reaching consequences of a transformed legal landscape.

From Publishers WeeklyThe combative personality of conservative judicial firebrand Antonin Scalia comes through more clearly than his philosophy in this dense biography. USA Today legal affairs reporter Biskupic (Sandra Day O'Connor) notes Scalia's contemptuous chin-flicking at the media and relaxed attitude toward torture and other controversies, but focuses on his Supreme Court tenure through a thematic survey of prominent cases. What fitfully emerges, apart from a man confident in his views, hot in his rhetoric, is his hostility to affirmative action, abortion rights and the 'homosexual agenda' and a fondness for states' rights, executive branch authority and gun-owners' rights, all justified by an originalist interpretation that hews to the bare text of the Constitution as its authors allegedly understood it. Biskupic's critical approach highlights inconsistencies in Scalia's reasoning, particularly when he went against his usual states' rights position in the *Bush v. Gore* decision, which settled the 2000 presidential election. But the complex, murky vagaries of Supreme Court case law are not the best format for elucidating a judicial philosophy; Biskupic gives a full account of this influential figure's doctrinaire conservatism, but the originalist doctrine itself is harder to discern. 8 pages of bw illus. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From BooklistLegal affairs reporter Biskupic brings 20 years experience and insight to providing a broad context to this profile of the most prominent and controversial of the current Supreme Court justices. Bright, articulate, and often confrontational, Scalia had promoted his concept of originalism, interpreting the Constitution from the original perspective of the Founding Fathers rather than as a living document adapting to contemporary circumstances. Initially, Scalia was limited to presenting his cogent and often bombastic arguments from a minority dissenters view, but with the appointment of conservative John Roberts as chief, some 20 years into his tenure Scalia now finds himself more often on the majority side. Yet his persona continues to mark him as an outsider. Biskupic examines Scalias life, including how he has come to hold his views. This is a must-read for those interested in the impact of a singular personality on our highest court and to what end, only time will tell. --Vernon Ford Joan Biskupic has done it again. Having hit a home run in her fine biography of the quintessential centrist justice, Sandra Day O'Connor, Biskupic has now hit it far out of the park with her elegant, insightful, and eminently readable account of the life and constitutional views of the most colorful justice on the Supreme Court's right wing. For anyone who wants to understand the most influential and interesting voice of the most powerful movement in contemporary American law, this book is a must-read. Laurence H. Tribe, Carl M. Loeb University Professor, Harvard Law School Biskupic is an old-fashioned reporter's reporter--hard-digging, tough-minded, but even-handed. She is also a thoughtful and shrewd judge of people. She has penetrated the Supreme Court and given us a fascinating portrait of the court's most colorful and human justice. Evan Thomas, editor, Newsweek It's hard to write a fair-minded biography of such a polarizing figure, but that's what Joan Biskupic has done with 'American Original' . . . impressively balanced and well reported. Jeffrey Rosen, The New York Times Book [American Original] will stand up over time. Emily Bazelon, Slate Intellectually rigorous. . . American Original: the Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia' is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand this jurist. Claude R. Marx, Boston Globe Biskupic has written a biography filled with fire, a book almost certain to anger Scalia's fans on many pages because she offers candid assessments of his flaws, as well as his strengths. Scalia's detractors will find lots of material with which to demonize him even further. Steve Weinberg, Dallas Morning News A gifted storyteller . . . Biskupic is tough but fair. At age 73, Scalia remains full of piss and vinegar. If you want to know where he's likely to take his colleagues and when they'll refuse to go along with him pick up *American Original*. 'Don't wait for a court order. Glenn C. Altschuler, Tulsa World Impeccably researched. Gene Warner, Buffalo News *American Original: The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia*' is full of strong reporting. It is scrupulously even-handed, which may irritate partisans on

both sides of the Scalia divide--there are few fence-straddlers when it comes to him . . . Biskupic's larger accomplishment is to present the recent evolution of the Supreme Court through the prism of its most colorful member. Jim Newton, Los Angeles Times It's worth checking out Joan Biskupic's new biography of Justice Antonin Scalia--American Original. . . It's the first real deep dive into his personal background (including his religion) and how it affects his decisions. Scalia is a critical figure on the Supreme Court, given its continuing shift to the right. And Biskupic does a great job in helping the reader understand where he's coming from. Thomas Goldstein, Daily Beast, "Smart People Recommend" The book's real charm, however, lies in her treatment of the man. She traces the important influences on Scalia--the lessons from his immigrant parents, the centrality of his Catholic faith, the early professional experiences in the Nixon justice department--and offers a portrait of a man quite unlike any other judge. Especially against the decorous backdrop of the Supreme Court, Scalia stands out for his brashness in argument, his clever, sometimes contemptuous, prose and his willingness to express opinions in a variety of public forums. Biskupic acknowledges his intellectual brilliance but criticizes him for his tetchiness with the press, for his seeming inability to concede at least the appearance of conflicts of interest and for his willingness to depart from originalism--Bush v. Gore, anyone?--when it appears to serve his own political inclinations. Legal scholars have written more about Scalia than any other living Justice. Now, in terms of accessibility for the general reader, Biskupic gives the rest of us an inside look at what the fuss is all about . . . Every bit as provocative and entertaining as the man himself. Kirkus s (starred review)