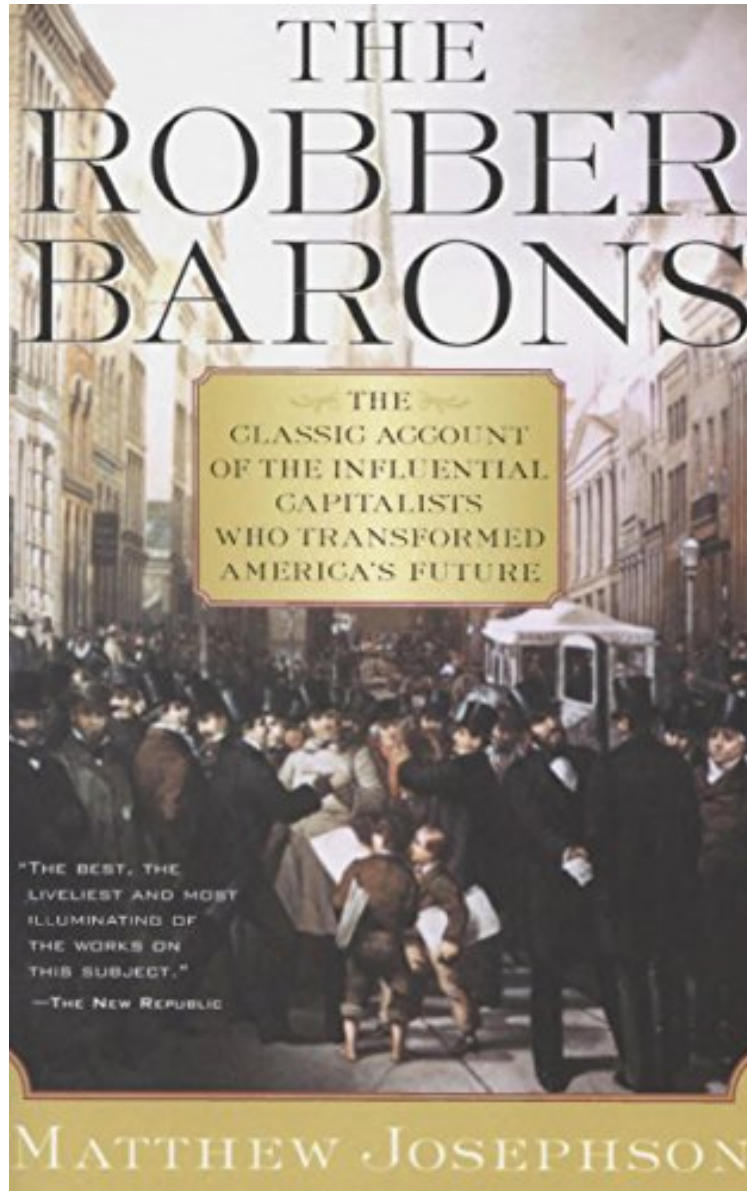


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The Robber Barons (Harvest Book)

Matthew Josephson

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Matthew Josephson : The Robber Barons (Harvest Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Robber Barons (Harvest Book):

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helpful. The classic book on the subject By Bob Heddle This book was first written in 1934 and remains the definite description of the Robber Barons. The author describes the Barons in the context of the political, social, and industrial trends of the time. It describes how they were shaped by the industries they were in, and by the competitive forces set in motion by each other. It is very well written, well researched, and the stories are simply fascinating. This book has a certain bias against the Barons and the laissez-faire system that created them, but it is not overwhelming. Keep in mind that it was written in the depths of the Great Depression, when many people questioned their faith in the free market system. While the author describes their many great accomplishments, he also spends plenty of time on their weaknesses and excesses, especially in the latter chapters. But remember, even the most admirable Barons also bribed politicians, abused their workers, and cheated ordinary investors by manipulating their own stock. Many of their actions would be illegal today. This book contains a lot of detail (though if you are like me, you will soon be wanting more). It is not a light book for a lazy Sunday afternoon. But if you are really interested, this is the place to start.

Rockefeller, Morgan, Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Harriman, Gould, Frick ... this is the story of the giant American capitalists who seized economic power after the Civil War and altered the shape of American life forever.

About the Author Matthew Josephson (1899-1978) received a Guggenheim fellowship and was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters. He is the author of, among other books, Al Smith: Hero of the Cities, winner of the Van Wyck Brooks prize for biography and history.