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francis biddle

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francis biddle : In Brief Authority before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Brief Authority:

5 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Profile in DishonorBy A CustomerDuring World War Two, Francis Biddle was the hypocritical US Attorney General who intentionally deceived the United States Supreme Court into upholding the unlawful internment of innocent Americans of Japanese, German and Italian descent. Later, he would trump that act of inhumanity by his disgraceful conduct as the Chief American Judge at Nuremberg. There, he proudly distorted and manipulated the final verdict in the initial Nazi war crime trial to legally and factually guaranteed that ten of thousands of lower level war criminals (SS murderers and camp guards) would escape any justice or punishment for their mass murders. Biddle's henchmen included three prominent lawyers: Edward Ennis, the bureaucrat/autocrat who ran the Alien Control Board and the camps; the powerful John McCloy, who later was appointed to control postwar Germany, and eventually became one of the powerful politicians known as the "Wise Men" who helped suck Kennedy into Vietnam; and, finally, the man who actually engineered the deception of the Supreme Court in the West Coast internment case and who was also Biddle's Machiavelli at Nuremberg--Herbert Wechsler, future law professor. Wechsler eventually became America's leading constitutional law professor. Recently, upon Wechsler's death, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg called him a legal Greek God. These four men were instrumental in destroying America's faith in its institutions and the rule of law. They were one of America's first legal dream teams, only this dream became a nightmare. These men were WWII bureacrats with no excuses for such misdeeds. The book is interesting as an enormous act of self-deception by a leading, pompous, and self-important New Deal lawyer who was a master of his

universe, yet in turn helped to destroy his privileged world. Biddle goes into great detail describing the US Army's misdeeds and role in the West Coast relocation of the Japanese, but omits any mention of his false defense of that conduct before the Supreme Court. On the other hand, he speaks proudly of his role in freeing Nazi war criminals. As a companion piece, I recommend reading the oral history admissions of Herbert Wechsler in a 1993 Columbia Law Review article released before his death in which he proudly recounts his role in the World War Two schemes to send innocent Americans into concentration camps and to later free Nazi war criminals. Wechsler exposes both himself and Biddle. This should be a basis for someone's doctoral thesis.

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