



Mr. President": George Washington and the Making of the Nation's Highest Office

By Unger, Harlow Giles.

DaCapo. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. Although the framers gave the president little authority, George Washington knew that whatever he did would establish the abilities of future presidents to defend the nation, and so ignored the Constitution when he thought it necessary. A former visiting fellow at Mount Vernon and the author of six biographies of our founding fathers, Harlow Giles Unger depicts Washington's presidency as a time of continual crisis, in which he weighed preservation of the Union against preservation of individual liberties and states' rights, and assumed more power with each crisis. In a series of brilliant but unconstitutional maneuvers Washington forced Congress to cede control of the four pillars of executive power: war, finance, foreign affairs, and law enforcement. "Harlow Giles Unger gives our precious American history the backbone it deserves and reveals more of Washington the man than Washington the demigod. History can be yawn-inducing, but Mr. Unger puts his arm around us as if he is a travel companion telling a storyour storywith the pacing of a solid novel. [He] has objectively stripped away the mythological haze surrounding one of our most important founding fathers."NYJournal of Books 273.



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