

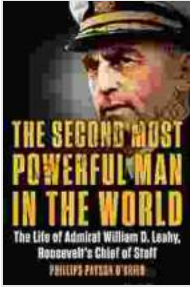
The Second Most Powerful Man in the World: A Tale of Influence and Secrecy

Unveiling the Enigma

In the annals of history, there are figures who exert immense power without ever holding an official position. Such was the enigmatic figure of George B. Cortelyou, a man who wielded unparalleled influence as the "second most powerful man in the world" during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt.



**The Second Most Powerful Man in the World: The Life
of Admiral William D. Leahy, Roosevelt's Chief of Staff**



by Phillips Payson O'Brien

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 31377 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 541 pages



Cortelyou's journey to prominence began in a humble rural town. Born into a Quaker family, he rose through the ranks of the postal service, eventually becoming its youngest postmaster general at age 35. It was during his tenure that Cortelyou's true talents were recognized by President Roosevelt.

Impressed by Cortelyou's efficiency and discretion, Roosevelt appointed him as his secretary, a position that gave him unprecedented access to the inner workings of the White House. Over time, Cortelyou's influence grew exponentially, extending beyond his official duties.

The Power in the Shadows

Behind the scenes, Cortelyou became Roosevelt's most trusted advisor, overseeing every aspect of the president's life and policy. He controlled access to the president, managed his schedule, and acted as a gatekeeper for all matters that reached Roosevelt's desk.

Cortelyou's influence extended far beyond the White House. He played a pivotal role in shaping Roosevelt's policies, from the establishment of the Panama Canal to the regulation of trusts. His ability to synthesize information, provide strategic counsel, and ensure smooth execution made him indispensable.

In a time when communication was limited, Cortelyou's control over information was a source of immense power. He orchestrated the flow of information reaching Roosevelt, effectively influencing the president's decisions without leaving a trace of his own involvement.

The Silent Partner

Despite his profound influence, Cortelyou remained a shadowy figure, rarely seeking publicity or recognition. He preferred to operate in the background, content to play the role of the unseen power broker.

This enigmatic nature added to Cortelyou's allure and mystique. He became known for his discretion, his unyielding loyalty to Roosevelt, and his ability to get things done without fanfare or controversy.

Cortelyou's influence extended beyond the Roosevelt presidency. He continued to hold significant positions in subsequent administrations, including serving as secretary of the treasury and commerce under President Taft.

A Legacy of Influence

George B. Cortelyou's impact on American history cannot be overstated. As the "second most powerful man in the world," he played a crucial role in shaping the policies and the course of the nation.

His legacy is one of influence and secrecy, a testament to the power that can be wielded by those who operate in the shadows. Cortelyou's life and career serve as a reminder that often, the most important figures in history are not those who hold the most visible positions but those who use their wisdom and discretion behind the scenes.

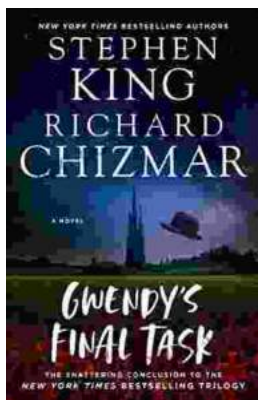


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