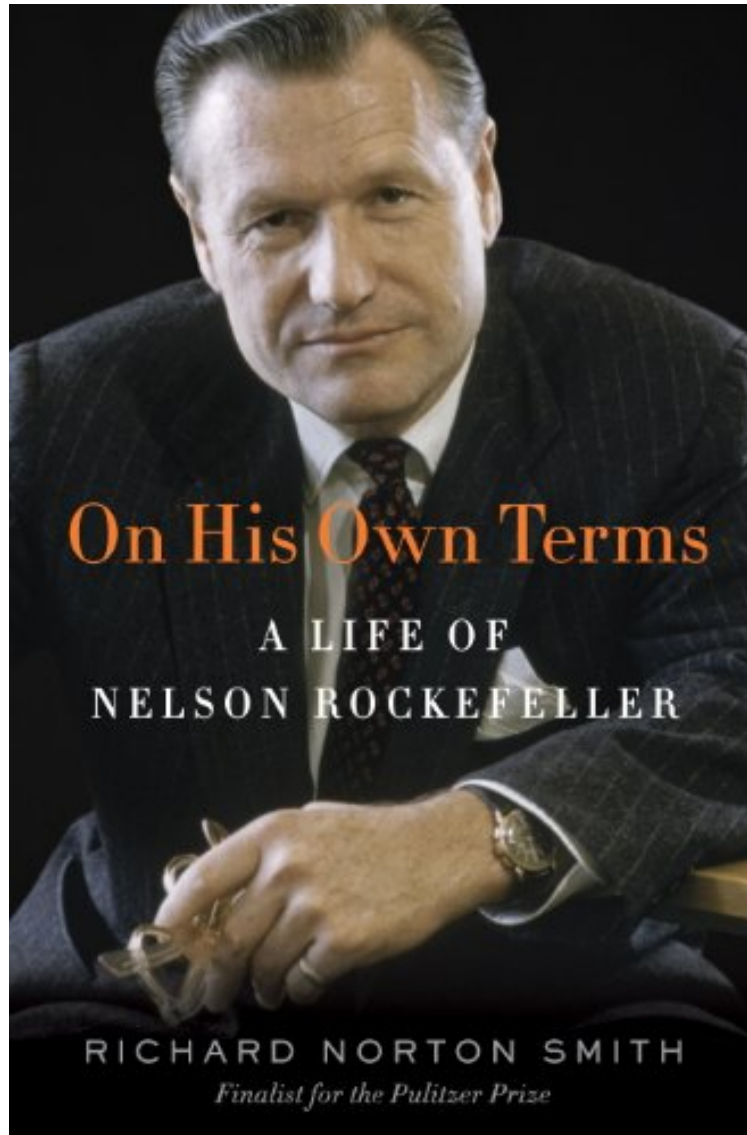


[Download] On His Own Terms: A Life of Nelson Rockefeller

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Von Richard Norton Smith

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Von Richard Norton Smith : On His Own Terms: A Life of Nelson Rockefeller before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On His Own Terms: A Life of Nelson Rockefeller:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A timely foreshadowing of the Republican Party's schizophreniaVon Michael Wells GlueckLaced wth humor, some of it bawdy, this encyclopedic account of the governor's successful battle with Goldwater conservatives foreshadows the current split between dogmatic Tea Party ideologues and more moderate, thoughtful, and intelligent conservatives like

Rand Paul. Rockefeller's love of art, inherited from his mother, is justly emphasized, but his take on classical music was that it puts one to sleep. Not everyone shared his taste in art: some legislators were tempted to refer some of the works Rockefeller hung in official buildings to the state's commission on pornography, and some wags called the Governor's South Mall development "Rocky's last erection." Professor Smith cites "the funniest thing Rockefeller ever said in Albany" in a press release: "Governor and Mrs. Rockefeller came to Lockport accompanied by District Attorney and Mrs. John A. Ball of Buffalo. Following the cocktail party in the afternoon, the Governor was taken back to Buffalo by the Balls." One night, leaving the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan after an acrimonious meeting with Mayor John Lindsay, Rockefeller asked an aide, "Why do you think he hates me so?" "It is really quite simple," replied the assistant. "You get laid more often than he does." "Naw,,," gushed Rockefeller, feigning shock at the display of lese-majeste. "Do you really think so?" The grin on his face said it all. But Happy Rockefeller didn't grin when she saw another aide poke her husband in the ribs at a campaign stop "to signal the proximity of a well-endowed woman." "I can see what you're doing," said his exasperated wife. JFK wondered how a man could "love love" more than he "loves politics." The answer is soul.

Kurzbeschreibung NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE BOSTON GLOBE, BOOKLIST, AND KIRKUS REVIEWS From acclaimed historian Richard Norton Smith comes the definitive life of an American icon: Nelson Rockefeller, one of the most complex and compelling figures of the twentieth century. Fourteen years in the making, this magisterial biography of the original Rockefeller Republican draws on thousands of newly available documents and over two hundred interviews, including Rockefeller's own unpublished reminiscences. Grandson of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, Nelson coveted the White House from childhood. When you think of what I had, he once remarked, what else was there to aspire to? Before he was thirty he had helped his father develop Rockefeller Center and his mother establish the Museum of Modern Art. At thirty-two he was Franklin Roosevelt's wartime coordinator for Latin America. As New York's four-term governor he set national standards in education, the environment, and urban policy. The charismatic face of liberal Republicanism, Rockefeller championed civil rights and health insurance for all. Three times he sought the presidency, arguably in the wrong party. At the Republican National Convention in San Francisco in 1964, locked in an epic battle with Barry Goldwater, Rockefeller denounced extremist elements in the GOP, a moment that changed the party forever. But he could not wrest the nomination from the Arizona conservative, or from Richard Nixon four years later. In the end, he had to settle for two dispiriting years as vice president under Gerald Ford. In *On His Own Terms*, Richard Norton Smith re-creates Rockefeller's improbable rise to the governor's mansion, his politically disastrous divorce and remarriage, and his often surprising relationships with presidents and political leaders from FDR to Henry Kissinger. A frustrated architect turned master builder, an avid collector of art and an unabashed ladies man, Rocky promoted fallout shelters and affordable housing with equal enthusiasm. From the deadly 1971 prison uprising at Attica and unceasing battles with New York City mayor John Lindsay to his sons' unsolved disappearance (and the grisly theories it spawned), the punitive drug laws that bear his name, and the much-gossiped-about circumstances of his death, Nelson Rockefeller's life was a life of astonishing color, range, and relevance. *On His Own Terms*, a masterpiece of the biographers' art, vividly captures the soaring optimism, polarizing politics, and inner turmoil of this American Original. Praise for *On His Own Terms* [An] enthralling biography . . . Richard Norton Smith has written what will probably stand as a definitive Life. . . . *On His Own Terms* succeeds as an absorbing, deeply informative portrait of an important, complicated, semi-heroic figure who, in his approach to the limits of government and to governments' relation to the governed, belonged in every sense to another century. *The New Yorker* [A] splendid biography . . . a clear-eyed, exhaustively researched account of a significant and fascinating American life. *The Wall Street Journal* A compelling read . . . What makes the book fascinating for a contemporary professional is not so much any one thing that Rockefeller achieved, but the portrait of the world he inhabited not so very long ago. *The New York Times* [On His Own Terms] has perception and scholarly authority and is immensely readable. *The Economist* From the Hardcover edition. *Pressestimmen* [An] enthralling biography . . . Richard Norton Smith has written what will probably stand as a definitive Life. . . . *On His Own Terms* succeeds as an absorbing, deeply informative portrait of an important, complicated, semi-heroic figure who, in his approach to the limits of government and to governments' relation to the governed, belonged in every sense to another century. *The New Yorker* [A] splendid biography . . . *On His Own Terms* is a clear-eyed, exhaustively researched account of a significant and fascinating American life. *The Wall Street Journal* A compelling read . . . What makes the book fascinating for a contemporary professional is not so much any one thing that [Nelson] Rockefeller achieved, but the portrait of the world he inhabited not so very long ago. *The New York Times* Richard Norton Smith spent fourteen years researching this life of Rockefeller. [On His Own Terms] has perception and scholarly authority and is immensely readable. *The Economist* With a keen eye for richness of detail, a gift for recounting the sweep of his subject's life and the mastery of a prose artist, [Richard Norton Smith] offers a complete portrait, one that neither exaggerates Rockefeller's accomplishments nor downplays his faults. And he depicts Rockefeller allergic to inactivity

as a man whose breadth of interests and depth of determination continue to astound in all his contradictions. . . .

Inspired in conception, incisive in execution, *On His Own Terms* displays the artistry of its author and the significance of its subject. *Richmond Times-Dispatch* A nightmare for political handlers, the man who claimed a Democratic heart with a Republican head poses no small challenge for a biographer. But after a decade of exhaustive research, Smith delivers a compelling portrait of a man who defied the simplifying ideologies of his age. . . . Complete and balanced, a biography of exceptional substance. *Booklist* (starred review) Richard Norton Smith has brought us a gripping, magisterial, deeply researched life of one of the most intriguing figures in American political history. In Smith's vivid rendering, Nelson Rockefeller is exuberant, talented, conflicted, apparently unstoppable, and then, ultimately, poignant amid the frustration of his Ozymandian ambitions. Along with the tale of Rockefeller's life, *On His Own Terms* also brings us a timely, knowing close-up view of what used to be called at its zenith, which now seems so long ago the Rockefeller wing of the Republican party. *Michael Beschloss*, author of *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989* and *The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945* The amount of first-class scholarship Richard Norton Smith undertook to write about Nelson Rockefeller is utterly remarkable. This is one of the greatest cradle-to-grave biographies written in the past fifty years. Its never dull and always joyfully lucid. Highly recommended! *Douglas Brinkley*, author of *Cronkite and The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America* No one knows more about the American presidency than Richard Norton Smith. In *On His Own Terms*, readers will marvel, laugh, and delight in Smith's long-awaited biography of almost president Nelson Rockefeller. In history writing at its best, Smith's insightful account of the struggle for the soul of the Republican Party fifty years ago sounds at many moments uncannily contemporary. *Ronald C. White, Jr.*, author of *A. Lincoln: A Biography* Perhaps no American in public life has had as varied a career as Nelson Rockefeller: art collector, real estate developer, Latin America policy czar, presidential candidate, and governor of New York for fifteen turbulent years. Richard Norton Smith brings Rocky back to life in all his ebullience. Warning: This is, appropriately, a long book and one that's impossible to put down. *Michael Barone*, American Enterprise Institute, senior political analyst, *Washington Examiner*, and co-author of *The Almanac of American Politics* **KURZBESCHREIBUNG NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE BOSTON GLOBE, BOOKLIST, AND KIRKUS REVIEWS** From acclaimed historian Richard Norton Smith comes the definitive life of an American icon: Nelson Rockefeller, one of the most complex and compelling figures of the twentieth century. Fourteen years in the making, this magisterial biography of the original Rockefeller Republican draws on thousands of newly available documents and over two hundred interviews, including Rockefeller's own unpublished reminiscences. Grandson of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, Nelson coveted the White House from childhood. When you think of what I had, he once remarked, what else was there to aspire to? 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