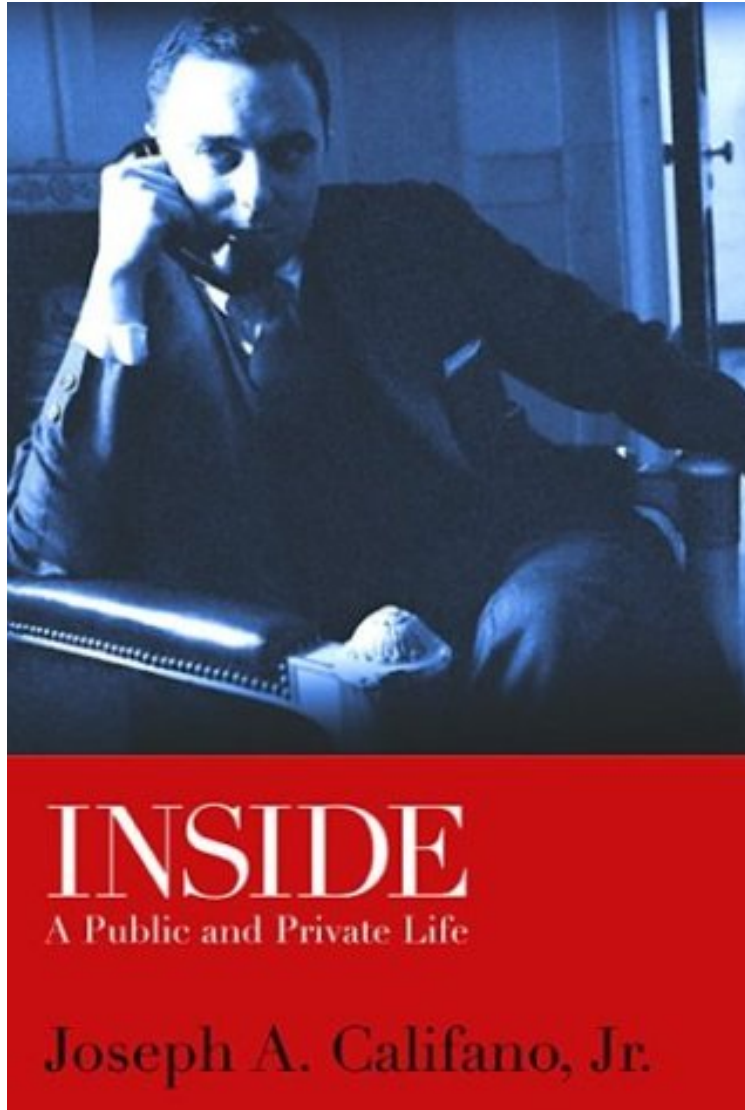


[Library ebook] Inside: A Public and Private Life

Inside: A Public and Private Life

Joseph A. Califano Jr.
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Joseph A. Califano Jr. : Inside: A Public and Private Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inside: A Public and Private Life:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. separation of church and state, it's effects on American politicsBy Richard MastersonAmerica was built on the premise of Religious Freedom and by those that experienced persecution first hand.Americas, blessed with a land of abundances of land to cultivate, a spirit of inventiveness and challenges became the example for the last two centuries, of what humanity could accomplish when differences are set aside and we act as one under a just God.We are in danger of losing much of this, in the relentless pursuit of materialism and

treating our faith in God as secondary to politics, position and prestige. This book is a testimony about how important the struggle is to take the high road when making decisions about our personal life choices and important life decisions. As our new generations will be challenged by those that turn God into one of hatred and fear, knowing the true God of love and forgiveness is all the more important to understand. Read this book, fit its premise into your life.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The good, the bad, and the ugly
By ct reader
This is a fascinating, candid memoir of a pioneer of Washington's 'revolving door' of public service and political and special interest advocacy. The author entered public service under Cyrus Vance in the Kennedy administration and ascended to prominence under McNamara and Lyndon Johnson. Returning to private practice with LBJ's retirement, he became general counsel of the Democratic National Committee in turbulent times and went on to play a critical role in exposing Watergate (filing the DNC suit against CREEP and representing the Washington Post). Restored to public office by Carter as HEW secretary, he was fired for launching the first anti-smoking campaign, and again returned to private practice. Califano recounts a vast, rare, firsthand panorama of his time (Roman Catholic Brooklyn roots, Jesuit education and Harvard, Fidel Castro, Cuban exile training, the death of JFK, Robert Kennedy, the civil rights movement, the Great Society, Vietnam, Col. David Hackworth, post-LBJ Democratic party factionalism, the Washington Post and Watergate, Agnew and Nixon resignations, corrupt judges, Alexander Haig, Carter's administration, tobacco interests, political fundraising, corporate advocacy and board membership, Lee Iacocca, etc). The anecdotes alone are well worth the price of the book. As might be expected in any long and varied life, contradictions surface. The author deplors the increasing influence of money and special interests in government, but revels in his mastery of both worlds citing Clark Clifford as a role model ("I aspired to be the next Clark Clifford. Clifford...set the standard for practicing law as an ultimate Washington insider. He dispensed wisdom, advised clients in deep trouble in Washington, saved their skins, or won for them laws or regulations worth enormous sums of money. In the process, Clifford amassed a personal fortune and advised Democratic presidents and House and Senate leaders. I had learned that no legal fee can be too high for a large corporation with billions at stake on a phrase in a law or the timing of a regulation. CEOs...dependent on solving some Washington problem, were eager for the sort of help I could provide."). Clifford ended in disgrace in the BCCI scandal. Califano adopts addiction as a crusade, but admits instrumentality in postponing valium classification as a potential dependant drug (earning \$500,000 from Pfizer and regretting not asking for twice as much). Watergate is rightly described as an illegal disgrace, but matched with the author's amoral view that Nixon should have burned the tapes (later offered directly to Nixon by partner Ed Williams). Carter is portrayed as an impotent outsider cornered by tobacco interests, yet justly acknowledged for his Camp David Accords. Religion (a touchstone of his life) is admirably described, yet his first marriage is uncharacteristically blurred (the chronology is unclear and no image of his first wife appears despite ample illustrations -almost as if the memory is still too painful). I enjoyed this (hardcover) book in 2004. No better account of Washington's 'revolving door' exists. If anything, its lessons (and contradictions) loom even larger after the longest and most expensive presidential campaign in history. Those interested in the subject may also want to consult 'Friends in High Places' by Douglas Frantz and David McKean (Little, Brown 1995) for the tragic life of Clark Clifford and 'The Power House' by Susan B. Trento (St. Martin's Press 1992) for the life of master-lobbyist Robert Keith Gray of Hill Knowlton (the firm that advised Metropolitan Edison to install a special hotline after Three Mile Island and take the phone off the hook, as well as guiding George HW Bush through the first Gulf War).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Interesting
By Anthony Dimeglio
As old as I am, I remember vaguely the controversy surrounding the man. I was around 30 years old during the Carter years, and I was busy with a young family and trying to make a living. This book paints a wonderful picture of the life of a controversial public figure. I'm glad I bought it and read it!

Joe Califano grew up in a tight-knit working class family in Depression-era Brooklyn. His parents instilled in their son a work ethic, sense of self, and devotion to Church that stayed with him as he rose through the ranks of America's ruling class. From Jesuit undergraduate schools to Harvard Law, influential law firms, Robert McNamara's Pentagon, Lyndon Johnson's White House, and Jimmy Carter's Cabinet, Califano was hard charging, effective, and committed to his causes whether that meant reforming the military, working for equal rights for all, his struggle to be a committed Catholic in America, or finally his passion to combat addictions that ruin so many American lives. The book is called *Inside*, and that's where it takes us inside his public and private life as Califano worked in the power centers of three Democratic administrations. He shows us how hardball is often necessary to make government serve its people. Califano remained "inside" even out of government, representing the Washington Post and Democratic Party during Watergate. *Inside* is history, memoir, and a profoundly revealing personal drama of a powerful figure involved in many defining events of the last half century. It is a tale of how ambition, tenacity and courage, guided by deeply felt ethics, can move the world, from the inside.

From Publishers Weekly
This is the most revealing political memoir from a Washington insider since Katharine Graham's *Personal History*. Launched into government out of Harvard Law School after a boyhood in middle-class Brooklyn, Califano (b. 1931) was a player in many of the key political conflicts of the past half-century. A "whiz kid"

in Robert McNamara's Pentagon, he rose to be virtually "deputy president" for domestic policies under Lyndon Johnson. As a high-powered Washington lawyer during Nixon's administration, he represented both the Democratic Party and the Washington Post during the Watergate crisis. As Jimmy Carter's secretary of health, education and welfare, he launched a controversial campaign against smoking, defended Title IX anti-sex discrimination rules on college sports and grappled with ethical issues like in vitro fertilization--indeed, a running theme of this frank autobiography is Califano's inner struggles to reconcile the demands of politics with the dictates of his Catholic upbringing. There are a few startling moments: a youthful Hillary Rodham cursing out Califano at a congressional hearing in 1970 (two years before applying for a job at his law firm); Califano advising his friend and White House chief of staff Alexander Haig to have Nixon burn the incriminating Watergate tapes; House Speaker Tip O'Neill warning Califano that tobacco firms were capable of having him murdered for his anti-smoking stand. LBJ, Post publisher Katharine Graham and law partner Edward Bennett Williams emerge as Califano's heroes, while the portraits of Carter and New York governor Mario Cuomo are scathing. In sum, this is a revealing self-portrait filled with vivid scenes from four decades near the center of American government. 16 pages of bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Since he has already written about working for LBJ (*The Triumph and Tragedy of Lyndon Johnson*, 1991), Califano sensibly shortens his White House days in this full-fledged review of his life. As his title announces, Califano has been part of Washington's lawyer-lobbying class: at his peak of influence in the 1970s, he was a partner of legendary lawyer Edward Bennett Williams and was President Jimmy Carter's first secretary of health, education, and welfare. Had Califano dwelt on political war stories, his memoir might have spoken only to Beltway cognoscenti, but a theme infrequently found among contemporary political memoirists distinguishes this one. It is the author's examination of his religion, Roman Catholicism, and its presence in his life alongside his roles in creating, managing, and advocating for the welfare state. He counts late 1950s Catholic discussion groups as influencing him to become a liberal Democrat and elsewhere talks revealingly about having his first marriage annulled and coping with cancer. From Vatican II to Watergate, Califano makes his recollections intimate and interesting. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "...a must-read for anyone interested in understanding American history in the latter part of the 20th century...a terrific book." -- *The National Catholic Reporter*, April 21, 2004 "...a readable and valuable book. . . his memory of many colorful maneuvers and manipulations...makes this book memorable." -- *Washington Post Book World*, April 25, 2004 "...an invaluable guide as to how [Democrats] might use [power] if the voters hand it to them in November." -- *New York Times Book*, May 2, 2004 "Ambition and moral zeal were [Califano's] propellants...Inside... is as jam-packed and energetic as his life so far." -- *Time*, April 12, 2004 "An extraordinary chronicle...a brilliantly personal account as well and perhaps that is why it resonates so strongly." -- *The New York Law Journal*, April 6, 2004 "From Vatican II to Watergate, Califano makes his recollections intimate and interesting." -- *Booklist*, April 1, 2004 "In this memoir, it is the sensitive and frank writing that is most striking...this book reads like a novel." -- Syndicated columnist Liz Smith, March 25, 2004 "Inside . . . paints a vivid picture of the day-to-day life of America's highest-level movers and shakers..." -- *The Washington Times* "This memoir is a testimonial to reflective, intelligent, courageous, Catholic living." -- *The Catholic News Service*, April 30, 2004 "engrossing...Faith and family are the cornerstones of Califano's life and the anchors of his book." -- *San Antonio Express-News*, April 25, 2004