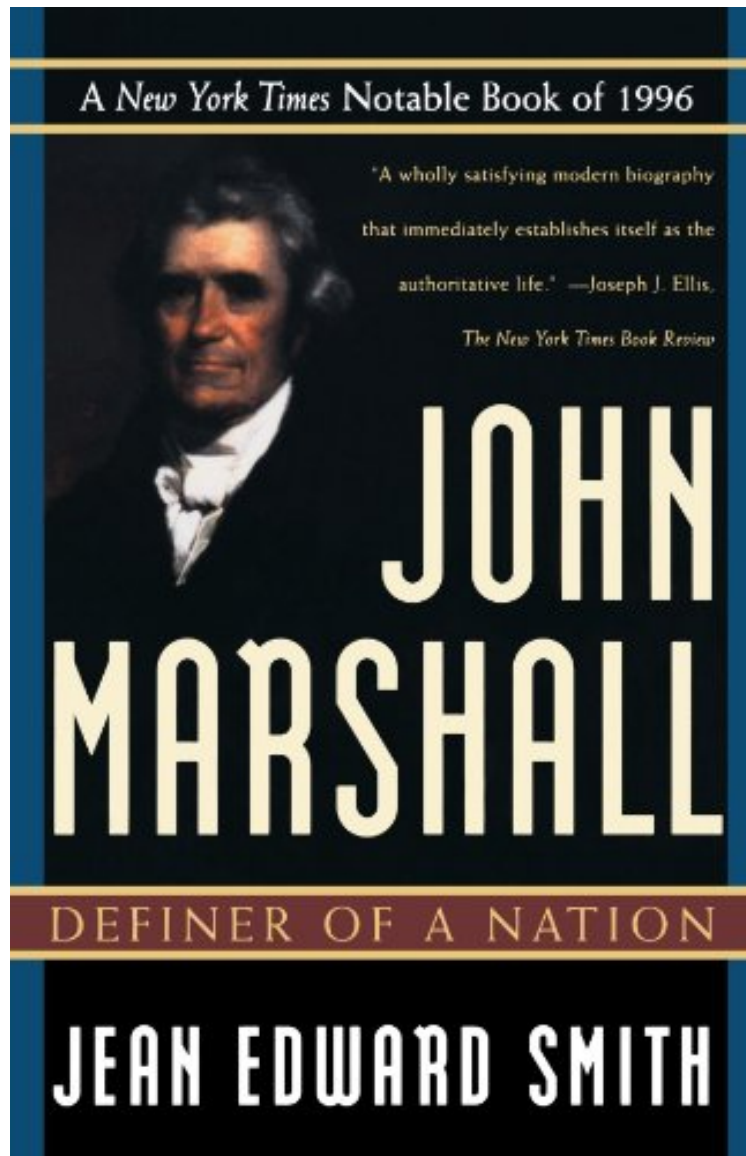


[FREE] John Marshall: Definer of a Nation

## John Marshall: Definer of a Nation

*Jean Edward Smith*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#138226 in Books Smith, Jean Edward 1998-03-15 1998-03-15Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.27 x 1.63 x 6.13l, 1.90 #File Name: 080505510X800 pages | File size: 15.Mb

**Jean Edward Smith : John Marshall: Definer of a Nation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Marshall: Definer of a Nation:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. As the Title Suggests, on of the Primary Definers of our NationBy Retired NerdBeen reading biographies of the Presidents, (now up to Harrison) and along the way I copy down others that spiked my interest. Like John Jay, Samuel Adams, Ben Franklin, Henry Clay and others. Then I saw this one. I just finished reading it, and of the many I have read, I learned quite a bit, if not the most, from this one. While not a

"President" this amazing founding father developed the third part of government up to Andrew Jackson. His resume is stupendous, and rivals any American through today (my opinion of course). This man and his other Justices basically developed what we have today. It also described in good detail Jefferson, Washington, and others up to Jackson giving and addition lot of information on each, sort of balancing the Biographies I already have read. I would recommend this highly, especially if you are interest in the Revolution and up to Andrew Jackson, the Supreme Court, and the major decisions and conflicts.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Masterful biography of a major figure in early American political history. By Steven Peterson. This is a definitive biography of the country's first important chief justice of the Supreme Court (with apologies to John Jay--the first). Marshall transformed the Court from an equivocal position among the three branches of government to a coequal branch, as per the Founding Fathers' preference. The book makes several contributions: (a) it provides a good depiction of Marshall the person; (b) it gives the reader a sense of his effect on the American governmental system through his influence on the Supreme Court. A few words about each.

John Marshall as a person is an important issue, since, in some ways, it affected his performance as Chief Justice. He was an affable person. Less politicized than others in the Federalist political camp. By the mid-1790s, the country had begun to develop its political party system in a rather primitive way. The Federalists--the party of President George Washington (who despised the concept of political party) and of those who desired an energetic national government. Then, the Democrat-Republicans--the party of Jefferson and Madison, desiring a less powerful national government. Marshall was a Federalist, but not of the fire-breathing variety. He was more an accommodationist. One point: He and Jefferson were related but had a healthy dislike for one another. The volume does a very good job depicting Marshall as a person. And this was not unrelated to his performance as Chief Justice. The book also does a fine job of describing his jurisprudence. It covers his role in such major cases as *Marbury v. Madison*, *Ogden v. Gibbons*, the Dartmouth case, *McCulloch v. Maryland* and so on. His impact on constitutional law is immense and the book details this nicely. There is also tidbits about his self perception. Late in his career, he noted of himself: "Non sum qualis eram" (if my memory is accurate)--"I am no longer who I was." I find the passage powerful in that it shows his understanding of where he was as opposed to where he had been in his powers, acuity, and so on. All in all, a masterful biography of a major figure in American history.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Very Enjoyable and Instructive Read. By Jeff A. Grenz. Much like John Marshall himself, the author, Jean Edward Smith writes in simple, clear, yet elegant prose which made for a very good read. Though he fails to elucidate or explicate most of Marshall's most important decisions as CJSC, he instead draws a vibrant portrait of the man as a human being: a great patriot, soldier, scholar, lawyer, and chief justice, probably the most important CJ in our nation's history. And he draws a portrait in large part by using Marshall's own words. Marshall charted the powers and the limits of the U.S. Constitution in the years when those issues were as yet undecided; nor was it clear which branch of government would decide them. Marshall blazed the trail that led to the U.S. Supreme Court being the final arbiter of what is or is not "constitutional." The impact of his tenure on the high court continues to this day; though it is a shame that his non partisanship has today morphed into rabid politicization of that court (indeed, most of our courts). I wonder if Clarence Thomas has ever bothered to read any of Marshall's decisions, and if so, whether he is capable of understanding those which delineated the reasons for his own seat on the court: to interpret the Constitution as it relates to CURRENT issues as they arise in our nation. The man must feel completely lost without Scalia's homework to copy. Four Stars. Well worth reading.

A New York Times Notable Book of 1996. It was in tolling the death of Chief Justice John Marshall in 1835 that the Liberty Bell cracked, never to ring again. An apt symbol of the man who shaped both court and country, whose life "reads like an early history of the United States," as the Wall Street Journal noted, adding: Jean Edward Smith "does an excellent job of recounting the details of Marshall's life without missing the dramatic sweep of the history it encompassed." Working from primary sources, Jean Edward Smith has drawn an elegant portrait of a remarkable man. Lawyer, jurist, scholars; soldier, comrade, friend; and, most especially, lover of fine Madeira, good food, and animated table talk: the Marshall who emerges from these pages is noteworthy for his very human qualities as for his piercing intellect, and, perhaps most extraordinary, for his talents as a leader of men and a molder of consensus. A man of many parts, a true son of the Enlightenment, John Marshall did much for his country, and John Marshall: Definer of a Nation demonstrates this on every page.

.com It's taken for granted today that the Supreme Court has final say on how the Constitution is interpreted, but this principle--hotly debated in the republic's early years -- was established by John Marshall (1755-1835), the fourth Chief Justice. Historian Smith's definitive biography, detailed and lucid, is a model of scholarly writing for the general public. The author claims our admiration for the justice and sparks affection for the man: warm, gregarious, fond of drink, a Federalist with the common touch, a seasoned political infighter who remained on good terms with his opponents. From Publishers Weekly. The most famous chief justice of the U. S. has been dead for 161 years, but his life and work continue to fascinate legal scholars, political scientists and biographers. Smith, a University of Toronto political scientist, is the most recent devotee. His endnotes and bibliography mention at least a dozen previous books

about Marshall. It would be helpful to the lay reader if Smith explained why he believed another book, especially such a massive one, was needed. Like the recently published *The Great Chief Justice: John Marshall and the Rule of Law* by Charles F. Hobson (Forecasts, July 29), Smith's version of the life is both respectful and a revision of the revisionism. He acknowledges his debt to Hobson, editor of the Marshall papers, just as Hobson alerted readers to Smith's upcoming tome. While Hobson focused on Marshall's mind, Smith focuses on the externals of Marshall's life. This is essentially a chronological account of a life lived fully. There are few flourishes—for example, Marshall's death is handled matter-of-factly in two pages. The 151 pages of endnotes are frequently livelier, more interpretive and more informative than the matching portions of the text. The pedestrian nature of the text stems mainly from Smith's decision to let Marshall speak for himself. The biography is almost devoid of interpretation and speculation. Sound scholarship, yes; lively lifetelling, only occasionally. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal

The U.S. Supreme Court has the power and the obligation to reassess any lower court decision where a substantial issue of public law is involved. Yet this power of judicial review was not granted to the Court in the Constitution but asserted by Chief Justice John Marshall in an 1803 decision. This was only one landmark opinion in a remarkable 35-year tenure as chief justice. Smith (political science, Univ. of Toronto) helps us to understand Marshall's real accomplishments in defining and shaping the form of our modern constitutional system. Like Charles Hobson's *The Great Chief Justice* (LJ 9/15/96), she interprets John Marshall's impact on our federal system. But as a political scientist Smith looks more at Marshall and the Court as an institution with power. Hobson as a historian and editor is more concerned with Marshall's written record. Still, both books highlight Marshall's accomplishments in defining the scope of the Court and its real powers. Scholars and informed lay readers will want to compare both interpretations, which are highly recommended for academic, law, and larger public libraries. Jerry E. Stephens, U.S. Court of Appeals Lib., Oklahoma City Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.