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# Harry S Truman : The Economics of a Populist President

By E Ray Canterbury



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**Harry S Truman : The Economics of a Populist President** By E Ray Canterbury

Harry S Truman is best remembered as the President who witnessed the swift arrival of the Cold War in the tumultuous years after World War Two. Little however has been written to show that he was also the populist President who set the political economic course for the United States to win it merely 40 years later.

In this timely biography, E Ray Canterbury captures the spirit of the man, who first and foremost, was a politician who crafted political programs such as the Fair Deal program, full-employment program, New Deal program, reconversion, stabilization, and agriculture programs through the lens of progressiveness. He focuses on Truman's populist economics by charting Truman's early years, the makings of his populist character, his beginnings in Washington, Communism and the Truman Doctrine, the campaign of 1948, the Marshall Plan, the firing of General MacArthur, and the Korean War. While the economic aspects of his term were fundamentally that of war and peace, Canterbury analyses in great depth Truman's economic policies and instruments, such as the Employment Act of 1946 and the President's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) — results of Truman's presidency that other authors of books on Truman have largely ignored.

*Harry S Truman: The Economics of a Populist President* shows how Truman should be remembered: As a progressive politician who populist policies rank him among the near great Presidents in the tradition of William Jennings Bryan, Theodore Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson.

Readership: Economic historians, researchers, students and members of the public who are interested in American history and the early origins of the Cold War.



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### Editorial Review

#### From the Inside Flap

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#### About the Author

**Ray Canterbury** is the author of many acclaimed books and articles, including, most recently, *The Rise and Fall of Global Austerity*, the path-breaking *The Global Great Recession*, the tour de force *Wall Street Capitalism*, a biography of Alan Greenspan, co-author of the biography *F Scott Fitzgerald: Under the Influence*, and the satirical novel, *Black Box, Inc.* He is the author of the classic *The Making of Economics*, 4th edition and the best-selling *A Brief History of Economics*, 2d edition. Many of his books are now available in several languages. Here he returns to an earlier interest, namely that of Harry S Truman -- having once served as a Truman Scholar and as an informal adviser to presidential candidates. Canterbury also was President of the Eastern Economics Association in 1986-1987 and of the International Trade and Finance Association in 1997-1998. The American Biographical Institute includes Canterbury in its *Great Minds of the 21st Century* (2002) and *American Biography*. Among current projects is a novel with the working title of *Scott: a novel of F. Scott Fitzgerald's Life*.

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