

# [PDF] Polk: The Man Who Transformed The Presidency And America

Walter R. Borneman - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: Polk: The Man Who Transformed

Author: Walter R. Borneman

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## Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** Tennessee Democrat James K. Polk is generally ranked among the nation's most effective chief executives. In this straightforward, unnuanced biography, Borneman (*1812: The War That Forged a Nation*) relates why. Coming into office determined to annex Texas, gain the Oregon Territory from Britain, lower the tariff and reform the national banking system, Polk achieved all four aims in his single term in office (1845-1849). But Borneman overlooks that in more or less completing the nation's lower continental territory, Polk bequeathed a fateful legacy to the nation-not so much transforming the U.S. (as the subtitle overstates) as setting it on the road to civil war. With the annexation of Texas came war with Mexico, which stripped that nation of half its lands while gaining the U.S. the southwest and California. It also unloosed the mad genie of slavery's possible further spread westward. Polk left the nation larger but politically crippled and morally

weakened. But Borneman sticks to the narrative and doesn't place his subject in a larger historical context. 'Tis a pity, for Polk's administration ought to be a lesson to all candidates and all presidents at all times. 16 maps. (Apr. 8)

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**Review** “A terrific portrait of a man and his times.”—Jon Meacham, author of **American Lion** and **Franklin and Winston**

“For quite a while we’ve needed a new biography of James K. Polk—America’s great underrated president. Now, at last, Walter R. Borneman has delivered the goods. This book is both well written and diligently researched. Highly recommended!” —Douglas Brinkley, professor of history at Rice University, author of *The Great Deluge*

“Borneman gives us a book that is full of interest and insight and is a pleasure to read.”—Robert Middlekauff, Bancroft Prize-winning author of *The Glorious Cause*

“[An] informed and readable biography.” —*Wall Street Journal*

“Borneman is a trailblazer in the mold of his subject [and has produced] a volume that can stand with all but the very best presidential biographies.”—*Louisville Courier-Journal*

“With impressive exuberance . . . Borneman rightly describes his subject as America’s greatest expansionist president.”—*Austin American Statesman*

“Borneman manages to pull [many] threads together into a comprehensible and entertaining narrative. . . . [His] biography gives Polk his due.”—*Rocky Mountain News*

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

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