



A Republic, if you
can keep it.

Benjamin Franklin

A Republic If You Can Keep It

L Reisser



A Republic If You Can Keep It:

A Republic, If You Can Keep it Ronald F. Brecke, 2000-01-01 When asked after the Constitutional Convention whether they had produced a republic or a monarchy Benjamin Franklin replied A republic if you can keep it In the book that derives its title from this portentous quote Ronald Brecke contends that American government has not done such a good job of keeping it Brecke describes how changes in our politics and government have illustrated a departure from the republican principles on the Constitution changes purportedly in the direction of direct democracy A Republic If You Can Keep It argues that these changes have instead stripped the governing structures of much of their ability to govern effectively and responsibly By critically examining each institution in terms of its relationship to effective and responsible republican government the book does more than simply describe how government and politics work It asks readers to evaluate why things work as they do and how improvements can be made it engages readers in a debate about republicanism and their role in it Brecke brings readers political scientists Constitutional law scholars students of American government face to face with their responsibilities as citizens *A Republic: If You Can Keep it* Jim Hollingsworth, 2024-08-08 At the end of the Constitutional Convention Ben Franklin was asked by a woman what sort of government the delegates had provided His answer was A Republic If you can keep it That is a simple yet profound statement America has been a successful republic for over two hundred years Yet beginning with the New Deal of Franklin Delano Roosevelt we have gradually lost the truth of what it means to be a republic Gradually and mainly with the work of the Democrats we have become a collectivist society we have gradually become not a republic but a socialist country with bigger government and a tendency to government tyranny Now we are at a crossroads This next election may well determine if we will remain a constitutional republic or fall down into being no more than a third world banana republic It is time to retake control of our government which is a servant of the people not a master We need to control our government on the national level Congress the President the Supreme Court But we also need to take control on the local level schools libraries city councils and county and state governments It is not too late but the time is moving quickly This book explains much of the problem and provides some hope as to how to overcome it America has been a great nation and can be great again **A Republic if You Can Keep It** Phil Hamman III, 2025-04-28 This book is motivated by a concern for the continued freedom of America America as a Constitutional Republic is quickly slipping away and what awaits is a Communist dictatorship As a senior citizen the best thing that can be done is to speak out Thomas Paine said The pen is mightier than the sword Thus I took up my pen Some may find what is said in this book offensive Again Thomas Paine is called upon for his wisdom He who is afraid to offend cannot be honest This book is written with an honest heart and love for our country **A Republic, If You Can Keep it** Earl Warren, 1972 **A Republic, If You Can Keep It** Neil Gorsuch, 2019-09-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Justice Neil Gorsuch reflects on his journey to the Supreme Court the role of the judge under our Constitution and the vital responsibility of each American to keep our republic

strong As Benjamin Franklin left the Constitutional Convention he was reportedly asked what kind of government the founders would propose He replied A republic if you can keep it In this book Justice Neil Gorsuch shares personal reflections speeches and essays that focus on the remarkable gift the framers left us in the Constitution Justice Gorsuch draws on his thirty year career as a lawyer teacher judge and justice to explore essential aspects our Constitution its separation of powers and the liberties it is designed to protect He discusses the role of the judge in our constitutional order and why he believes that originalism and textualism are the surest guides to interpreting our nation s founding documents and protecting our freedoms He explains too the importance of affordable access to the courts in realizing the promise of equal justice under law while highlighting some of the challenges we face on this front today Along the way Justice Gorsuch reveals some of the events that have shaped his life and outlook from his upbringing in Colorado to his Supreme Court confirmation process And he emphasizes the pivotal roles of civic education civil discourse and mutual respect in maintaining a healthy republic A Republic If You Can Keep It offers compelling insights into Justice Gorsuch s faith in America and its founding documents his thoughts on our Constitution s design and the judge s place within it and his beliefs about the responsibility each of us shares to sustain our distinctive republic of by and for We the People

On Deaf Ears George C. Edwards III, 2008-10-01 American presidents often engage in intensive campaigns to obtain public support for their policy initiatives This core strategy for governing is based on the premise that if presidents are skilled enough to exploit the bully pulpit they can successfully persuade or even mobilize public opinion on behalf of their legislative goals In this book George Edwards analyzes the results of hundreds of public opinion polls from recent presidencies to assess the success of these efforts Surprisingly he finds that presidents typically are not able to change public opinion even great communicators usually fail to obtain the public s support for their high priority initiatives Focusing on presidents personae their messages and the American public he explains why presidents are often unable to move public opinion and suggests that their efforts to do so may be counterproductive Edwards argues that shoring up previously existing support is the principal benefit of going public and that staying private negotiating quietly with elites may often be more conducive to a president s legislative success

A Republic, If You Can Keep It Patrick Kansoer, 2018-06-09 At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 a lady asked Benjamin Franklin Well Doctor what have we got a republic or a monarchy Franklin replied A republic if you can keep it A republic is different from a democracy In a pure democracy the majority has unlimited power whereas in a republic a written constitution limits the majority and provides safeguards for the individual and minorities The Founders intent at the national level was a representative republic The word democracy is not mentioned in the Constitution Most of the Founders distrusted pure democracy A Republic if you can keep it presents the genius of our Founding Fathers in the creation of a new form of government It contains the author s views and the truth contained in the thoughts writings and the original intent of the patriots who bequeathed to us this legacy of untold value

Advising Ike Herbert Brownell, John P. Burke, 1993 In this

enlightening volume Brownell the man Dwight D Eisenhower said would make an outstanding president recounts his achievements and trials as the GOP's most successful presidential operative of the 1940s and 50s and as Attorney General at a crucial time in American history Political science professor and coauthor Burke is the author of *The Institutional Presidency* 26 photographs

Pluralist Democracy in the United States: Conflict and Consent Robert A. Dahl, 1967 Second ed published in 1972 under title *Democracy in the United States* Bibliographical footnotes

The Dominion of Voice Kimberly K. Smith, 1999 In this work of historically informed political theory Kimberly Smith sets out to understand how nineteenth century Americans answered the question of how the people should participate in politics Did rational public debate the ideal that most democratic theorists now venerate transcend all other forms of political expression How and why did passion disappear from the ideology if not the practice of American democracy To answer these questions she focuses on the political culture of the urban North during the turbulent Jacksonian Age roughly 1830-50 when the shape and character of the democratic public were still fluid Smith's method is to interpret in light of such popular discourse as newspapers and novels several key texts in nineteenth century American political thought Frederick Douglass's Fourth of July speech and Narrative Angelina Grimke's debate with Catharine Beecher Frances Wright's lectures and Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Such texts Smith finds highlight many of the then current ideas about the extremes of political expression Her readings support the conclusions that the value of rational argument itself was contested that the emergent Enlightenment rationalism may have helped to sterilize political debate and that storytelling or testimony posed an important challenge to the norm of political rationality Smith explores facets of the political culture in ways that make sense of traditions from Whiggish resistance to Protestant narrative testimony She helps us to understand such puzzles as the point of mob action and other ritualistic disruptions of the political process our simultaneous attraction to and suspicion of political debates and the appeal of stories by and about victims of injustice Also found in her book are keen analyses of the antebellum press and the importance of oratory and public speaking Smith shows that alternatives to reasoned deliberation like protest resistance and storytelling have a place in politics Such alternatives underscore the positive role that interest passion compassion and even violence might play in the political life of America Her book therefore is a cautionary analysis of how rationality came to dominate our thinking about politics and why its hegemony should concern us Ultimately Smith reminds the reader that democracy and reasoned public debate are not synonymous and that the linkage is not necessarily a good thing

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Table of Contents A Republic If You Can Keep It

1. Understanding the eBook A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - The Rise of Digital Reading A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - A Republic If You Can Keep It User Reviews and Ratings
 - A Republic If You Can Keep It and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing A Republic If You Can Keep It Free and Paid eBooks
 - A Republic If You Can Keep It Public Domain eBooks
 - A Republic If You Can Keep It eBook Subscription Services

- A Republic If You Can Keep It Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating A Republic If You Can Keep It eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - A Republic If You Can Keep It Compatibility with Devices
 - A Republic If You Can Keep It Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Interactive Elements A Republic If You Can Keep It
- 8. Staying Engaged with A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers A Republic If You Can Keep It
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection A Republic If You Can Keep It
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Setting Reading Goals A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of A Republic If You Can Keep It
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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