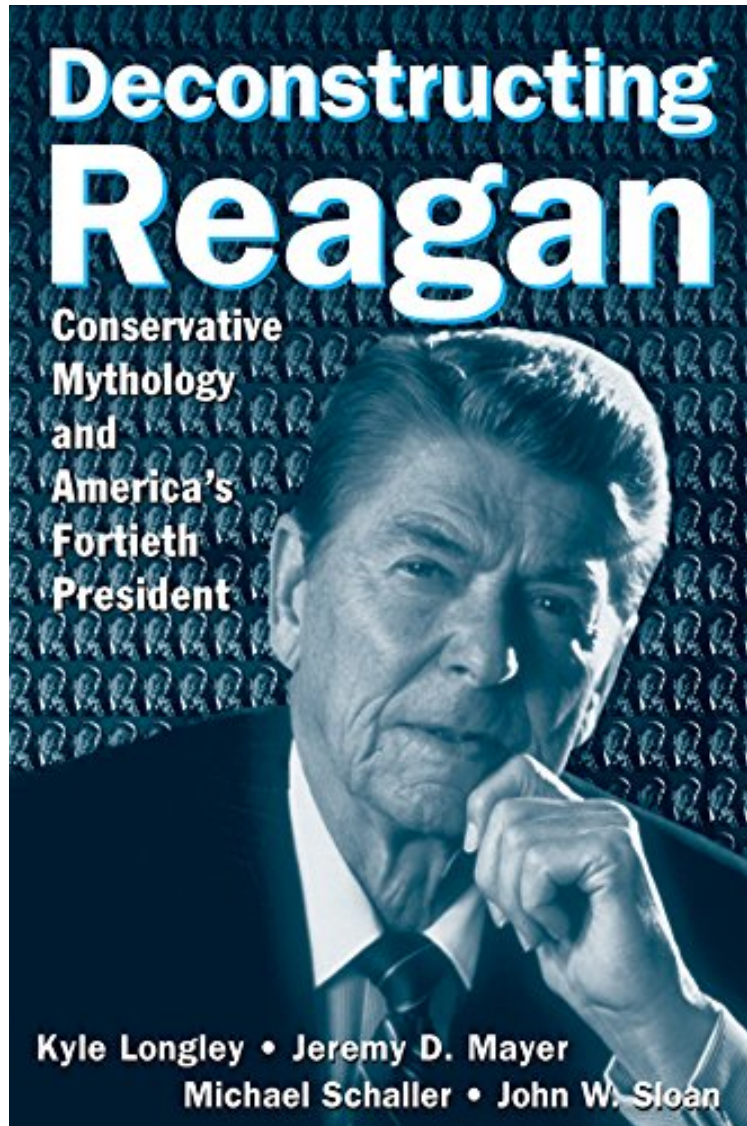


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## Deconstructing Reagan: Conservative Mythology and America's Fortieth President

*Kyle Longley, Jeremy Mayer, Michael Schaller, John W. Sloan*  
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**Kyle Longley, Jeremy Mayer, Michael Schaller, John W. Sloan : Deconstructing Reagan: Conservative Mythology and America's Fortieth President** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deconstructing Reagan: Conservative Mythology and America's Fortieth President:

Although he left office nearly 20 years ago, Ronald Reagan remains a potent symbol for the conservative movement.

The Bush administration frequently invokes his legacy as it formulates and promotes its fiscal, domestic, and foreign policies. His name is watchword for campus conservatives who regard him in a way that borders on hero worship. Conservative media pundits often equate the term "Reagan-esque" with personal honor, fiscal rectitude, and unqualified success in dealing with foreign threats. But how much of the Reagan legacy is based on fact, how much on idealized myth? And what are the reasons - political and otherwise - behind the mythmaking? "Deconstructing Reagan" is a fascinating study of the interplay of politics and memory concerning our fortieth president. While giving credit where credit is due, the authors scrutinize key aspects of the Reagan legacy and the conservative mythology that surrounds it.

"This is an important book. Four gifted historians probe the disparity between Ronald Reagan's record in office and the sweeping claims of greatness that his admirers on the right have advanced. Lively, fast-paced, and well-documented, this volume is ideal for any reader trying to grasp what makes Ronald Reagan so controversial almost two decades after his presidency ended." - Lewis Gould, author of *Grand Old Party: A History of the Republicans*