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Spencer Weber Waller : Thurman Arnold: A Biography before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thurman Arnold: A Biography:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The First Complete Biography of Thurman Arnold By Ronald H. Clark Thurman Arnold (1891-1969) is a rather interesting figure we don't hear much about today; those of us in Washington, however, are constantly reminded of him due to the "Thurman Arnold Building" which houses the law firm of Arnold Porter. Until now, those interested in Arnold were limited to his autobiography ("Fair Fights and Foul") and a collection of his letters ("Voltaire and the Cowboy"). That limitation has now been corrected with the

publication of this informative biography. The book covers all stages of Arnold's life, accomplishments, and personal involvements. That is, it traces his early years in Wyoming, his education at Princeton and Harvard Law, initial practice in Chicago, his return to Wyoming and his transition thereafter to Dean of the University of West Virginia College of Law. The book hits its stride when it follows Arnold to Yale Law School and his period interacting with the legal realists. It also does a solid job of discussing Arnold's two master works: "The Symbols of Government" and "The Folklore of Capitalism"--both important books not often mentioned today. Arnold's service in the New Deal also is discussed, particularly his 5-year tenure as Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust. The author, who apparently teaches antitrust, has presented a very professional analysis of Arnold's career and contributions to the development of antitrust law in that position as a "trustbuster." Eventually, Arnold moves on to a short stint at the D.C. Circuit. The highpoint of book is when Arnold joins Paul Porter and Abe Fortas to build Arnold, Fortas and Porter. The early government security program cases are discussed, as is the evolution and growth of the firm. Surprisingly, there is not that much about Abe Fortas in the book, since Arnold is the author's central concern. The poignant, but unsuccessful, effort of Arnold to facilitate the re-entry of Fortas into the firm after his Supreme Court resignation is well handled, as are Arnold's final years. The author has done extensive research; his 34 pages of notes are highly valuable for those interested in more research on Arnold. Also included are three appendices dealing with Arnold's D.C. Circuit decisions; his principal writings; and a selected bibliography. At about 200 pages (not counting notes), the book is a lean but yet comprehensive biography of Arnold that can be read relatively quickly and always with pleasure.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. One Inch Deep By not me Thurman Arnold was an amazing guy -- a legal theorist, New Deal trustbuster, civil libertarian, Washington power lawyer, champion of the underdog and confidante of the powerful. This short, breezy book does a workmanlike job of covering the basic events of Arnold's eventful life. However, it does a lousy job of placing his life in its social and political context. To really enjoy the book, a reader should already know something about antitrust law, legal realism, the New Deal, McCarthyism, and much more. Readers without this background might have a hard time appreciating or even making sense of the story. I wish the book has been 400 pages, not 200. Bottom Line: Check this book out of the library, or buy a cheap used copy. But for heaven's sake don't pay full price for a new copy. It isn't a keeper.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a great, well-written and very readable short biography By Chris Sagers--Author This is a great, well-written and very readable short biography. It holds an important place in antitrust history writing, because Arnold's influence in the policy has not received enough attention. Arnold was probably the single most important individual ever to hold a government enforcement office in antitrust, and the period in which he led the Justice Department's Antitrust Division saw changes in the law and its place in American economic policy overall that were very significant. I never understood this until I read Professor Waller's book, of which it is a central theme.

Thurman Arnold (1891-1969) was a major iconoclast of American law and a great liberal of the 20th century. In this first biography of Arnold, Spencer Weber Waller traces Arnold's life from his birth in Laramie, Wyoming, and explores how his western upbringing influenced his distinctive views about law and power. After studying at Princeton and Harvard Law School, Arnold practiced law in Chicago, served in World War I, and eventually returned to Laramie, where he was a prominent practitioner, mayor, and state legislator in the 1920s. As the rise of national corporations began to destroy the local businesses that were the core of his legal practice, Arnold turned from the courtroom to the academy, most notably at Yale Law School, where he became one of the leading spokesmen for the legal realism movement. Arnold's work attracted the attention of Franklin Roosevelt, who appointed him to head the Antitrust Division during the New Deal. He went on to establish Arnold, Fortas Porter, which became the epitome of the modern Washington, DC law firm, and defended pro-bono hundreds of clients accused of Communist sympathies during the McCarthy era. One of the few individuals who shaped 20th century American law in so many of its facets, Arnold's biography is long overdue, and Waller honors his life and legacy with a book that is both vividly narrated and extensively researched.

Waller has succeeded in capturing the essence of a lawyer, often described as a blend of Voltaire and a cowboy, who made such important contributions to twentieth century jurisprudence.^{#8221:-}The Law and Politics Book Antitrust is a dry subject, but fortunately Waller knows it, and so did Arnold. Both have the flair to make it come alive.^{#8221:-} Chicago Tribune Soebce Wakker has written a useful biography of Thurman Arnold, collecting in one place the available materials and adding the results of his own research.^{#8221:-}The American Journal of Legal History Waller's biography captures the energy, creativity, sense of humor and commitment of this original legal scholar and the nation's greatest anti-trust lawyer, who had the guts to battle the McCarthy scourge of the 1950s. Every law student should read this book about a genuine legal hero. It will give them a sense of lawyering as a noble profession.^{#8221:-} Joseph A. Califano, Jr., The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University The tale is nicely told and brings out the complications of being an aggressive antitrust enforcer in a political administration deeply ambivalent about competition policy.^{#8221:-} Antitrust About the Author Spencer Weber Waller is professor of

law and director, Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, Loyola University Chicago.