IMMERSED IN GREAT AFFAIRS
Allan Nevins
and the Heroic Age
of American History
Gerald L. Fetner

A biography of the influential journalist and historian Allan Nevins.

Immured in Great Affairs is the first book-length biography of noted historian and journalist Allan Nevins. In a career that spanned nearly three-quarters of the twentieth century, Nevins won two Pulitzer Prizes, helped draft John F. Kennedy’s acceptance speech at the 1960 Democratic National Convention, composed the monumental eight-volume history of the American Civil War, Ordeal of the Union, and associated with, among others, Adlai Stevenson, Walter Lippmann, Arthur Schlesinger Sr., Charles Scribner, Abraham Flexner, and John D. Rockefeller Jr. This book traces his beginnings as a journalist in the early 1900s with the New York Evening Post and the New York World through his years as a contributor to the New York Times Magazine. Nevins not only influenced thoughtful, general readers through his articles, editorials, and reviews, but also made a lasting impression on the writing of American history and nurtured a whole generation of young scholars as DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University. A narrative historian in an age of growing reliance on social science concepts and theories, Nevins remained committed to telling a story and to using history to teach moral lessons.

“Nevins was one of the important historians of his generation. He encouraged the discipline to be more connected to journalism and the general public at a time when the field was going in the opposite direction.” — Neil Jumonville, author of Henry Steele Commager: Midcentury Liberalism and the History of the Present

Gerald L. Fetner received his Ph.D. in American History from Brown University and has taught at Rhode Island College and Salve Regina College. He has held administrative positions at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and the City University of New York, and he is currently Director of Foundation and Government Grants at the Educational Broadcasting Corporation in New York City. He is the author of Ordered Liberty: Legal Reform in the Twentieth Century.

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FROM GREAT WILDERNESS TO SEAWAY TOWNS
A Comparative History of Cornwall, Ontario, and Massena, New York, 1784–2001
Claire Puccia Parham

Comprehensive study of two towns on either side of the U.S.-Canadian border.

From Great Wilderness to Seaway Towns adds a new dimension to the debate over the perceived differences between American and Canadian society. This fascinating case study examines two communities separated by the St. Lawrence River: Cornwall, Ontario, and Massena, New York, from the end of the Revolutionary War to the present. Moving from the struggles of early settlers to industrialization and beyond, Claire Puccia Parham chronicles how the residents of both areas created similar social, political, and economic institutions because of their peripheral locations in a capitalist world system and their inherent congregational and democratic values. These distinctive views often brought them into conflict with national leaders.

“Parham corrects the lack of attention the North Country has received from historians. This clearly written and accessible work uses two cities, separated by a river that also happens to be the national boundary between Canada and the United States, to test what is arguably the biggest issue within all of American historiography: the question of American exceptionalism. The findings are well supported and make a real contribution to that debate.” — Alan L. Draper, St. Lawrence University

“The author does a fine job of demonstrating how Cornwall and Massena are much more similar to one another than they are different.” — Oscar J. Martínez, author of Border People: Life and Society in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

Claire Puccia Parham received her Ph.D. in American History from Binghamton University, State University of New York.

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