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Book Review: Eisenhower Presidency: Lessons for the Twenty-First Century, ed. By Andrew J. Polsky

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Eisenhower presidency: lessons for the twenty-first century, ed. by Andrew J. Polsky. Lexington Books, 2015. 261p
index afp ISBN 9781498522205, \$95.00; ISBN 9781498522229 pbk, \$44.99; ISBN 9781498522212 ebook, \$44.99.

On leaving office, Dwight Eisenhower's ranking as president was fairly low. Over time, his reputation has risen to the point that he is now regarded as one of the top ten presidents in US history. This collection of essays asks, "What lessons can we learn from Ike's example as a leader?" Editor Polsky's introduction acknowledges that "to appropriate the past for use in the present is ... an inherently problematic enterprise," yet the authors of these essays believe there is much to learn from Ike's example. Eisenhower viewed leadership as "the ability to decide what is to be done, and then to get others to want to do it." The essays cover a great deal of territory, including the nature of Ike's conservatism, dealings with Congress, party leadership, and civil rights (which David A. Nichols maintains is a stronger record than has been acknowledged). Perhaps the strongest essay is Polsky's conclusion reexamining the importance of political opportunity to leadership. A valuable and useful addition to the literature on the Eisenhower presidency that challenges some of the accepted wisdom about Eisenhower's leadership.

—*M. A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount University*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.