



The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York

By Robert A. Caro

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One of the most acclaimed books of our time, winner of both the Pulitzer and the Francis Parkman prizes, **The Power Broker** tells the hidden story behind the shaping (and mis-shaping) of twentieth-century New York (city and state) and makes public what few have known: that Robert Moses was, for almost half a century, the single most powerful man of our time in New York, the shaper not only of the city's politics but of its physical structure and the problems of urban decline that plague us today.

In revealing how Moses did it--how he developed his public authorities into a political machine that was virtually a fourth branch of government, one that could bring to their knees Governors and Mayors (from La Guardia to Lindsay) by mobilizing banks, contractors, labor unions, insurance firms, even the press and the Church, into an irresistible economic force--Robert Caro reveals how power works in all the cities of the United States. Moses built an empire and lived like an emperor. He personally conceived and completed public works costing 27 billion dollars--the greatest builder America (and probably the world) has ever known. Without ever having been elected to office, he dominated the men who were--even his most bitter enemy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, could not control him--until he finally encountered, in Nelson Rockefeller, the only man whose power (and ruthlessness in wielding it) equalled his own.

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The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York By Robert A. Caro Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4284 in Books
- Brand: Vintage
- Published on: 1975-07-12
- Released on: 1975-07-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.10" h x 1.90" w x 6.10" l, 3.68 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 1344 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"Surely the greatest book ever written about a city." --David Halberstam

"A masterpiece of American reporting. It's more than the story of a tragic figure or the exploration of the unknown politics of our time. It's an elegantly written and enthralling work of art." --Theodore H. White

"The most absorbing, detailed, instructive, provocative book ever published about the making and raping of modern New York City and environs and the man who did it, about the hidden plumbing of New York City and State politics over the last half-century, about the force of personality and the nature of political power in a democracy. A monumental work, a political biography and political history of the first magnitude." --Eliot Fremont-Smith, *New York*

"One of the most exciting, un-put-downable books I have ever read. This is definitive biography, urban history, and investigative journalism. This is a study of the corruption which power exerts on those who wield it to set beside Tacitus and his emperors, Shakespeare and his kings." --Daniel Berger, *Baltimore Evening Sun*

"Fascinating, every oversize page of it." --Peter S. Prescott, *Newsweek*

"A study of municipal power that will change the way any reader of the book hereafter peruses his newspaper." --Philip Herrera, *Time*

"A triumph, brilliant and totally fascinating. A majestic, even Shakespearean, drama about the interplay of power and personality." --Justin Kaplan

"In the future, the scholar who writes the history of American cities in the twentieth century will doubtless begin with this extraordinary effort." --Richard C. Wade, *The New York Times Book Review*

"The feverish hype that dominates the merchandising of arts and letters in America has so debased the language that, when a truly exceptional achievement comes along, there are no words left to praise it. Important, awesome, compelling--these no longer summon the full flourish of trumpets this book deserves. It is extraordinary on many levels and certain to endure." --William Greider, *The Washington Post Book World*

"Apart from the book's being so good as biography, as city history, as sheer good reading, *The Power Broker* is an immense public service." --Jane Jacobs

"Required reading for all those who hope to make their way in urban politics; for the reformer, the planner, the politician and even the ward heeler." --Jules L. Wagman, *Cleveland Press*

"An extraordinary study of the workings of power, individually, institutionally, politically, and economically in our republic." --Edmund Fuller, *The Wall Street Journal*

"Caro has written one of the finest, best-researched and most analytically informative descriptions of our political and governmental processes to appear in a generation." --Nicholas Von Hoffman, *The Washington*

Post

"Caro's achievement is staggering. The most unlikely subjects--banking, ward politics, construction, traffic management, state financing, insurance companies, labor unions, bridge building--become alive and contemporary. It is cheap at the price and too short by half. A milestone in literary and publishing history." --Donald R. Morris, *The Houston Post*

"Irresistible reading. It is like one of the great Russian novels, overflowing with characters and incidents that all fit into a vast mosaic of plot and counterplot. Only this is no novel. This is a college education in power corruption." --George McCue, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

From the Inside Flap

One of the most acclaimed books of our time, winner of both the Pulitzer and the Francis Parkman prizes, *The Power Broker* tells the hidden story behind the shaping (and mis-shaping) of twentieth-century New York (city and state) and makes public what few have known: that Robert Moses was, for almost half a century, the single most powerful man of our time in New York, the shaper not only of the city's politics but of its physical structure and the problems of urban decline that plague us today.

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From the Back Cover

This is the first and foremost a brilliant multidimensional portrait of a man--an extraordinary man who, denied power within the normal framework of the democratic process, stepped outside that framework to grasp power sufficient to shape a great city and hold sway over the very texture of millions of lives.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marilyn Leonard:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book allowed *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have some other opinion?

Marilyn Perez:

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Alexander Goodman:

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