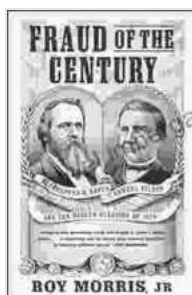


The Contested Election of 1876: Rutherford Hayes vs. Samuel Tilden

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The United States presidential election of 1876 was one of the most controversial and closely contested elections in American history. The candidates were Republican Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio and Democrat Samuel J. Tilden of New York. Tilden won the popular vote by a margin of 250,000 votes, but Hayes won the electoral vote by a margin of one vote. The election was ultimately decided by a special commission appointed by Congress, which awarded the presidency to Hayes.



Fraud of the Century: Rutherford B. Hayes, Samuel Tilden, and the Stolen Election of 1876 by Roy Morris Jr.

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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File size : 1413 KB
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 389 pages
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The election of 1876 was a watershed moment in American history. It marked the end of the Reconstruction era and the beginning of a new era of political stability. It also set the stage for the rise of the modern Republican and Democratic parties.

The following article provides a detailed account of the election of 1876, from the nomination of the candidates to the final decision of the special commission. It also explores the historical context of the election and its impact on American politics.

##

The Candidates

Rutherford B. Hayes was born in Delaware, Ohio, in 1822. He graduated from Kenyon College in 1842 and from Harvard Law School in 1845. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War and was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1864. He was elected governor of Ohio in 1867 and served two terms.

Samuel J. Tilden was born in New Lebanon, New York, in 1814. He graduated from Yale College in 1837 and from New York University School of Law in 1838. He served as district attorney of New York County from 1853 to 1857 and as governor of New York from 1875 to 1876.

Hayes and Tilden were both experienced politicians with strong records of public service. However, they had very different political views. Hayes was a Republican who supported the policies of President Ulysses S. Grant. Tilden was a Democrat who opposed Grant's policies and favored a more limited role for the federal government.

##

The Campaign

The campaign of 1876 was one of the most bitter and divisive in American history. The candidates traded personal insults, and their supporters engaged in violence and intimidation. The main issues of the campaign were the economy, the Reconstruction of the South, and the role of the federal government.

Hayes promised to end the economic depression that had followed the Panic of 1873. He also promised to end Reconstruction and restore home rule to the Southern states. Tilden promised to reduce government spending and taxes. He also promised to protect the rights of Southern blacks.

The election was extremely close. Tilden won the popular vote by a margin of 250,000 votes. However, Hayes won the electoral vote by a margin of one vote. The election was ultimately decided by a special commission appointed by Congress, which awarded the presidency to Hayes.

##

The Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission was a 15-member panel appointed by Congress to resolve the disputed election of 1876. The commission was composed of five senators, five representatives, and five Supreme Court justices. The commission was charged with determining which candidate had won the electoral votes of the four disputed states: Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Oregon.

The commission's decision was highly controversial. The commission voted 8-7 along party lines to award the electoral votes of all four disputed states

to Hayes. This gave Hayes the presidency by a margin of one electoral vote.

Many Democrats believed that the commission's decision was a travesty of justice. They argued that Tilden had clearly won the election and that the commission had stolen it from him. The decision led to widespread protests and violence in the South.

##

The Impact of the Election

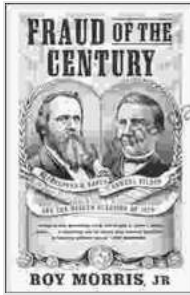
The election of 1876 had a profound impact on American politics. It marked the end of the Reconstruction era and the beginning of a new era of political stability. It also set the stage for the rise of the modern Republican and Democratic parties.

The election also had a lasting impact on the American electoral system. The Electoral Commission's decision to award the presidency to Hayes led to the passage of the Electoral Count Act of 1887. This law established clear procedures for resolving disputed elections and preventing future controversies.

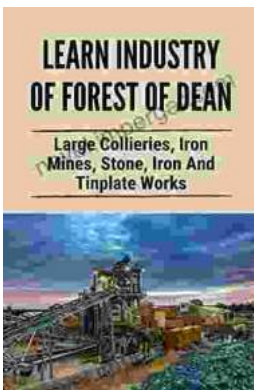
The election of 1876 is a reminder of the importance of the electoral process and the need for fair and impartial elections. It is also a reminder of the fragility of democracy and the importance of protecting the rights of all citizens.

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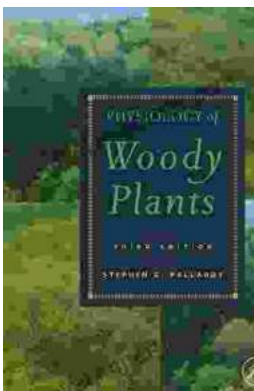


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