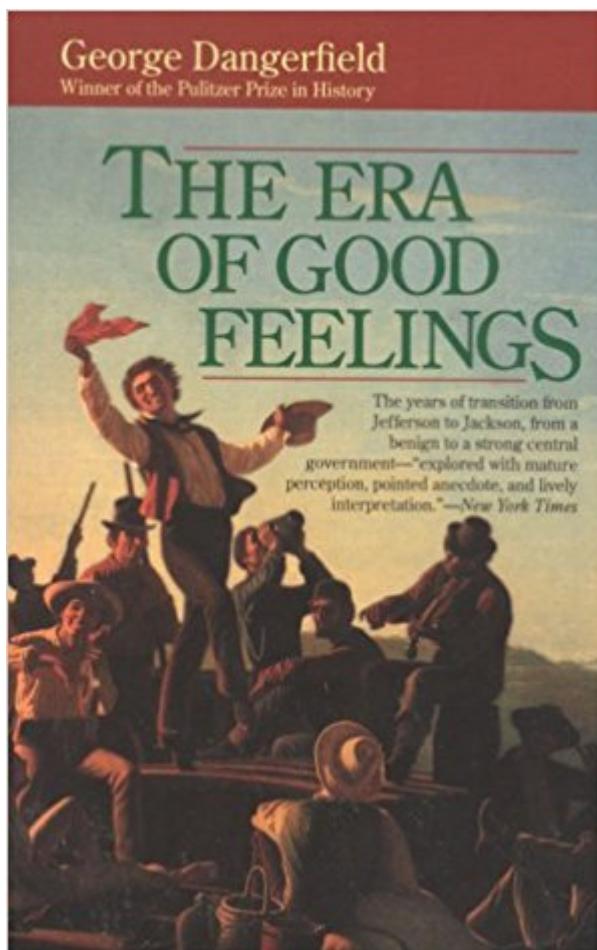


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The Era Of Good Feelings



Synopsis

Here is history as delightful as it is profound. Exploring the period between Jeffersonian democracy and Jacksonian democracy, George Dangerfield describes the personalities and experiences, American and European, which furthered the political transition "from the great dictum that central government is best when it governs least to the great dictum that central government must sometimes intervene strongly on behalf of the weak and the oppressed and the exploited." The book, winner of the Pulitzer and Bancroft prizes, throws new and fresh light on an important formative period in American history. "An agile piece of historical writing—witty, selective, and illuminating."—*New Yorker*. "George Dangerfield writes with gusto, sense, and authority. His agreeable, eloquent book is full of people, conflicts, ideas, and color. It is a learned book, and witty and skillful; on every page it is thoughtful, clever, and original."—*Saturday Review*. "History exploded with mature perception, pointed anecdote, and lively interpretation."—*New York Times*.

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Customer Reviews

George Dangerfield's other books include *The Strange Death of Liberal England*, *The Awakening of American Nationalism*, and *Interpreting American History*.

Excellent book. Arrived quickly

A well-written history of the era.

George Dangerfield's "The Era of Good Feelings" is a wonderful book covering the often forgotten politics and events between the Jeffersonian era and the Jacksonian period. Dangerfield's vivid writing style and his gift at presenting the biographical sketch guides the reader along. From the heated discussions of the Monroe Cabinet to the skirmishing between churches in the field and their congregational headquarters to Andrew Jackson leading the invasion of Spanish Florida, Dangerfield captures a time of great growth and transition. Dangerfield is also excellent in showing how English politics and economics shaped the fledgling republic during these years. Dangerfield's takes on the leading political actors form a wonderful portrait gallery: the elusive James Monroe, the puritanical John Quincy Adams, the merry Henry Clay and raging John Randolph, the logical John Calhoun and the emotional Andrew Jackson. Dangerfield offers an excellent bridge between more established periods of American history and shows the importance of this neglected period.

This book strongly articulates and projects some of the primary political and social events that shaped the early part of 19th Century US History. The cast of characters who played seminal roles in the Era of Good Feelings along with antebellum America are told with fine detail and prolonged piqued interest by the author. The Era of Good Feelings constitutes an excellent addition to any undergrad or graduate US History course or simply for the joy of knowledge.

Well deserving his Pulitzer, Dangerfield opens this fascinating study with the negotiations at Ghent and closes with the advent of the Jackson presidency. His erudite treatment of the complex political realities of the period reveal that the prevailing feelings were anything but good. All this aside, *The Era of Good Feelings* is probably not a choice fire-side text for the casual reader.

While there's a lot of good details in The Era of Good Feelings, it is probably best left for the scholars and researchers. There are great details about the Treaty of Ghent, the Second Bank of the U.S., the Seminole War, Monroe's diplomacy, the Missouri Compromise, and the Presidency of J.Q. Adams. There's also a nice chapter on the first wave of the Industrial Revolution. While the Era of Good Feelings is generally associated with Monroe, this book also includes the Presidency of Adams to round out the bridge between the Treaty of Ghent and the Jacksonian Era. When Dangerfield puts the story together, however, it is not as approachable as other tales of American History. There are too many references to unexplained names and events that leave the novice historian with too much work to piece the whole story together.

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