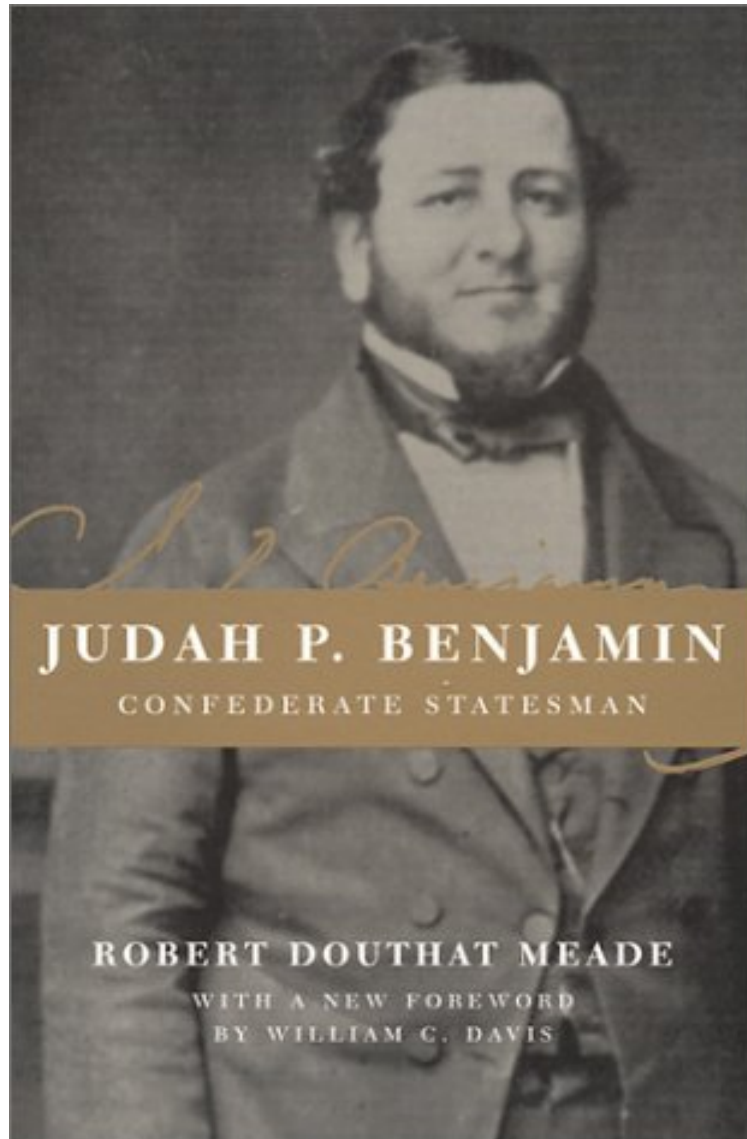


(Download free pdf) Judah P. Benjamin: Confederate statesman

## Judah P. Benjamin: Confederate statesman

*Robert Douthat Meade*

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**Robert Douthat Meade : Judah P. Benjamin: Confederate statesman** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Judah P. Benjamin: Confederate statesman:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The forgotten genius of the Confederate governmentBy ColmcilleAlthough this book was written in the 1930's and is not the latest work on Judah Benjamin, it is full of details beginning with Benjamin's Sephardic roots, his rise to prominence as a lawyer, the second Jewish US Senator, and the first Jew to hold offices (Confederate Sec. of War and Sec. of State) on a presidential cabinet. It contains a lot of

information from Benjamin's personal correspondence and observations by his contemporaries. Benjamin's career is fascinating. He becomes internationally known for his law practice in international trade. As a US Senator from Louisiana, he makes a famous speech in the Senate chamber regarding the North trying to dominate the South which receives accolades from the entire US Senate. As Jefferson Davis' "right hand man" he does not do well as Secretary of War, but becomes instrumental as the Confederate Secretary of State. The book also follows his career as an English barrister after he escapes to England after the war. Perhaps the best feature of this book is that it is written from the perspective of a Southerner and not from anti-Southerner whose education regarding the War for Southern Independence is skewed by political correctness and misinformation. It exposes both the acceptance of Jews (Over 10,000 Jews fought for the Confederacy) and the interestingly small anti-semitic views of the Ante-Bellum South. Sadly, the Jewish community does not revere Benjamin's achievements as a brilliant man due to him being a slave holder and his connection with the Confederacy. I highly recommend this book for students of Jewish history and the War Between the States. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Effective Introduction to Mr. Benjamin By Hibberd Kline Meade's book is an excellent starting point for one wishing to understand this indomitable personality. Benjamin is often mentioned, but rarely fully developed in works concerning the Confederate Government. It would have been interesting for Meade to have delved deeper into Benjamin's constitutional philosophy and his legal and business activities. As one who writes about the Civil War and intends to have Benjamin figure significantly in a future work, this is an excellent beginning to understanding his character and actions. Conflicting Loyalties (Navy Gray Book 1) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. THE BRAINS OF THE CONFEDERACY... IF THEY ... By Mark Weston THE BRAINS OF THE CONFEDERACY... IF THEY HAD ONLY LISTENED TO HIM AT THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR... NOT AT THE ENDING.

A rare Sephardic Jew in the Old South and a favorite of Jefferson Davis, Judah P. Benjamin has been described as "the brains of the Confederacy". He held three successive Confederate cabinet posts -- attorney general, secretary of war, and secretary of state -- and was Davis's closest confidant in the government. But some have questioned Benjamin's loyalty to Davis and the extent of his influence. More than 140 years after Benjamin first appeared on the Confederate scene, historians still debate his place in the history of the Lost Cause. Originally published in 1943 and now available for the first time in paperback, Robert Douthat Meade's Judah P. Benjamin, Confederate Statesman provides an absorbing account of the life of this enigmatic Civil War figure. Meade chronicles Benjamin's birth in the Virgin Islands; his rise to power as a lawyer and politician in south Louisiana; his election to the U.S. Senate in the 1850s; his outspoken role in the secession controversy; his friendship with Davis; his prominent role in the Confederate government; his daring escape after Appomattox; and his brilliant second law career in England after the war. Still the definitive study of Benjamin after nearly sixty years, Meade's authoritative work is a classic of Civil War biography.

About the Author Robert Douthat Meade was also the author of Patrick Henry: Patriot in the Making and Patrick Henry: Practical Revolutionary. William C. Davis, director of programs at the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech University, has written numerous books, most recently An Honorable Defeat: The Last Days of the Confederate Government.