

# potomac fever in politics

**potomac fever in politics** is a term that has long been used to describe the intense ambition and eagerness of politicians who flock to Washington, D.C., the political heart of the United States. This phrase captures the allure and often overwhelming desire for power, influence, and prestige associated with the federal government, particularly among those new to the political scene. The phenomenon is characterized by a mix of idealism, opportunism, and sometimes a loss of perspective once immersed in the capital's unique environment. This article delves into the origins, implications, and ongoing relevance of potomac fever in politics, examining how it shapes political careers and decision-making. Understanding this concept provides insight into the dynamics of political behavior and the challenges faced by those navigating the corridors of power. The following sections explore the historical background, psychological aspects, impact on governance, and contemporary examples of potomac fever in politics.

- Origins and Historical Context of Potomac Fever
- Psychological and Sociological Factors
- Impact of Potomac Fever on Political Careers
- Potomac Fever and Governance Challenges
- Contemporary Examples and Case Studies

## Origins and Historical Context of Potomac Fever

The term "potomac fever" originated in the 19th century, referring to the magnetic pull that Washington, D.C., exerted on ambitious politicians, lobbyists, and public servants. The Potomac River, running through the capital, became a symbolic reference point for the feverish desire to succeed in the nation's political epicenter. Historically, this phenomenon was noted among members of Congress, presidential hopefuls, and political appointees who often found themselves consumed by the pursuit of influence and recognition.

## Early Usage and Meaning

Initially, potomac fever described a condition where politicians lost their original sense of purpose or values after arriving in Washington. This "fever" implied a contagious enthusiasm that led newcomers to become absorbed in political maneuvering, ambition, and sometimes ethical compromises. The phrase was used pejoratively by critics who saw it as a corrupting influence, undermining sincere public service.

## **Evolution Over Time**

As the federal government expanded throughout the 20th century, potomac fever evolved to encompass not only elected officials but also bureaucrats, lobbyists, and consultants. The term began to reflect broader cultural and systemic issues within Washington, such as partisanship, insider politics, and the complexities of federal governance. Despite changes in political climate, the core idea of potomac fever as a powerful, sometimes detrimental, influence on political actors remains relevant.

## **Psychological and Sociological Factors**

Understanding potomac fever in politics requires examining the psychological motivations and social pressures that drive individuals toward intense ambition in Washington, D.C. The capital's environment fosters certain behaviors and mindsets due to its unique combination of power, visibility, and competition.

## **Ambition and Status-Seeking**

One of the primary psychological drivers of potomac fever is the quest for status and recognition. Politicians and public servants entering Washington often harbor high expectations of career advancement and influence. The desire to be noticed and to make a significant impact can lead to heightened ambition, sometimes eclipsing original ideals.

## **Peer Pressure and Insider Culture**

Social dynamics in Washington also contribute to potomac fever. The insider culture, where access and relationships are paramount, creates pressure to conform and engage in political gamesmanship. Newcomers often feel compelled to adopt the norms and tactics prevalent in the capital to survive and thrive.

## **Stress and Ethical Dilemmas**

The intense environment can produce psychological stress and ethical challenges. The constant scrutiny, partisan battles, and high stakes may lead to moral compromises or disillusionment. Potomac fever can thus manifest as both enthusiasm and a detrimental obsession with power.

# **Impact of Potomac Fever on Political Careers**

Potomac fever in politics significantly influences the trajectory of political careers. This impact can be observed in both positive and negative outcomes for individuals navigating the federal political landscape.

## **Career Advancement and Visibility**

On the positive side, potomac fever can drive ambition that propels politicians to leadership roles and higher office. The desire to succeed encourages networking, strategic decision-making, and increased public presence, all of which are crucial for career growth.

## **Loss of Original Ideals**

Conversely, potomac fever may cause politicians to drift away from their initial values and commitments. The pursuit of power and acceptance within Washington's elite can lead to compromises and shifts in policy positions, often criticized by constituents and observers.

## **Political Burnout and Exit**

Intense pressure and the relentless pace of political life in the capital can result in burnout. Some politicians become disenchanted with the environment fostered by potomac fever and choose to leave politics altogether, citing frustration with the system.

## **Potomac Fever and Governance Challenges**

The broader effects of potomac fever in politics extend beyond individual careers to influence the functioning of government institutions and policymaking processes.

## **Partisanship and Polarization**

Potomac fever can exacerbate partisanship as politicians compete for influence and control, often prioritizing party loyalty over bipartisan cooperation. This dynamic contributes to legislative gridlock and public dissatisfaction with government performance.

# **Short-Termism and Image Management**

The focus on visibility and career advancement encourages short-term policy thinking and image management rather than long-term problem-solving. Politicians may prioritize popular or symbolic measures to maintain support rather than addressing complex, systemic issues.

## **Lobbying and Special Interests**

Washington's environment, energized by potomac fever, often amplifies the role of lobbying and special interest groups. Politicians seeking campaign support and influence may become susceptible to external pressures, complicating transparent and accountable governance.

## **Contemporary Examples and Case Studies**

Modern political history provides numerous examples that illustrate the manifestations and consequences of potomac fever in politics today. These cases highlight how ambition, power struggles, and the Washington environment intersect.

## **Freshman Members of Congress**

Newly elected representatives frequently experience potomac fever as they adjust to the norms and expectations of Capitol Hill. The excitement of new power and responsibility can sometimes lead to rapid shifts in behavior or political stance, reflecting the pressure to fit in and succeed.

## **High-Profile Political Figures**

Several prominent politicians have publicly acknowledged or been criticized for exhibiting symptoms of potomac fever. Their careers often demonstrate the tension between personal ambition and public service, with some achieving great power and others facing scandals or ethical questions.

## **Institutional Responses**

In response to challenges posed by potomac fever, some institutions and organizations have implemented ethics reforms, transparency measures, and mentorship programs

aimed at mitigating negative effects. These efforts seek to preserve integrity while recognizing the competitive nature of politics in Washington.

- Origins and Historical Context
- Psychological Motivations
- Career Impacts
- Governance Effects
- Modern Examples

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Potomac Fever in politics?**

Potomac Fever is a term used to describe the intense ambition and desire for political power that affects politicians, particularly those in Washington, D.C., near the Potomac River.

### **Where did the term Potomac Fever originate?**

The term originated as a metaphorical phrase referring to politicians in Washington, D.C., becoming obsessed with power and political advancement, likened to a feverish infection.

### **Why is Potomac Fever significant in political discussions?**

Potomac Fever highlights the often cutthroat nature of political life in the U.S. capital, emphasizing how personal ambition can drive political behavior and decision-making.

### **How does Potomac Fever affect political decision-making?**

Potomac Fever can lead politicians to prioritize personal gain, power, or re-election over public interest, sometimes resulting in unethical or short-term decisions.

### **Is Potomac Fever unique to Washington, D.C.?**

While the term is specific to Washington, D.C., the concept of excessive political ambition is common in many political systems worldwide.

## **Can Potomac Fever impact bipartisan cooperation?**

Yes, Potomac Fever can exacerbate partisanship and reduce willingness to collaborate across party lines, as politicians focus on power struggles rather than policy solutions.

## **Are there historical examples of Potomac Fever influencing politics?**

Historical political scandals and power struggles in Washington, D.C., such as those involving Watergate or partisan conflicts, have been cited as examples influenced by Potomac Fever.

## **How do politicians cope with Potomac Fever?**

Some politicians maintain focus on public service and ethics to counteract Potomac Fever, while others may succumb to its pressures and engage in competitive or self-serving behavior.

## **Is Potomac Fever discussed in political science?**

Yes, political scientists use the concept of Potomac Fever to analyze political ambition, power dynamics, and behavior within the U.S. political system.

## **Can awareness of Potomac Fever improve political culture?**

Awareness can encourage politicians and citizens to prioritize integrity and public interest, potentially mitigating the negative effects of Potomac Fever on governance.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. Potomac Fever: The Anatomy of Washington Scandals*

This book delves into the recurring scandals that have plagued Washington, D.C., often referred to as "Potomac Fever." It examines the causes, key players, and consequences of political corruption and ethical lapses in the U.S. capital. Through detailed case studies, readers gain insight into how ambition and power struggles shape the political landscape.

### *2. The Politics of Potomac Fever: Power, Paranoia, and Policy*

Exploring how the intense political environment of Washington fosters paranoia and power plays, this book analyzes the psychological and sociological effects of "Potomac Fever" on lawmakers and officials. It highlights how fear and ambition influence policy-making and political alliances, often leading to unpredictable outcomes.

### *3. Potomac Fever: A History of Political Ambition in the Nation's Capital*

This historical account traces the origins and evolution of "Potomac Fever" from the early days of the American republic to the present. It provides a comprehensive overview of how the desire for influence and control has driven political behavior in Washington. The book also discusses the impact of this ambition on governance and public trust.

#### 4. *Inside the Beltway: Surviving Potomac Fever*

A practical guide for political operatives and government employees, this book offers strategies for navigating the intense and often toxic atmosphere of Washington politics. It addresses the challenges posed by "Potomac Fever," including backstabbing, misinformation, and ethical dilemmas. Readers learn how to maintain integrity and effectiveness in a high-pressure environment.

#### 5. *Potomac Fever and the Media: Reporting Politics in a Fevered Capital*

Focusing on the role of the media, this book examines how journalists cover the sensational and sometimes chaotic world of Washington politics. It analyzes the interplay between political actors and the press in a city gripped by "Potomac Fever," discussing the challenges of accurate reporting and the influence of media narratives on public perception.

#### 6. *The Cult of Potomac Fever: How Washington's Culture Shapes Politics*

This book explores the unique cultural aspects of Washington, D.C., that contribute to the phenomenon of "Potomac Fever." It investigates the social norms, rituals, and networks that perpetuate a climate of competition and ambition among politicians and lobbyists. The author argues that understanding this culture is key to comprehending modern American politics.

#### 7. *Potomac Fever: Scandals, Spin, and Survival in Washington*

Detailing some of the most notorious political scandals in the capital, this book reveals the tactics used by politicians to manage crises and maintain power. It covers the use of spin, media manipulation, and strategic alliances in the face of controversy. The narrative underscores the pervasive nature of "Potomac Fever" in shaping political careers.

#### 8. *Breaking the Fever: Reforming Potomac Politics*

This book offers a critical look at efforts to reform the political system in Washington to reduce corruption and promote transparency. It evaluates past and present initiatives aimed at curbing the excesses of "Potomac Fever" and improving governance. The author discusses the obstacles to reform and proposes practical solutions for a healthier political environment.

#### 9. *The Fever Pitch: Potomac Politics and the Quest for Power*

An analytical exploration of the intense competition for influence in Washington, this book discusses how "Potomac Fever" drives politicians to extreme measures. It examines the consequences of this relentless pursuit of power for policy-making, bipartisanship, and democratic processes. The book provides a sobering look at the costs of political ambition in the nation's capital.

## **Potomac Fever In Politics**

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**potomac fever in politics: Potomac Fever** John William Middendorf, 2011 After a highly successful career in investment banking with his own firm and a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, J. William Middendorf became restive and looked for new challenges. Having ?learned how to make money, he writes in this memoir, he ?wanted to learn how to make a difference. Thus he became actively involved in politics, first at the local level in Connecticut and then with the presidential campaign of Senator Barry Goldwater in 1964 and as treasurer of the Republican National Committee. There followed a series of challenging public service appointments: ambassador to the.

**potomac fever in politics: The Oxford Dictionary of American Political Slang** Grant Barrett, 2006-06-08 Here is a wonderful Baedeker to down-and-dirty politics--more than six hundred slang terms straight from the smoke-filled rooms of American political speech. Hatchet Jobs and Hardball: The Oxford Dictionary of American Political Slang illuminates a rich and colorful segment of our language. Readers will find informative entries on slang terms such as Beltway bandit and boondoggle, angry white male and leg treasurer, juice bill and Joe Citizen, banana superpower and the Big Fix. We find not only the meaning and history of familiar terms such as gerrymander, but also of lesser-known terms such as cracking (splitting a bloc of like-minded voters by redistricting) and fair-fight district (which refers to areas redistricted to favor no political party). Each entry includes the definition of the word, its historical background, and illuminating citations, some going back more than 200 years. (We learn, for instance, that a term as seemingly current as political football actually dates back to before the Civil War.) Selected entries will have extended encyclopedic notes. The book also features sidebar essays on topics such as political words in Blogistan; a short history of big cheese; all about chads and the 2000 election; the suffix -gate and all the related Watergate terms; and the naming of legislation. Political junkies, policy wonks, journalists, and word lovers will find this book addictive reading as well as a reliable guide to one of the more colorful corners of American English.

**potomac fever in politics: Potomac Fever** J. Middendorf, 2011-07-15 A dozen years out of Harvard, investment banker Bill Middendorf's salary hit \$250,000 a year; another dozen years, with his own firm and a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, his income was well into seven figures. But he was restive. "I had learned how to make money," he writes. "I wanted to learn how to make a difference." Thus, he became actively involved in politics, first at the local level and then with the presidential campaign of Senator Barry Goldwater (1964) and as treasurer of the Republican National Committee (1964-1968). There followed a series of challenging public service appointments: ambassador to The Netherlands, under secretary and secretary of the Navy, ambassador to the Organization of American States and ambassador to the European Community. Middendorf is a story-teller, and has many tales to share ---from his World War II Navy service, to his first job wearing a string of pearls in a bank vault, on to a failed effort to bring a U.S.-style constitution to post-Soviet Russia. Tales of villains and heroes, tales of narrow legislative victories on vital programs, tales of behind-the-scenes efforts to forestall war in the Falklands and to counter growing Communist control of the island of Grenada.

**potomac fever in politics: Power and Politics in California** Ken Debow, John Syer, 2015-12-22 Now in its ninth edition, Power and Politics in California continues its tradition of asking Californians to take a hard and systematic look at their state governance, and engage themselves in a critical analysis of what is working, what is not, and what changes need to be made for the state to meet the increasingly formidable challenges it faces. The era of Arnold is now in its mid-stages, and the rise of this very different political personality has had significant impacts on the state. This ninth edition provides analysis of Governor Schwarzenegger in context and looks forward to how California's fiscal condition, educational system, and response to diversity will play a vital role in shaping the state's politics in the future.

**potomac fever in politics: Safire's Political Dictionary** William Safire, 2008 Featuring more than one thousand new, rewritten, and updated entries, this reference on American politics explains



current terms in politics, economics, and diplomacy.

**potomac fever in politics: Political Ambition** Linda L. Fowler, Robert D. McClure, 1989-01-01 How do politicians decide whether or not to run for Congress? What is involved in the winnowing process that dictates, months before the election, the choices available to voters on the ballot? Using extensive interviews and analyses of district data and opinion polls, Linda Fowler and Robert McClure argue that House elections are intelligible only if we look beyond that declared candidates to those who could have run but chose not to. Their book, set in New York's can Congressional District during the elections of 1984 and 1986, assesses the personal and contextual factors that motivate some individuals to enter a House race and induce others to remain on the sidelines. By uncovering the hidden obstacles that line the road to Washington, Fowler and McClure reveal why only the most ambitious men and women complete the journey. Fowler and McClure contend that the cost and complexity of competitive House races now demand a level of commitment and advance planning that only those with a highly focused desire to serve in Congress can sustain. Despite the increased presence of national parties and PACs in congressional races, they say, it is the local political context that dominates the decision to run. Within this setting, individual candidates, not party organizations develop the strategies, manage the resources, and define the alternatives in most House races. Fowler and McClure discuss how changes in American politics such as reapportionment, the redistribution of power away from Washington, and the transformation of parties and interest groups affect the nation's supply of competitive office-seekers. And they devote special attention to the recruitment of female legislators, offering insight into the continued failure of women to make significant inroads into the House of Representatives.

**potomac fever in politics: Power Politics** Darrell M. West, 2022-08-09 Curing the causes and consequences of Trumpism It's no secret that the United States faces extraordinary political and societal challenges, even as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Political polarization and extremism are the most apparent symptoms, resulting from long-term economic and social inequities as well as a toxic information ecosystem. It is easy to blame Donald Trump for the sad state of American democracy. After all, he abused his executive authority, spread false claims, and even incited violence. But Trumpism is almost certain to outlast Trump himself. The grievances he exploited and the aggrieved to whom he appealed existed well before he became president and likely will endure after he is gone from the political scene. The current political atmosphere is poisonous for those who operate on the basis of facts, reason, and logic. It is time to step back from this dangerous precipice and reflect on the causes of the serious threats to American democracy, procedural justice, and a reason-based society. With polarization now entrenched and authoritarianism gaining strength, no one should assume that facts somehow will triumph over falsehoods and reason will prevail over emotion. Drawing on his personal experiences in the D.C. policy world, Darrell West offers advice for protecting people, organizations, and the country as a whole from our contemporary challenges. This book makes the risks to democracy understandable by explaining specific threats and offering concrete ideas for ameliorating them. It will appeal to anyone interested in American politics, democracy, elections, mass media, technology, and governance.

**potomac fever in politics: Spymaster** Gordon Stewart, 2024-10-07 Germany was the epicenter of the Cold War. Across the Iron Curtain, hundreds of thousands of soldiers faced each other, and if World War III were to break out, contemporaries feared, surely it would happen here. The country's frontline status made it an El Dorado for spies, who gathered information on military targets, penetrated political parties, and trained partisans for stay-behind operations. For the Americans, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) came to take the lead in this silent - and sometimes not so silent - contest. In the heyday of the Cold War, the agency's German station employed nearly two thousand officers - in addition to countless spies and informants. Ultimately, this covert empire reported to the CIA station chief in West Germany and his deputy. And for many years, either of those positions was held by Gordon Matthews Stewart. Gordon Stewart was well prepared for this assignment. He studied German history and literature during the 1930s and lived in Munich and Hamburg as a

visiting student. Here, he personally witnessed the Nazi takeover, even catching a glimpse of Adolf Hitler at one of his notorious rallies. When the United States entered the war in 1941, the newly established Office of Strategic Services (OSS) recruited him as a specialist on German affairs. In the summer of 1945, he arrived in Germany with an OSS detachment. Eventually, the OSS morphed into the CIA, and Gordon Stewart would run the agency's espionage organization in Germany for some twenty years. From CIA headquarters in Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, Frankfurt, and eventually, Bonn, Mr. Stewart directed all intelligence operations in central Europe. Initially, he hunted down Nazi war criminals, but the Cold War compelled him to bend his efforts toward the Soviet bloc. During the 1950s, Mr. Stewart directed espionage operations against East Germany, organized the training of Ukrainian partisans at U.S. bases in Bavaria, and participated in a scheme to dig a tunnel into East Berlin to eavesdrop on Soviet and East German communications. He also recruited and handled sources inside the West German government, including the chief of the Bundesnachrichtendienst, Reinhard Gehlen; the highest-ranking West German military officer, General Adolf Heusinger; and top policy-makers of the Christian and social democratic parties. Mr. Stewart's memoirs, introduced by renowned intelligence scholar Thomas Boghardt, offer not only a fascinating look inside the CIA's largest overseas station; they also tell the story of a deeply conscientious and highly accomplished intelligence officer, whose experience, intellect, and moral compass shaped American policy toward Germany and Europe during the turbulent years of the early Cold War.

**potomac fever in politics: Economic Policy Beyond the Headlines** George P. Shultz, Kenneth W. Dam, 1998-06-20 Drawing on their experience as government insiders, the authors of this book show how economic policy is shaped at the highest levels of government. They reveal the interconnections between economic, social and international policy, covering such issues as the advocacy system.

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**potomac fever in politics: Annual Review of Nursing Research, Volume 37**, 2018-12-28 One of the most challenging aspects of the current healthcare system, especially for nurses, is cultural diversity across a variety of societies. Nurses, caregivers, and other practitioners must be equipped and aware of their patients' cultural background in order to respond appropriately and sensitively while providing the proper care. Clearly the techniques and beliefs within cultures is highly diverse, requiring those providing care to possess knowledge that allows them to combine global and cultural practices into their day-to-day occupation. This consist of not only learning cultural differences and similarities, but examining nursing throughout other parts of the world, and the health problems being faced in different geographical settings. This volume is intended to provide nurses, physicians, specialists, and providers with the information needed to provide capable care and treatment to individuals of diverse cultures. Each chapter author was selected for their interest and knowledge of transcultural and social research. The content of this volume provides a look at classic contributions to the field, up-to-date research, and evaluates the impact of diverse cultures on issues that may affect nursing and health care, such as: Key Topics: Leininger's Culture Care Diversity and Universality The Current State of Transcultural Nursing Transcultural Mental Health Nursing Culture and Consent in Clinical Care Obesity Among African Immigrant Populations Cultural Factors Influencing Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors

**potomac fever in politics: A Political Dynasty in North Idaho, 1933-1967** Randall Doyle,

2004-09-20 This is the story of the White family, who moved to Idaho at the time of statehood and served northern Idaho from the dark days of the Great Depression to the tense years of the Vietnam War in the United States Congress. The book includes a foreword by Howard Zinn.

**potomac fever in politics:** Political Brands Ciara Torres-Spelliscy, 2019 From 'I Like Ike' to Trump's MAGA hats, branding and politics have gone hand in hand, selling ideas, ideals and candidates. Political Brands explores the legal framework for the use of commercial branding and advertising techniques in presidential political campaigns, as well as the impact of politics on commercial brands. This thought provoking book examines how branding is used by citizens to change public policy, from Civil Rights activists in the 1960s to survivors of the 2018 Parkland massacre.

**potomac fever in politics:** *America's Political Dynasties* Stephen Hess, 2017-07-05 This is the 30th anniversary edition of a book that was hailed on publication in 1966 as fascinating by Margaret L. Coit in the Saturday Review and as masterly by Henry F. Graff in the New York Times Book Review. The Constitution could not be more specific: No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States. Yet, in over two centuries since these words were written, the American people, despite official disapproval, have chosen a political nobility. For generation after generation they have turned for leadership to certain families. They are America's political dynasties. Now, in the twentieth century, surprisingly, American political life seems to be largely peopled by those who qualify, in Stewart Alsop's phrase, as People's Dukes. They are all around us? Kennedys, Longs, Tafts, Roosevelts. Here is the panorama of America's political dynasties from colonial days to the present in fascinating profiles of sixteen of the leading families. Some, like the Roosevelts, have shown remarkable staying power. Others are all but forgotten, such as the Washburns, a family in which four sons of a bankrupt shopkeeper were elected to Congress from four different states. America's Political Dynasties investigates the roles of these families in shaping the nation and traces the whole pattern of political inheritance, which has been a little considered but unique and significant feature of American government and diplomacy. And in doing so, it also illuminates the lives and personalities of some two hundred often engaging, usually ambitious, sometimes brilliant, occasionally unscrupulous individuals.

**potomac fever in politics:** *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Parties and Interest Groups* L. Sandy Maisel, Jeffrey M. Berry, 2012-01-12 The Oxford Handbooks of American Politics are the essential guide to the study of American political life in the 21st Century. With engaging new contributions from the major figures in the field of political parties and interest groups this Handbook is a key point of reference for anyone working in American Politics today.

**potomac fever in politics:** The First American Political Conventions Stan M. Haynes, 2014-01-10 For almost two centuries, Americans have relied upon political conventions to provide the nation with new leadership. The modern convention, a four-day, carefully choreographed, prime-time television event designed to portray the party and its candidate in the most favorable light, continues many of the traditions and rules developed during the first conventions in the mid-19th century. This study analyzes the birth of the convention process in the 1830s and follows its development over 40 years, chronicling each of the presidential elections between 1832 and 1872, the leading candidates, and an analysis of the key issues, and memorable speeches and events on the convention floor. Other topics include back-room deal making, dark horse candidacies, meeting halls, parades, rallies, and other accompanying hoopla. This volume reveals the origins of a quintessentially American spectacle and sheds new light on an understudied aspect of the nation's political past.

**potomac fever in politics:** *Indian Fighters Turned American Politicians* Thomas G. Mitchell, 2003-10-30 The words Indian fighter recall Custer. Indian fighter politician brings to mind Andrew Jackson or William Henry Harrison. Yet politicians who rose to prominence by exploiting their participation in bloody campaigns against Native America were much more common than most Americans realize. This book will bring to light important facts and highlight controversial issues regarding well-known figures from American history and folklore, while situating the questionable

actions of these politicians within their historical and political times. While most people know that Davy Crockett went to Congress and died at the Alamo, few realize that his only previous combat experience was in one conflict during the Creek War, which was more massacre than battle. Daniel Boone was a hunter and frontiersman who waged war against the Indians, but he was also a state legislator. Both Abe Lincoln and Jeff Davis were involved in pre-Civil War battles against Native Americans. How and why did the era of the Indian fighter turned politician begin? Which party was the party of the Indian fighters? Why did the era end just before the Civil War? Mitchell explores this American political phenomenon and reveals how it influenced politics in other nations around the world.

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**potomac fever in politics: Faith in Politics** Roy Herron, 2023-08-18 Roy Herron graduated with highest honors from the University of Tennessee at Martin, then studied New Testament and Ethics in Scotland before earning Divinity and Law degrees from Vanderbilt University. But he came home to West Tennessee and served the Volunteer State in both the Tennessee House and Senate. For four decades, Herron served as a legislator, attorney, teacher, and Methodist minister. In that work, he published op-ed essays and articles in Tennessee's leading newspapers and publications from The Japan Times to The Wall Street Journal on various topics including constitutional liberties, economic justice, health care, politics, and more. This informative volume collects the most powerful of these writings, adding helpful updates and contemporary insights. With an engaging, conversational style, Herron addresses voter ID laws, drunk-driving statutes, women's rights and many recurring, contemporary issues. Whether describing the challenges facing his elderly mother as she attempted to exercise her right to vote, or the struggles of working women and men facing illnesses without health insurance, Herron demonstrates an earnestness and thoughtfulness all too rare in politics. These nearly fifty essays and articles provide evidence that Herron's Democratic Party and Christianity are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, Herron describes how faith brought him to politics and to fighting for justice, jobs, and constitutional freedoms for all citizens. Faith at Work is a veritable guidebook on how faith and spirituality should affect decision making and advocacy in public life. ROY HERRON was a Tennessee State Representative from 1987 to 1997 and State Senator from 1997 to 2013. He wrote Things Held Dear: Soul Stories for My Sons and God and Politics: How Can a Christian Be in Politics? He coauthored, with Cotton Ivy, Tennessee Political Humor: Some of These Jokes You Voted For. He lawyers and writes in West Tennessee and Nashville.

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