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## Counsel to the President: A Memoir

*Clark Clifford*

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**Clark Clifford : Counsel to the President: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Counsel to the President: A Memoir:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A masterly commentary on Clifford's public life By friend of new orleans Very highly recommended book by a consummate lawyer and presidential advisor from the Truman years to Jimmy Carter. Full of enlightening anecdotes and penetrating insights It's hard to pick out any in particular but the passages on LBJ and the Vietnam war are just devastating. For instance, The North chose the timing of the Tet offensive in 1968 to coincide with the beginning of the US political cycle ( the New Hampshire Primary) for maximum political affect on the American public. As hard as it is to believe, Clark makes a strong case that LBJ deliberately sabotaged Humphrey's campaign in 1968 out of a twisted need to be right on Viet Nam, thus helping Nixon to be elected. Quite a story indeed!! Read it and try to come to a balanced appreciation of LBJ who did so much good domestically but who remained a twisted ego driven man so obsessed with his legacy that he helped to defeat his own party and running mate. Amazing stuff!! Clark has been gone since 1998 but his book lives on. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Personal history and Washinton DC from 1946 to 1990 By Beethoven Autobios are suspect, but this one covers a lot of recent US history. Clifford was there, at least some of time. he had a low opinion of Ike, but his portrait of Carter was accurate. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Living History By The Bear I liked this book, because the author lived the story he tells, and it has a ring of truth about it. The Truman-to-Carter political time frame is a dramatic slice of history. Since it covers several decades, this book is BIG. But I took it slow and enjoyed seeing "behind the curtain" as politicians schemed and diplomatic and public relations type people put

different "spins" on every topic before the public saw or heard about it. And I learned a valuable lesson that holds true today: the only thing politicians fear is the people they pretend to serve.

The memoirs of a legendary White House advisor chronicle the five decades he spent as an influential figure in Oval Office decision-making, from the recognition of Israel to the Vietnam War. Reprint. Major ad/promo. K. NYT.

From Publishers Weekly Presidential adviser Clifford had a hand in the launching of the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the birth of the present national security system and other seminal events in the post-WW II era. He served as President Kennedy's personal lawyer, was Lyndon Johnson's closest adviser during the Vietnam war and succeeded Robert McNamara as secretary of Defense. Though he has much of interest to say about the presidencies of Johnson and Carter in particular, Clifford's re-creation of the Truman years (about a fourth of the book) is most memorable and deeply felt. His admiration for Harry Truman as a chief executive and as a man is profound. Written with former assistant secretary of State Holbrooke, Clifford's memoir is a treasure of historical information, vivid anecdotes and sharp insights into Washington politics and policy over the past four and a half decades. Photos. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This long and fascinating memoir is a fitting reminder of Clifford's remarkable political career. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s he seemed to be on the spot, ready to advise presidents and offer his wisdom on the issues of the day. Yet Clifford's impact on American politics began much earlier, with the presidency of Harry Truman who named him Special Counsel. Clifford retained this title under John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson and was a key figure in many of the pivotal policy decisions of the Sixties (especially the Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam escalation). This memoir is both a political history of the postwar years, as well as an intimate inside look at the workings of power. Clifford's portraits of major political figures are fresh and illuminating, and the book is filled with useful anecdotes both from his public and private life. He concludes with some ruminations on the Reagan-Bush years and broader reflections on history and politics. An essential book for most libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 2/1/91.- Thomas A. Karel, Franklin Marshall Coll. Lib., Lancaster, Pa. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.