

The Cult of the Presidency: America's Dangerous Devotion to Executive Power

By Gene Healy

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The Bush years have justifiably given rise to fears of a new Imperial Presidency. Yet despite the controversy surrounding the administration's expansive claims of executive power, both Left and Right agree on the boundless nature of presidential responsibility. The Imperial Presidency is the price we seem to be willingly and dangerously agreeable to pay the office the focus of our national hopes and dreams. Interweaving historical scholarship, legal analysis, and cultural commentary, The Cult of the Presidency argues that the Presidency needs to be reined in, its powers checked and supervised, and its wartime authority put back under the oversight of the Congress and the courts. Only then will we begin to return the Presidency to its proper constitutionally limited role.

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The Cult of the Presidency: America's Dangerous Devotion to Executive Power By Gene Healy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #499516 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Cato Institute
- Published on: 2008-04-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.29" h x 1.33" w x 6.24" l, 1.86 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 264 pages

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Editorial Review

Review
Rhetorical--and related--excesses are inherent in the modern presidency. This is so for reasons brilliantly explored in the year's most pertinent and sobering public affairs book, The Cult of the Presidency. -- *Newsweek 5/27/2008*

From the Back Cover
It's more than just a guide to why you shouldn't expect too much from the executive: It's a history of how we've come to view the president as central to not only our politics but our national conception of self. Its emphasis on the limitations of the president are as relevant to those who seek to make the state work better as to those who seek to imprison it. Moreover, Healy is a graceful, funny, and fluid writer. It was, by far, the best political book I read this year." --EZRA KLEIN, The American Prospect

About the Author
GENE HEALY is senior editor at the Cato Institute and author of a number of studies criticizing executive power abuses by presidents of both parties. He has appeared on PBS's NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and NPR's Talk of the Nation, among other venues, and his writings have been published in the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, and elsewhere. Healy holds a B.A. from Georgetown University and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.

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Susan Metcalf:

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