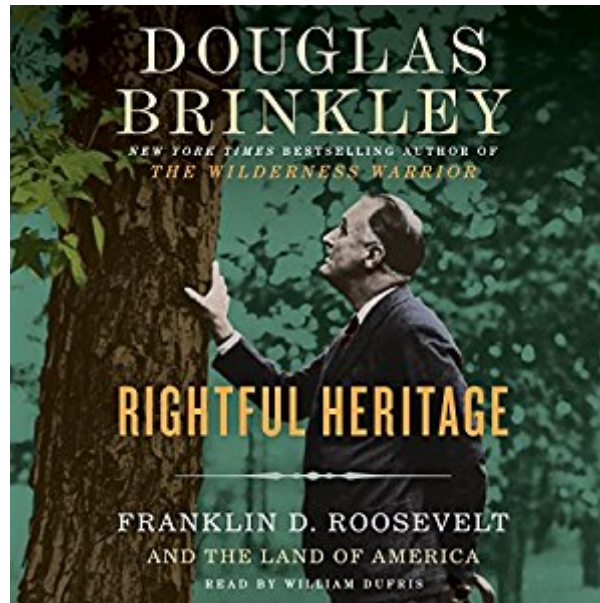


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Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt And The Land Of America



Synopsis

The acclaimed, award-winning historian - "America's new past master" (Chicago Tribune) - examines the environmental legacy of FDR and the New Deal. Douglas Brinkley's *The Wilderness Warrior* celebrated Theodore Roosevelt's spirit of outdoor exploration and bold vision to protect 234 million acres of wild America. Now, in *Rightful Heritage*, Brinkley turns his attention to the other indefatigable environmental leader - Teddy's distant cousin, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, chronicling his essential yet undersung legacy as the founder of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and premier protector of America's public lands. FDR built from scratch dozens of state park systems and scenic roadways. Pristine landscapes such as the Great Smokies, the Everglades, Joshua Tree, the Olympics, Big Bend, Channel Islands, Mammoth Cave, and the slickrock wilderness of Utah were forever saved by his leadership. Brinkley traces FDR's love for the natural world from his youth exploring the Hudson River Valley and bird-watching. As America's president from 1933 to 1945, Roosevelt - a consummate political strategist - established hundreds of federal migratory bird refuges and spearheaded the modern endangered species movement. He brilliantly positioned his conservation goals as economic policy to combat the severe unemployment of the Great Depression. During its nine-year existence, the CCC put nearly three million young men to work on conservation projects - including building trails in the national parks, pollution control, land restoration to combat the Dust Bowl, and planting over two billion trees. *Rightful Heritage* is an epic chronicle that is both an irresistible portrait of FDR's unrivaled passion and drive and an indispensable analysis that skillfully illuminates the tension between business and nature - exploiting our natural resources and conserving them. Within the narrative are brilliant capsule biographies of such environmental warriors as Eleanor Roosevelt, Harold Ickes, and Rosalie Edge. *Rightful Heritage* is essential listening for everyone seeking to preserve our treasured landscapes as an American birthright.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This impressively researched book is part of a projected trilogy, and a sequel to THE WILDERNESS WARRIOR, about Teddy Roosevelt's crusade to preserve America's natural resources. In an interview about that first volume in BookPage, Brinkley told Edward Morris, "In many ways, the conservation story is a triumphal American story, but it's also filled with warnings about the things we're not doing properly now." That seems to be at the heart of Brinkley's efforts to chronicle Teddy's and now FDR's efforts to protect the land: they succeeded in much of what they accomplished --- and Brinkley notes that several subsequent presidents, including Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter, Clinton and Obama, have continued those efforts --- but there's more to be done. With so many books on FDR's remarkable accomplishments, reading a hefty book that is almost exclusively about his efforts to preserve land, marine life, birds and endangered species makes for odd juxtapositions. Pearl Harbor gets a mere paragraph before the focus turns to Executive Order 8979, to protect Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. Brinkley notes that on D-Day, FDR received the deed to what would become Big Bend National Park. He focuses on the war's impact on FDR's conservation plans, forcing him to defund the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), close down the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and backtrack on his strict waterfowl protection policy. One could --- and perhaps should --- argue that there are plenty of books about every aspect of FDR's long presidency, but none that so exhaustively covers his devotion to conservation.

Woody Guthrie sang "This Land is Your Land." Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) made conservation and the preservation of American land, water, wildlife, birds and trees a lifelong crusade. Welcome to the new book "Rightful Heritage" by Dr. Douglas Brinkley the nation's leading historian of the conservation movement in American history. This book is a sequel to "The Wilderness Warrior" in which Brinkley explores the life and conservationist career of Theodore Roosevelt a distant cousin of FDR. TR and FDR are without question the two best POTUS in preserving and protecting our natural resources. Among the countless contributions made by FDR

consider these bellwether accomplishments. a. A Hudson Valley squire he planted thousands of trees on his Springwood estate as he fought to protect the trees, fish and game in the area. He continued this work while governor of the Empire State. b. The Civilian Conservation Corp was started by FDR during the New Deal era. It employed over three million people (mostly young men between the ages of 18-25 in addition to some military veterans, women and African Americans). c. The CCC planted approximately three billions trees. d. The development and growth of the National Park System. e. The establishment of countless bird and wildlife refuges. f. The building of great dams in the American West. g. The establishment of TVA and the bringing of electricity to the impoverished regions of the South. h. FDR was able to employ great naturalists and environmentalist in the federal government. i. FDR and his team of New Dealers were able to get millions of dollars granted for conservation projects even in the midst of fighting both the Great Depression and World War II. I am a devotee of FDR books.

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