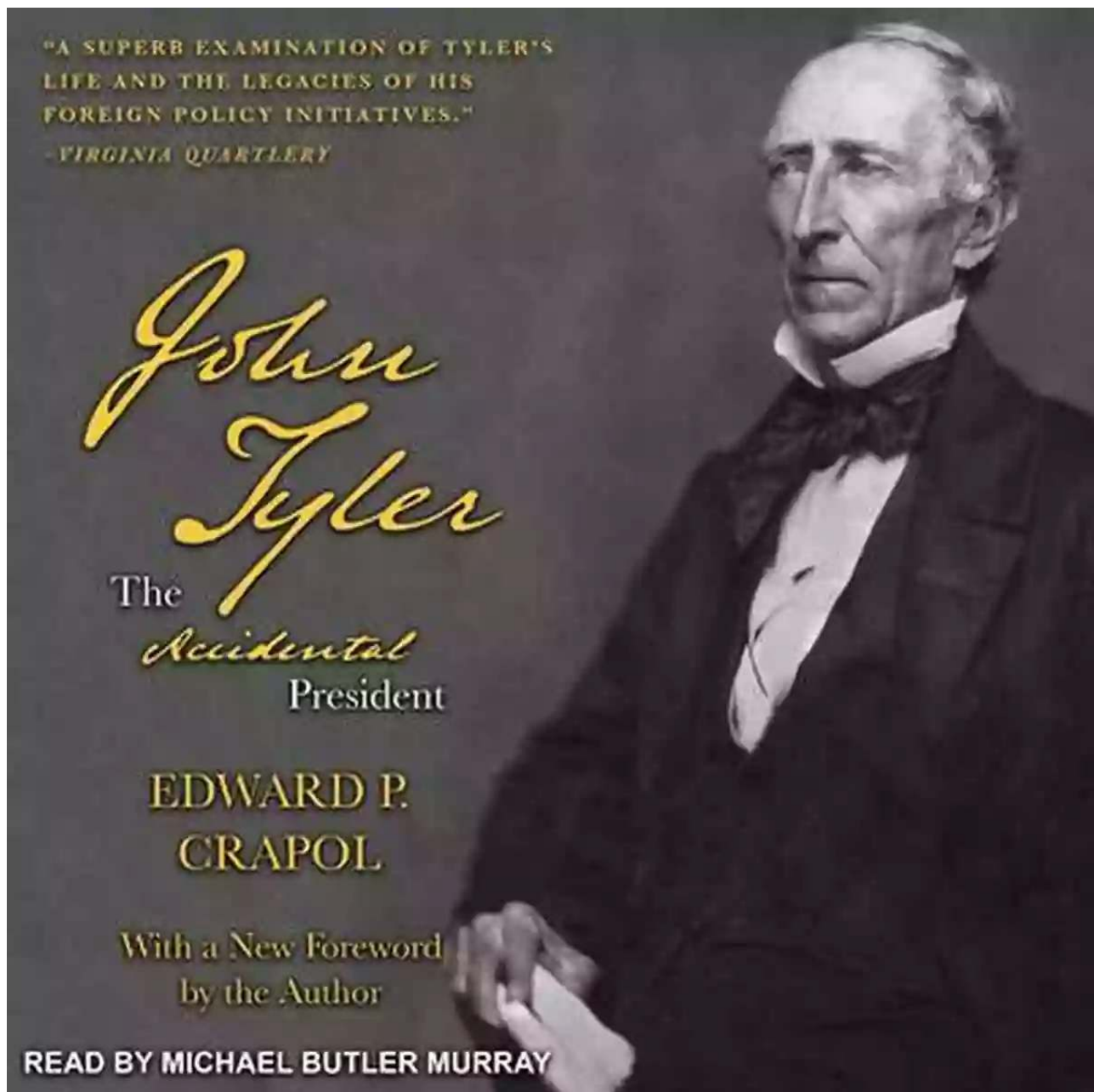


John Tyler: The Accidental President

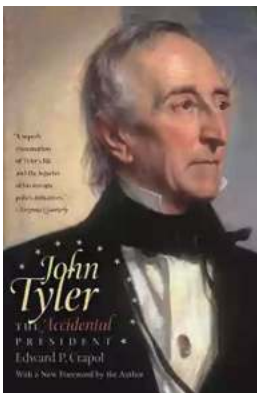


John Tyler, the 10th President of the United States, certainly had an unexpected rise to power. Often referred to as the "Accidental President," Tyler was the first Vice President to succeed to the presidency following the death of a sitting president. His tenure in office was marked by controversy, political challenges,

and a commitment to his principles. Let's delve into the life and presidency of this intriguing figure in American history.

Early Life and Political Career

John Tyler was born on March 29, 1790, in Charles City County, Virginia. He came from a prominent political family and quickly made a name for himself in the world of Virginia politics. After serving in the Virginia House of Delegates and the U.S. House of Representatives, Tyler went on to become the Governor of Virginia in 1825.



John Tyler, the Accidental President

by Edward P. Crapol (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2026 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 358 pages



Although he initially aligned with the Democratic-Republicans, Tyler found himself at odds with the party's leaders over various issues, including tariffs and states' rights. Eventually, he would join the Whig Party, a political entity that sought to limit the powers of the executive branch and emphasized Congress's authority.

The Unexpected Presidency

John Tyler's path to the presidency started with his selection as Vice President on the Whig Party ticket, alongside William Henry Harrison, in the 1840 election.

However, just one month after taking office, President Harrison fell ill and died, making Tyler the first Vice President to assume the presidency due to the death of a sitting president.

This unexpected turn of events immediately put Tyler in a delicate position. Many members of the Whig Party believed that he would act merely as a figurehead, while they controlled the real power. However, Tyler defied their expectations by asserting his authority and promoting his personal agenda, leading to significant confrontations with Congress and even the expulsion of members of his own party from his administration.

Presidential Achievements

Despite the challenges and controversies, John Tyler managed to accomplish several noteworthy achievements during his presidency. One of the most notable was the annexation of Texas, which he championed, and eventually signed into law just days before leaving office.

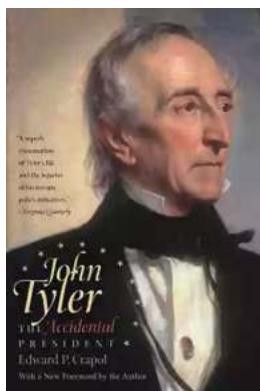
Tyler also focused on amending the Constitution to protect state rights and executive power. Although his proposed amendments were not ratified during his presidency, Tyler's efforts laid the foundation for future discussions on these important issues.

Legacy and Final Years

John Tyler's presidency may have been marked by controversy and conflicts, but his actions helped shape the trajectory of American politics. His commitment to the principles of states' rights and limited executive power left a lasting impact that is still debated today.

After leaving office in 1845, Tyler retired to his plantation in Virginia. Despite being initially shunned by his party, he continued to be active in political discussions and served in various diplomatic roles. Sadly, John Tyler passed away on January 18, 1862, before witnessing the outcome of the Civil War, in which he had initially opposed secession but eventually sided with the Confederacy.

John Tyler's presidency may have been marked by unexpected circumstances and political turmoil, but his commitment to his principles and willingness to assert his authority in difficult times should not be overlooked. Whether you consider him an accidental president or a political tactician, Tyler's legacy continues to spark discussions and provide valuable insights into the complexities of American governance.



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The first vice president to become president on the death of the incumbent, John Tyler (1790-1862) was derided by critics as "His Accidency." In this biography of the tenth president, Edward P. Crapol challenges depictions of Tyler as a die-hard advocate of states' rights, limited government, and a strict interpretation of the

Constitution. Instead, he argues, Tyler manipulated the Constitution to increase the executive power of the presidency. Crapol also highlights Tyler's faith in America's national destiny and his belief that boundless territorial expansion would preserve the Union as a slaveholding republic. When Tyler sided with the Confederacy in 1861, he was branded as America's "traitor" president for having betrayed the republic he once led.



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