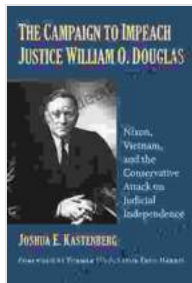


The Campaign To Impeach Justice William Douglas



Justice William O. Douglas was a controversial figure during his time on the Supreme Court. He was known for his liberal views and his outspoken criticism of the government. In 1970, he was impeached by the House of

Representatives for allegedly lying under oath about his involvement in a financial scandal. The Senate ultimately voted not to convict Douglas, but the impeachment process remains a significant event in American history.



The Campaign to Impeach Justice William O. Douglas: Nixon, Vietnam, and the Conservative Attack on Judicial Independence by Lay Hwee Yeo

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Print length : 336 pages



Douglas's Early Life and Career

William Orville Douglas was born on October 16, 1898, in Maine. He graduated from Columbia Law School in 1925 and served as a law clerk for Justice Louis Brandeis. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Douglas to the Supreme Court. Douglas was the youngest justice to be appointed to the Court in the 20th century.

Douglas's Judicial Philosophy

Douglas was a liberal justice who believed in the importance of individual rights and freedoms. He was a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the right to privacy. Douglas also believed that the government should play a role in protecting the environment and promoting social justice.

The Financial Scandal

In 1969, Douglas was accused of lying under oath about his involvement in a financial scandal. The allegations stemmed from a loan that Douglas had received from a friend. Douglas denied that he had lied, but the House of Representatives voted to impeach him.

The Impeachment Trial

The Senate trial began in January 1970. Douglas was represented by a team of lawyers led by Edward Bennett Williams. The prosecution presented evidence that Douglas had lied about the loan, but Douglas denied the charges.

The Senate Vote

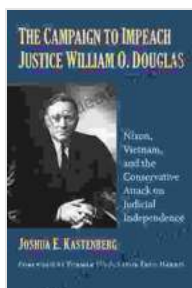
On May 11, 1970, the Senate voted 52-48 not to convict Douglas. The vote was largely along party lines, with most Democrats voting to acquit and most Republicans voting to convict.

The Legacy of the Impeachment

The impeachment of Justice William Douglas remains a controversial event in American history. Some people believe that Douglas should have been removed from office, while others believe that the impeachment was politically motivated.

The impeachment of Douglas did not have a significant impact on the Court's jurisprudence. However, it did highlight the importance of judicial independence. The Court needs to be able to make decisions without fear of political reprisal.

The impeachment of Justice William Douglas was a significant event in American history. It raised important questions about the role of the judiciary and the importance of judicial independence. The Senate's vote not to convict Douglas was a victory for the principle of judicial independence.



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