The Paradoxes of the American Presidency; 410 pages; 2004; Oxford University Press, 2004; Thomas E. Cronin, Michael A. Genovese, Professor of Political Science and Director Institute for Leadership Studies Michael A Genovese, PH.D.; 9780195167092

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About President Thomas E Cronin. The book’s inescapable central thesis is that Americans want conflicting things in the office of the presidency. Above all, they want leadership but we are notoriously lousy followers. In fact, the only effective way to solicit acceptance (and possibly, at times, agreement) is through politics. In this sense, the essential paradox of the American presidency is that politics strengthens, rather than weakens it. That is not likely to change. Presidential leadership—the electorate still responds to the "vision" idea—is the single most important aspect of the office. It is the one great, intangible power a successful president carries. Ironically, it is a political as much as an intellectual or even moral gift. "The book raises important questions, all of which can be the foundation for extended class discussion and ample opportunity for in-class elaboration."--Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha, University of North Texas. "In terms of scholarship, depth of understanding of the presidential office, and inclusion of vast amounts of literature, The Paradoxes of the American Presidency is superior to any other textbook that I have seen."--Margaret S. Hrezo, Radford University. "The most comprehensive, well organized, coherent, and highly readable presidency textbook on the market today."