

(Free) Louis D. Brandeis: Justice for the People

Louis D. Brandeis: Justice for the People

Philippa Strum

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



#2869253 in Books Harvard University Press 1984-05-31 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 1.26 x 6.48 x 9.471, #File Name: 0674539214536 pages | File size: 34.Mb

Philippa Strum : Louis D. Brandeis: Justice for the People before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Louis D. Brandeis: Justice for the People:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An interesting subject presented somewhat dryly By trainreader Louis Brandeis, law student and lawyer extraordinaire, advisor to a number of Presidents (especially Woodrow Wilson) and one of our greatest most visionary Supreme Court Justices, makes for the subject of a compelling biography. As we learn from Phillip Strum, here was a man who was already considered to be a genius when he attended Harvard Law School, and graduated number one in the class at a younger age than anyone else. He went on to fame and fortune as an attorney, by devouring information regarding the matter at hand (assisted by his near photographic memory), and truly believing that with logic and persuasion, any conflict could be resolved. He invented the "Brandeis Brief," in which he would go far beyond the usual four corners to which lawyers normally confine themselves, by discussing sociological and other concerns beyond the traditional law. One of his core beliefs was that state and local governments should be given free reign to "experiment" for the common good. Whether it was about the insurance industry, railroads, or management-labor disputes, Brandeis despised monopolies and big corporations, and felt that the state and local governments could and should discourage them, and find ways for smaller businesses to thrive. Brandeis' credo was basically that the common man had extraordinary potential if society would only foster same, but limitations as well, especially when attempting to run a large company that could not mutually benefit management and labor. Later on in life, he became an ardent supporter and important figure in the Zionist movement, and almost

single-handedly convinced skeptical prominent American Jews to support the cause. As a Supreme Court Justice, he and his close friend, Oliver Wendell Holmes, would often dissent from opinions in which the majority would strike down governmental attempts to regulate business and property, and improve society's lot. However, during FDR's presidency, the Holmes/Brandeis position became the majority. While it is certainly difficult to capture the breadth of Brandeis' life in a signal volume of manageable length, Phillipa Strum does an admirable job here. However, I have to say that Strum often spends too much time on subjects that I, quite frankly, found exceptionally dry, such as insurance and railroad disputes. On the other hand, I felt that the section on Brandeis as a Supreme Court Justice felt rushed and unsatisfying. In the end, the persona of Louis Brandeis remained elusive, as if one can really never get to know him (albeit this might have been intentional). Further, Strum provides little context of the contemporary political issues in America, and the impact that the Holmes/Brandeis dissents (which laid the foundation of later majority decisions and was vital to Roosevelt's "New Deal"), impacted on society. Still, for anyone interested in the life of this great man, I can recommend this book, but it takes a bit of effort to stick with it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Louis D. Brandeis: Justice for the People By Joyce Lewis Well written and very informative. Brandeis an individual -- not absorbed by financial gain, (He made enough money but knew where to draw the line) -- unlike the present political environment, he knew how to negotiate while still maintaining his perspective. We could use him today to represent The People. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Evelyn Busby Great insight in Brandeis' philosophy of justice.

Louis D. Brandeis (1856-1941) played a role in almost every important social and economic movement during his long life: trade unionism, trust busting, progressivism, woman suffrage, scientific management, expansion of civil liberties, hours, wages, and unemployment legislation, Wilson's New Freedom, Roosevelt's New Deal. He invented savings bank life insurance and the preferential union shop, became known as the "People's Attorney," and altered American jurisprudence as a lawyer and Supreme Court judge. Brandeis led American Zionism from 1914 through 1921 and again from 1930 until his death. He earned over two million dollars practicing law between 1878 and 1916 and used his wealth to foster public causes. He was adviser to leaders from Robert La Follette to Frances Perkins, William McAdoo to Franklin Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson to Harry Truman. This lively account of Brandeis's life and legacy, based on ten years of research in sources not available to previous biographers, reveals much that is new and gives fuller context to personal and historical events. The most significant revelations have to do with his intellectual development. That Brandeis opposed political and economic "bigness" and excessive concentration of wealth is well known. What was not known prior to Strum's research is how far Brandeis carried his beliefs, becoming committed to the goals of worker participation--the sharing of profits and decision making by workers in "manageable"-sized firms. So it happened that the man who was sometimes dismissed as an outmoded horse-and-buggy liberal championed a cause too radical even for the New Deal braintrusts who were quick to follow his advice in other areas. Strum charts Brandeis's development as a kind of industrial-era Jeffersonian deeply influenced by the classical ideals of Periclean Athens. She shows that this was the source not only of his vision of a democracy based on a human-scaled polis, but also of his sudden emergence, in his late fifties, as the leading American Zionist: he had come to regard Palestine as the locus of a new Athens. And later, on the Supreme Court, this Athenian conception of human potential took Justice Brandeis beyond even Justice Holmes in the determined use of judicial power to protect civil liberties and democracy in an industrialized society.