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# CONSERVATIVE HEROES

FOURTEEN LEADERS WHO SHAPED AMERICA, FROM JEFFERSON TO REAGAN

By Garland S. Tucker III

Washington, DC—A prevailing myth asserts that there is no American conservative tradition. Louis Hartz's classic book, *The Liberal Tradition in America*, even proclaimed that American society operates under a liberal consensus. In truth, conservatism in America, as one early-twentieth-century politician said, is “as old as the Republic itself.” But what are its foundational principles, and how did they form the modern conservative movement?

In *CONSERVATIVE HEROES: Fourteen Leaders Who Shaped America, from Jefferson to Reagan* (ISI Books, June 15, 2015), author and historian Garland Tucker tells the compelling story of conservatism in America through this lively look at fourteen champions of conservative thought—some well-known, others hardly remembered at all. Taking readers on an exciting tour from the American Founding to the modern era, Garland Tucker traces the development of five basic tenets of conservatism and shows how these leaders put principle into action. And he explains why we need to understand these real-life stories to tackle the most pressing challenges we face today.

*CONSERVATIVE HEROES* is an exciting history that brings conservatism to life through readable profiles of fourteen great leaders from Thomas Jefferson and James Madison at the American Founding to William F. Buckley, Jr., Barry Goldwater, and Ronald Reagan at the triumph of conservatism in the 1980s and beyond. Garland Tucker presents a concise summary of American conservative principles while identifying and tracing the development of American conservatism by examining the lives and writings of significant political and intellectual figures—including unexpected heroes who challenged threats to liberty and the Constitution in their time. He also profiles Democrats who have advanced conservative principles and took the lead in challenging the growth of government at critical moments in American history.

Garland Tucker's *CONSERVATIVE HEROES* presents brief, but penetrating “Profiles in Courage” style summaries of these influential figures that shaped America:

- *Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*: These Founders agreed that the primary purposes of government are to ensure order and to preserve liberty—but often differed on how best to achieve the balance between the two
- *John Randolph and Nathaniel Macon*: In the early nineteenth century these congressional leaders fought to preserve the founding vision of a limited national government
- *John C. Calhoun*: Remembered primarily for his defense of slavery, this statesman nonetheless made considerable contributions to American constitutional history
- *Grover Cleveland*: The last Democratic president to advance conservative principles
- *Calvin Coolidge and Andrew Mellon*: In the 1920s the president and his treasury secretary reduced taxes and the size and scope of the national government—and sparked an economic boom
- *Josiah W. Bailey and John W. Davis*: Forgotten today, these Democrats spearheaded the conservative challenge to FDR's New Deal
- *Robert A. Taft*: “Mr. Republican” led the revival of the GOP as the conservative party
- *William F. Buckley Jr., Barry Goldwater, and Ronald Reagan*: The driving forces behind the ascent of modern conservatism

**To arrange an interview with *Conservative Heroes* author Garland Tucker, please contact Stephen Manfredi at 202.222.8028 or [smanfredi@manfredistrategygroup.com](mailto:smanfredi@manfredistrategygroup.com).**