

Chapter 1 : New York in the s

An Ungovernable City." Lindsay, like Obama today, thought he could just wave a magic wand of Liberal policies and money giveaways, and all would be changed. It only made things worse.

Ever has it been, save for a unique time in New York City from to when a tall, handsome, patrician man -- a liberal Republican of all things -- succeeded in governing a different way. He left the mayoralty exhausted, his political fortunes in ruin. He aged without the benefit of any commemoration or recognition of merit. In the end he could not afford to live in the city over which he once reigned glamorous and intellectually challenging, and moved to South Carolina where he died a mostly forgotten man. But today we remember John Vliet Lindsay for the unique, almost odd, position he held in American politics, and the meritorious way he chose to look into the eyes of those he governed, rather than down on them. The information gathered for this essay comes from a fantastic book by Vincent J. Cannato. Lindsay felt the people of New York, minorities in particular, had a reasonable gripe where the issue of police violence was concerned. In response, he proposed a Civilian Complaint Review Board to weigh their protests, but it lost in a ballot referendum. And so the police remained accountable to essentially no one but themselves. They were uncommonly difficult years to be at loggerheads with the police. Years when people hit the streets and demonstrated over long-festered grievances. American cities burned with the rage of American blacks and they, in turn, suffered death and injury by violent state reaction. In New York, Lindsay sought to limit the damage, to prevent the kind of riots that signaled the permanent downturn of cities such as Detroit. When Martin Luther King was assassinated, Harlem went bonkers and the mayor decided upon wading into the maelstrom. And the poor he spoke to who are so much more real than the rest of us, understood the truth of John Lindsay. And there was no riot in New York. It gave information on free food, clothes, money, rent, movies as well as on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases. He organized a huge game of capture-the-flag for children on the Lower East Side a mound of dirt brought into Tompkins Square Park to fill in tree pits had become a favorite play site for local children. When filling began and the mound shrunk, the community protested. This is called yielding to the wishes of those governed and engaging them with a flexible mindset. But the new access, Cannato continues, "created conflicts over the vision of the park, however. It also caused political strain as the park became a center for antiwar protests and countercultural activity such as love-ins, drug taking, loud music, and other uncivil behavior. Though a patrician Republican, Hoving was sympathetic to the counterculture. And of course, as Cannato discusses in great detail, New York City was falling apart. But the neighborhoods that came undone were well beyond the purview of any mayor to reverse at a time when international capital was on the move and the flow and more difficult to corral than a stream of demonstrators flowing down Broadway. That vital center has been pursued by American politicians for decades now. It would seem that, rather than a bad actor come late to the stage with outdated ideas, the liberal mayor was simultaneously behind and ahead of his times. As such, John V. It took me over a month to get through it, but I liked it better the further I went. Lindsay was a strange mayor for New York, a white Protestant liberal Republican a dying breed even back then from a well-off but not super-rich family, tall and athletic, a Yale graduate with "movie star good looks", he was an advocate for the Black and Puerto Rican residents of Harlem, Bed-Stuy and Brownsville, but had a troubled relationship with the Jews, Irish and Italians of the outer boroughs. Basically he was idealistic, not as pragmatic as he needed to be, and things went pretty badly for him and New York. Well-written, well-researched, informative, and sad. A reader needs to have a strong desire to learn about New York under John Lindsay to work your way through this book. What attracted me to it was that it covers the period of time when I came of age. I can vividly remember the history of those 8 years. For the most part for the next eight years it was down hill from there. The city continued Give it another half star. The city continued the long slide that began under Mayor Wagner and accelerated through the Lindsay years. Today the city, my home town, has recovered much of its luster, rising from the ashes of the World Trade Center. Maybe as just a visitor now I only see the city in its best light. Still it is nice to have it to return to and more importantly feel welcome there. You can go home again. This is the infuriating, predictable and then just plain heartbreaking

story of John V. Lindsay, who was elected mayor of a very large hole, and used all his charm, intellect and blinding liberal faith to keep digging, day and night, for eight years. Jun 14, Pete Sikora rated it really liked it Excellent writing Now to a side note: Paul Johnson did it in his History of the U. And Cannato does it here, weirdly insisting that Lindsay was just middle class, not the patrician money we all think he was On page 2 we g Excellent writing And Cannato does it here, weirdly insisting that Lindsay was just middle class, not the patrician money we all think he was On page 2 we get "In New York he was, in monetary terms, only middle class". Maybe he meant Park Avenue in Harlem or something. Finally, I do have a nagging sense he makes up a lot of shit. Anyway, a lively read and well-written. We watch as he moves from being one of a breed we scarcely know today â€” a liberal Republican with high ideals and ambitions for office at national level. It ends with New York swamped in crime and corruption and Lindsay, by now a Democrat, exhausted and politically ruined.

Chapter 2 : ungovernable | Definition of ungovernable in English by Oxford Dictionaries

The Ungovernable City has 96 ratings and 14 reviews. Stephen said: Vote people into power and they'll send police to beat you when there's a disagreement.

Paperback Verified Purchase I was born in NYC but at the age of five my family moved out to the Long Island suburbs along with many white ethnic families. Lindsay was the original limousine liberal. Who would want to live there I thought? After graduating from law school I moved back to NYC and have lived there ever since. Its a different time, less crime but also living there has given me a different perspective. I picked up this book because I wanted to know about more John Lindsay and about the city he governed. An understanding of the Lindsay administration is very timely now after the elections. The minority groups and liberal, urban whites who embraced Lindsay have overtaken the more conservative white, suburban population that has dominated American politics for the past forty years, my whole lifetime. The book has a number of problems. First, the author cannot seem to decide whether he is doing a biography of John Lindsay or the city of New York. For instance, the author devotes a chapter on the Columbia University student occupation and protests. But Lindsay had very little to do with that episode. Second, the author spends very little time on the Lindsay administration initiatives except for the ones that caused controversy, like local control of schools. It would be nice to have more detail about the Lindsay administration policies and context, instead of just a parade of bad news. The author could have interviewed some black parents involved in the Oceanville-Brownsville controversy or a ethnic white Queens resident who felt neglected by Lindsay during the snow removal. The benefit of such an approach is that would gain more voices and different ones. A nice example of this is J. In that book, I gain different perspectives on how public policy affected people. Here the author hits his stride and provides some insights on why Lindsay won. Unfortunately that incisiveness is absent in the rest of the book. Instead the book reinforces old prejudices and that is a wasted opportunity to gain some understanding.

Chapter 3 : theinnatdunvilla.com: Customer reviews: The Ungovernable City

The MIT Press is a leading publisher of books and journals at the intersection of science, technology, and the arts. MIT Press books and journals are known for their intellectual daring, scholarly standards, and distinctive design.

Wagner, snubbed Lindsay by leaving for a Mexican vacation instead of attending the inauguration. Yet the strike turned out to be more than the new administration could handle. Instead, he gave the TWU everything it asked for, including a 15 percent raise. For Cannato, a fellow at the neoconservative Hudson Institute, Lindsay personifies the beginning of the end of the liberalism America once knew. The title is intentionally ironic. A quarter-century ago, a book of the same name was written by the Yale political scientist Douglas Yates, and it became a minor classic in urban studies. As the demographic makeup of cities became ever more fragmented, the variety of services City Hall had to provide had simply become unmanageable. In placing the spotlight on the flawed ploys of stumbling liberals, he attempts to show that New York City--under the right kind of leadership--is governable after all. Evidently, the author would have us conclude that New York could have been spared a truly horrific period in its history had its leaders been guided by hard-nosed Giuliani-esque values and respect for the white middle class instead of so much mushy liberalism. Is it a legitimate comparison? Like Giuliani, Lindsay was a crusader and very good at making enemies of potential friends and allies. While the current mayor made pariahs of welfare recipients, homeless people, truants, and pot smokers, Lindsay was committed to a fault to fighting poverty, to making government more responsive to the demands of communities long excluded from power, and to the notion that urban problems could be solved through technocratic innovation. During the late s and early s, Lindsay championed civil liberties and helped lead congressional efforts to shut down the reactionary House Un-American Activities Committee. In he was a key strategist in the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Although his electoral base in the socially liberal and wealthy Manhattan district was secure, he was no more than a marginal player in the national Republican Party. While still in the capital, Lindsay stated his devotion to an ideal of leadership freed from the controlling hands of "antiindividual, antilibertarian forces that stem from every organized power group, whether that power group be the central government, the industrial-military complex, the big city machine or the local constabulary. But the victory also depended on the votes of white Republicans from the boroughs outside Manhattan, as well as middle-class Jews. Throughout his first term, as the mayor churned his staff and dived headfirst into racial politics, he seemed to forget entirely the basic political work of solidifying and expanding his electoral base. Instead, while reaching out to blacks and Puerto Ricans, he largely abandoned the constituency of middle-class white voters who had helped put him in office. Still, Lindsay had some early successes. He won state-legislative assent in implementing a more progressive revenue structure, including a city income tax. The Vietnam War and the antiwar movement, fast-rising crime rates, angry white cops, and increasingly harsh, racially charged vitriol in black as well as in white communities across the city came to dominate his first term. The worst of it arrived in with the Ocean Hill-Brownsville school-control battle and its aftermath. An ill-defined, Ford Foundation-funded experiment in community oversight of a handful of schools went badly awry after an activist board of residents of the Brownsville section of Brooklyn tried to transfer 13 white, unionized teachers out of the five schools under its control. Though Cannato acknowledges the prominent role of Jews and a white Catholic priest in the Brownsville community-control movement, he is especially keen to document the anti-Semitic epithets and low-level violence that became routine in some schools, as well as the racist wrath that punctuated the media statements of several black leaders. The anti-Semitic fringe of the black community came to the fore, further alienating middle-class, outer-borough Jews from Lindsay, whom some perceived as an ally of black leaders. Then, in February, an unpredicted snowstorm shut down the city and the administration was slow to plow the streets. It was a classic foul-up. The mayor and his city were stumbling from crisis to crisis. It seemed that the city had slipped out of control. Is Cannato right, though, in placing all the blame on racist blacks in Brownsville and Harlem, on the countercultural youths who flouted the authority of police, on the student radicals who held Columbia University hostage, and on liberals like Lindsay who tolerated the intolerant and failed to challenge extremism forcefully? This line has been championed for so

long by the neoconservative movement that it has become almost a kind of conventional wisdom. But, of course, it is an oversimplification. Cannato fails to offer a reasonable assessment of the social and economic forces that buffeted urban America at the time. Think about the way that city neighborhoods had changed. With the federal government guaranteeing cheap mortgages and building highways to the suburbs--even as banks and the Federal Housing Administration turned away from financing homes in urban areas--middle-class whites began to abandon whole swaths of the city. Between and , more than 1. Their homes often were rented to very poor migrants from the American South and Puerto Rico. Meanwhile, urban-renewal projects destroyed hundreds of city blocks, uprooting and destabilizing countless families. Rates of violent crime, which had nearly doubled under Mayor Wagner, continued to rise. The New York Police Department was operating with outdated systems and strategies. Lindsay desperately wanted reform, but the police department resisted. In fact, a quick check of NYPD data reveals that arrests kept pace with crime during the Lindsay administration. Even misdemeanor drug arrests increased more than 25 percent between and . By comparison, the author depicts blacks and Puerto Ricans almost exclusively as troublemakers, radicals, racists, or their patsies. He makes no significant attempt to describe life in their neighborhoods or to depict their political efforts as anything other than extremist. Is it any surprise that black and Latino neighborhood activism, so long suppressed, exploded with such vengeance in the post-civil-rights-movement s? This is the first Lindsay biography written since the man was in office, and Cannato tells stories that are well worth telling. Despite ideological blind spots, he does a decent job describing how the modern urban crisis exploded onto the national stage in the s. Lindsay was no hero; during his second administration, he began to turn into the kind of patronage-minded, machine-building politician he had earlier despised. This approach to history shifts blame for the urban disasters of the s and s away from American policies and culture that, in fact, did not represent liberalism at all. These were years when America was sending its poor and working-class youth to fight a losing war in Vietnam, when powerful incentives were in place that encouraged white abandonment of the cities, and when the nation had yet to provide much in the way of equal opportunity to blacks and Puerto Ricans. Perhaps New York City is governable today.

Chapter 4 : Summary/Reviews: The ungovernable city :

THE UNGOVERNABLE CITY. John Lindsay and His Struggle. to Save New York. By Vincent J. Cannato. Illustrated. pp. New York: Basic Books. \$ Ultimately, this is a sad book.

Chapter 5 : The Ungovernable City by Vincent J. Cannato

The Ungovernable City by Vincent Cannato Vincent Cannato takes us back to the time when John Lindsay stunned New York with his liberal Republican agenda, WASP sensibility, and movie-star good looks. With peerless authority, Cannato explores how Lindsay Liberalism failed to save New York, and, in the opinion of many, left it worse off than it.

Chapter 6 : Is Pakistan ungovernable? - Newspaper - theinnatdunvilla.com

Cannato begins The Ungovernable City with a discussion of Lindsay's ideological moorings. Given what Lindsay became (he ran for president as a Democrat a notch to the left of George McGovern) he may have seemed like the most unlikely Republican to have lived in the last half-century.

Chapter 7 : London: planning the ungovernable city - LSE Research Online

The Ungovernable City | The MIT Press The MIT Press is a leading publisher of books and journals at the intersection of science, technology, and the arts. MIT Press books and journals are known for their intellectual daring, scholarly standards, and distinctive design.

Chapter 8 : Ungovernable City John Lindsey, Jul 10 | Video | theinnatdunvilla.com

THE UNGOVERNABLE CITY: John Lindsay and His Struggle to Save New York User Review - Kirkus. Former New York mayor John Lindsay (who died last year), the son of a long-established but not particularly well-off New York family, cut an unusual figure in the rough-and-tumble world of New York.

Chapter 9 : Governance and ungovernable states

The ungovernable city. Megan McArdle. Oct 11, That is slightly better than New York City's rate () under Mayor David Dinkins in , when the Big Apple suffered 2, homicides.