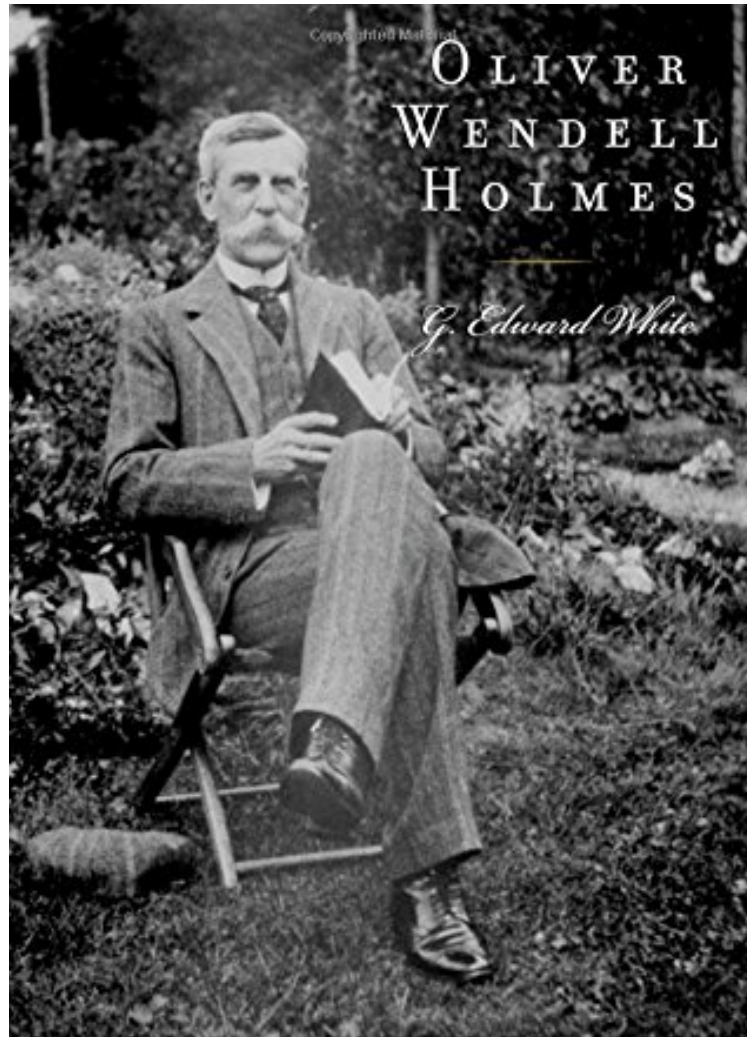


(Download ebook) Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (Lives and Legacies Series)

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (Lives and Legacies Series)

G. Edward White

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G. Edward White : Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (Lives and Legacies Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (Lives and Legacies Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy S Mullingreat read0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Downplays Holmes maybe too muchBy Adam OliverThis is helpful short biography of Justice Holmes. White sets as his major theme Holmes Jr.s quest to be more notable than his father. There is some attention

paid to Holmes distinctive literary flair and passion for getting to the root of the law, the philosophy behind the law. Given that one of the recurring elements was commenting on Holmes tendency to use a kind of unique literary-like style in writing opinions, it would have been nice to see this contrast displayed through more examples. White also aims to get behind some of the legacy of Holmes as the paragon of progressive legal values, showing his philosophy to be more practical and less idealistic than that. White seems to imply that Holmes legacy is made more through the promotion of Felix Frankfurter and publications like *The New Republic* and *Harvard Law Review*. White incorporates a reasonable amount of primary material from Holmes writings, but I could have stood with a bit more to get a better feel for his style, which is an important part of his legacy. He does give some attention to two of Holmes more notable legal contributions: his dissent in the *Lochner* case and his evolution on free speech issues. Both are downplayed by White in this writing, mostly with the aim of minimizing the progressive hero status sometimes ascribed to Holmes. In my opinion, a good biography will humanize a notable person while still preserving their significance. Whites biography, I feel, may have pushed a bit too far into humanizing Holmes so as to make it curious why he would be chosen among other notable justices for this publishing. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Superficial By Turinio This is a very short biography of Holmes, so I wasn't expecting much, but I did expect to understand the relevance and influence of such an icon in the legal history of the United States. However, apart from learning some biographical facts, I was left with the same questions about why this judge has the reputation that he has even today. I guess a more detailed biography is necessary for answering them.

Known as the "Great Dissenter," Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. wrote some of the most eloquent opinions in the history of the United States Supreme Court. A brilliant legal mind who served on the high court into his nineties, Holmes was responsible for some of the most important judicial opinions of the twentieth century. Now, in this superb short biography, G. Edward White offers readers a lively, informative portrait of this singular individual. The book first sketches Holmes's early years--his childhood in Boston, his undergraduate years at Harvard (which his father and both grandfathers also attended), and his valiant service in the Civil War, during which he was severely wounded three times. After the war, Holmes went into private law practice, wrote his landmark treatise *The Common Law* in 1881, had a short tenure on the Harvard Law School faculty, and spent 20 years as a judge on the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts before being named to the U.S. Supreme Court. The author focuses on his remarkable 30-year service as a Supreme Court Justice, beginning in 1902, and details Holmes's most significant cases--*Abrams v. United States*, *Northern Securities Co. v. United States*, *Lochner v. New York*, *Schenck v. United States*, and others--which limited working hours, set a mandatory minimum wage, protected women's rights, legalized labor unions, and defined freedom of speech. These decisions--as well as *The Common Law*--are highly regarded to this day. A new volume in the *Lives and Legacy* series, this marvelous short biography offers an ideal introduction to a towering figure in American law.

From Publishers Weekly Although he spent most of his life as a judge, White notes, Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. (1841-1935) was regarded "by many citizens as a romantic figure, a kind of hero." In this new entry in the *Lives and Legacies* series, University of Virginia law professor White (*Alger Hiss's Looking Glass Wars*) explains the law but fails to convey the heroism. After service in the Civil War, Holmes apprenticed himself to a Boston law firm, and was admitted to the bar in 1867. Holmes hoped that as a judge he would be able to wield influence in politics and society and in that he succeeded. White summarizes many of Holmes's important contributions, such as his post-WWI majority opinion in *Schenck v. United States*, in which he wrote that the government can restrain speech that presents "a clear and present danger." White's explanations of the judiciary have the overly simplistic feel of a civics textbook, as in lengthy descriptions of the differences between federal district judgeships and state trial judges and statements like "Judges are responsible for deciding what the laws mean in particular legal dispute." This basic account of a great life might best be directed at YA readers. 10 bw illus. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "G. Edward White has crafted both an exceptional biography of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., and an incomparable example of American judicial biography. Holmes leaps from every page--philosophical skeptic, poet, lover of literature, adventurer, and seminal figure of law and the Supreme Court. While Holmes was the oldest justice to ever serve, White convincingly reminds us that he has never become obsolete." --Kermit L. Hall, editor of *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*, Second Edition About the Author G. Edward White is David and Mary Harrison Distinguished Professor at the University of Virginia School of Law. His books include *Oliver Wendell Holmes: Law and the Inner Self*, *Alger Hiss's Looking Glass Wars*, and several other works of biography and law.