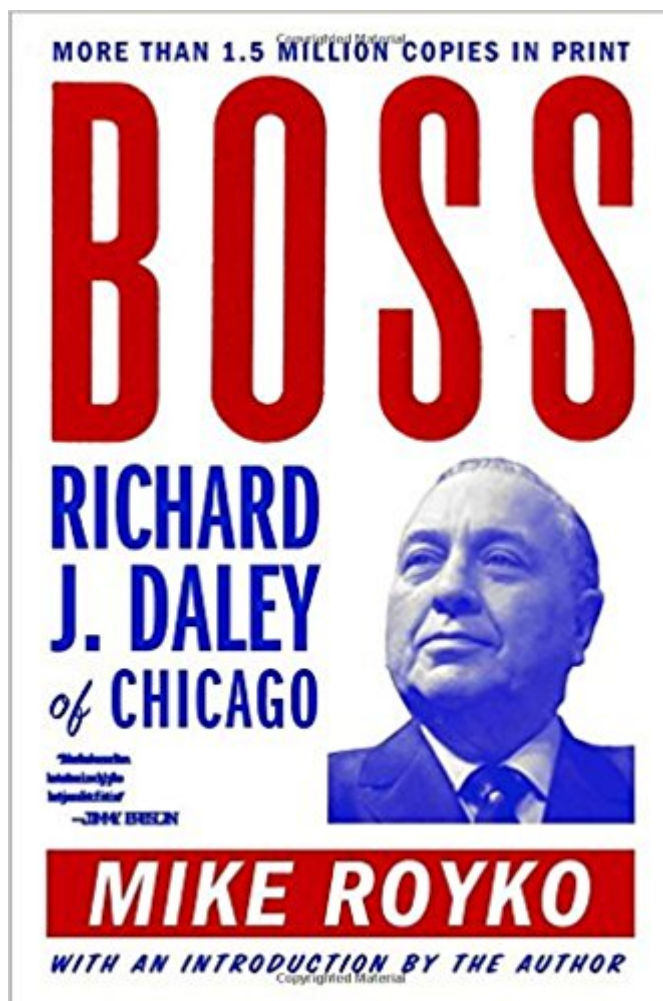




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Boss: Richard J. Daley Of Chicago



Synopsis

"The best book ever written about an American city, by the best journalist of his time." Jimmy Breslin
New edition of the classic story of the late Richard J. Daley, politician and self-promoter extraordinaire, from his inauspicious youth on Chicago's South Side through his rapid climb to the seat of power as mayor and boss of the Democratic Party machine. A bare-all account of Daley's cardinal sins as well as his milestone achievements, this scathing work by Chicago journalist Mike Royko brings to life the most powerful political figure of his time: his laissez-faire policy toward corruption, his unique brand of public relations, and the widespread influence that earned him the epithet of "king maker." The politician, the machine, the city "Royko reveals all with witty insight and unwavering honesty, in this incredible portrait of the last of the backroom Caesars. New edition includes an Introduction in which the author reflects on Daley's death and the future of Chicago.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First published in 1971 when the late Daley was mayor of Chicago, this classic "provides a detailed and, for some, eye-opening account of Daley's rise to absolute control of the Chicago Democratic political machine," said PW, finding the book "sardonic and sometimes hilarious reading." Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"The best book ever written about an American city, by the best journalist of his time. Perhaps it will

stand as the best book ever written about the American condition at this time. It comes at you from the saloons and neighborhoods, the police stations and political backrooms. It is about lies and viciousness, about the worship of cement and the hatred toward blacks, about troubling cowardice that hides behind religion and patriotism while the poor get clubbed and killed. "Royko's book also does more written damage to a man than perhaps anything I have ever read. I know of no place where it will not be read and quoted and kept and read again." "Jimmy Breslin's pungent and precise portrait of how big-city politics work. And it is brisk and lively reading in the bargain. Muckraking at its best, a remorseless book that bites and tears." "Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, The New York Times" "There's nobody better than Mike Royko writing politics anywhere in the country today. About the book? It's Daley; Royko's got him to the life. And it's Chicago. Even if you've never been there you know it's Chicago. A fine job." "Russell Baker, The New York Times" "Stunning, astonishing, myth-shattering!" "Studs Terkel, New York Times Book Review" "Without question the most devastating dissection of a personal municipal fief I've ever read & Brilliant!" "John Barkham, Saturday Review Syndicate" "A great book & Chicago and the lesser towns that make up urban America may or may not die. But you won't understand why they hurt so much until you read Boss." "The Washington Post

I had owned the original publication years back & wanted to replace it. I was disappointed that photos were not included, as I recall were part of my original book..The print is smaller & crammed into fewer pages....The text is the same...readable, informative..Mike Royko was there & captured Daley as a person & a leader of the political machine

An honest and unflinching look at the good, the bad and the ugly of the man who was neither the first Boss nor the last Boss but quite possibly the biggest Boss - but more importantly, what it cost one man, one city and millions of people to take that man to the top and keep him there. Crediting Daley for his ballsiness but never excusing or sparing Daley judgment for his ability to be both casually and deliberately cruel, a short and intense look at American Machine politics at what could be called its most sophisticated - for to call it "at its best" would be giving that form of government more respect than it deserves. Great read.

This book was heralded on one of my favorite podcasts as the best book about city politics and it did not disappoint. This book beautifully describes the well-oiled components of the Daley machine:

the rank-and-file Democratic voters, the recipients of the patronage system, national political leaders, labor unions, the private sector, and most importantly, Boss Daley himself. It should be required reading for all Chicagoans.

Just as relevant as when I first read it 40 years ago. It portrays both Mayor Daley and his city with a bit of artistic license, but the net result is pretty accurate.

Are you as enchanted and haunted by the Starz Cable network's series Boss as we are? Wondering if the show goes too far? Could this be based in reality? Read Mike Royko's book Boss about the first Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago and make your own conclusions. Written in 1971 and then updated in 1976 after Daley's death, this account of "old style" Chicago politics is fascinating. Then watch the television show Boss. Intriguing

Well written (of course), an informative inside look at "the machine", the political entity that owns the Chicago government and how it gets and keeps control. Ever wonder how a city employee can be totally incompetent and unconcerned about losing his/her job? Read the book and understand.

Good read for anyone that grew up anywhere in Northern or Central Illinois in the late 60s - 70s. Chicago ran the state and Daley was the man.

Every Chicago resident should read this book. It gives great insight into many aspects of Chicago politics, government and events today.

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