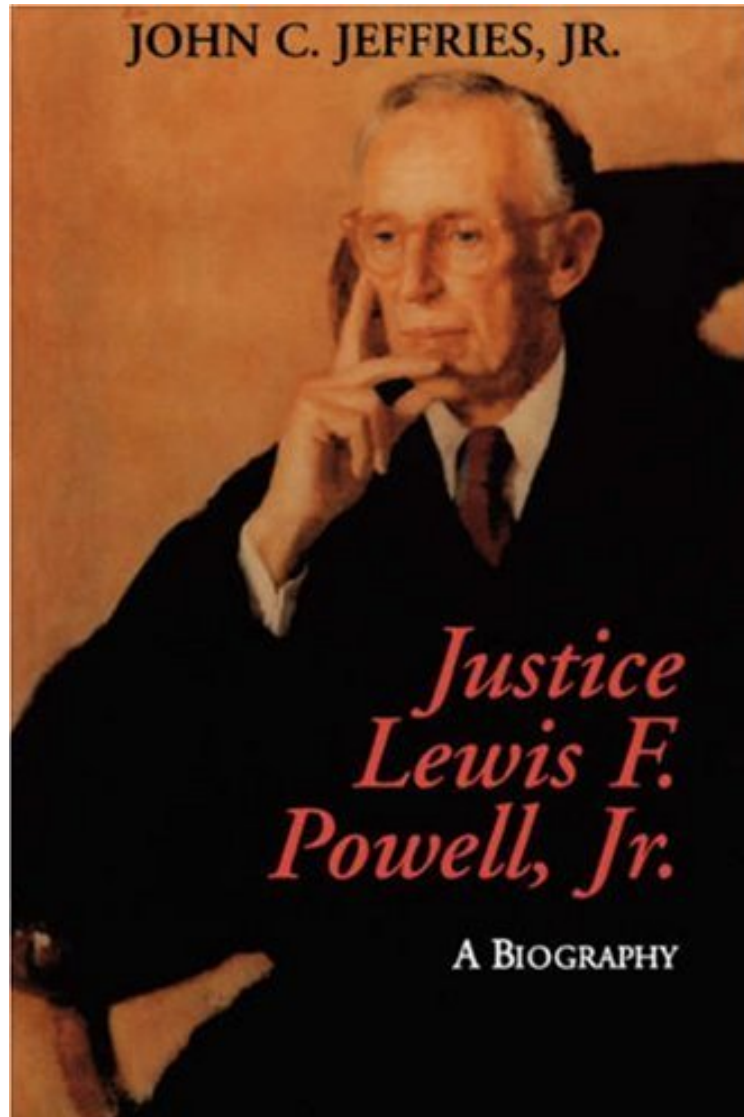


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Justice Lewis F. Powell:: A Biography

John Jeffries

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John Jeffries : Justice Lewis F. Powell:: A Biography before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Justice Lewis F. Powell:: A Biography:

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helpful. A Superb WorkBy J. SmallridgeHaving read biographies of Brandeis, Frankfurter, Douglas, Fortas, White, Blackmun, Brennan, and others, I have to say this is one of the best available. Frankly, I was surprised at how much I enjoyed this work.Powell is not the most interesting judicial character -- in fact, his personal life is quite dull -- but the jobs he held and the events he witnessed make for great reading. For instance, he was a key figure in Richmond, Virginia politics, school desegregation in the American South, the growth of Big Tobacco, and the power of the American Bar Association.Jeffries does a solid job of describing these all of these broader elements while also weaving Powell in throughout. He is able to do this so well because of his crisp writing style, great organization, and deep knowledge of substance. Really, the one question I had after finishing this book is, "Just how ambitious was Powell?" The justice clearly had to be to attain a seat on the nation's Highest Court, but his desire for power is no clearer despite the author's efforts.

Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. is an absorbing and readable biography of one of the most important Supreme Court Justices since World War II.

. . . one of the finest judicial biographies ever written. (The New York Times Book)More than a model biography; it is an absorbing work of legal history with the character of a man at its center. . . a model of incisive storytelling in a field that can be as dry as a bone. . . a splendid book indeed, as finely textured and balanced as its subject. (The Washington Post Book World)About the AuthorJohn C. Jeffries, Jr., graduated summa cum laude from Yale University and first in his class from the University of Virginia School of Law.