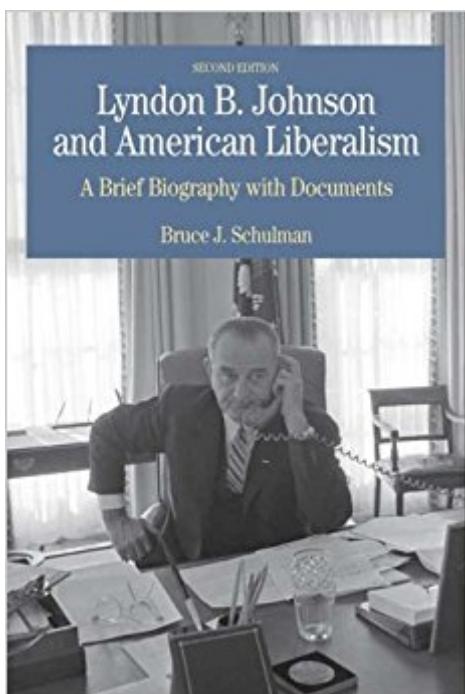


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# Lyndon B. Johnson And American Liberalism: A Brief Biography With Documents (Bedford Series In History & Culture)



## **Synopsis**

Whether admired or reviled, Lyndon B. Johnson and his tumultuous administration embodied the principles and contradictions of his era. Taking advantage of newly released evidence, this second edition incorporates a selection of fresh documents, including transcripts of Johnson's phone conversations and conservative reactions to his leadership, to examine the issues and controversies that grew out of Johnson's presidency and have renewed importance today. The voices of Johnson, his aides, his opponents, and his interpreters address the topics of affirmative action, the United States' role in world affairs, civil rights, Vietnam, the Great Society, and the fate of liberal reform. Additional photographs of Johnson in action complement Bruce J. Schulman's rich biographical narrative, and a chronology, an updated bibliographical essay, and new questions for consideration provide pedagogical support.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"This is a well-balanced, thoughtful, and informative biography of Lyndon Johnson. The documents that illustrate Johnson's presidency only increase the value of the volume. *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism* is an excellent choice for U.S. history courses on the second half of the twentieth century and ideal for classes that deal directly with Johnson and his times." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

BRUCE J. SCHULMAN is professor of history and American studies at Boston University. He is the author of *The Seventies: The Great Shift in American Culture, Society, and Politics* (2001), a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, and *From Cotton Belt to Sunbelt: Federal Policy, Economic Development, and the Transformation of the South, 1938-1980* (1991). A frequent contributor to the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, San Jose Mercury News and numerous other publications, Professor Schulman has held research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, and the Marjorie Kovler Fund of the Blum-Kovler Foundation. In 2004, the Organization of American Historians named him to its Distinguished Lectureship program. Schulman is currently at work on a volume for the Oxford History of the United States series covering the years 1896-1929.

An interesting book about American Liberalism during the Johnson era. Showed insight about a lot of the behind the scenes events as well as the ideas behind the social programs that took place during this time. Good read.

Arrived quickly and was exactly what I was expecting thank you

## Very informative

The writings that Schulman has gathered together in this book take on new poignancy in these years, as the US is bogged down in Iraq. Roaming through the various essays that deal with the Vietnam War, an American reader might be unable to avoid gleaming unsettling parallels from 40 years ago. The alternatives confronting Johnson, of escalating or de-escalating the war, were both unpleasant. Especially as a withdrawal was feared to lead to the fall of other dominoes in south east Asia. Just as some suggest that a withdrawal from Iraq would destabilise its neighbours; an argument put forth most recently in Bush's 2007 State of the Union address. To be sure, not all the documents are about Vietnam. Many pertain to American society, and to the so-called Great Society that Kennedy and Johnson sought to build. There are still pertinent discussions on civil rights, including the Watts riot.

This is a fine and targeted work on LBJ. For anyone who is looking to find a quick read on LBJ, this one is a winner. Also, for anyone looking for a quick read on LBJ who already has a great deal of knowledge about him, this one is still a winner. The text itself by the author is great. Yet, what really shines are the essays and documents which come later. They provide for a truly non-partisan insight into the career and Presidency of LBJ. They show a flawed man who gave us Medicare, Medicaid, 3 civil rights laws, Head Start, labor law reform, environmental protection and other renewal programs, but also gave us the Vietnam War. What comes out is a great paradox of power and a strange view on political compassion.

I've had the honor of taking two courses with Professor Schulman at Boston University and, as an American History major, I find him to be one of the most astute commentators of post-World War Two American society. Though Professor Schulman never assigns his own works in his courses, many of his students often read his books at their leisure and are never disappointed. His concise biography of President Johnson is an impressive feat and is my personal favorite of his works. Schulman's critique of Johnson's presidency, and its role in America liberalism, is pleasantly surprising relative to its moderate length; it is enormously informative and offers a refreshing perspective on a topic that historians have spilled much ink evaluating. Professor Schulman is a renowned professor, closing out his classes of over four hundred students, and is an equally engaging author. Those who read this book will undoubtably hold similar sentiments.

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