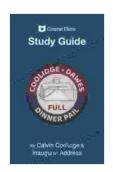
# A Comprehensive Study Guide to Calvin Coolidge's Inaugural Address



#### Study Guide for Calvin Coolidge's Inaugural Address

by Course Hero

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5
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On August 2, 1923, Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States, delivered an inaugural address that would leave an enduring mark on American history. In this speech, Coolidge outlined his vision for the nation, reaffirmed its founding principles, and addressed pressing issues of his time.

This study guide provides a comprehensive overview of Coolidge's inaugural address, exploring its historical context, key themes, literary devices, and enduring legacy. By engaging with this guide, students, historians, and general readers alike can gain a deeper understanding of this pivotal speech and its significance in shaping American society.

#### **Historical Context**

Coolidge's inaugural address was delivered during a period of significant change and turmoil in American society. The nation was still reeling from

the aftermath of World War I and the subsequent economic recession.

There was widespread disillusionment with the government and a growing sense of isolationism.

Coolidge's election in 1923 was seen as a return to normalcy after the tumultuous presidency of Woodrow Wilson. Coolidge promised to restore economic prosperity and promote a limited role for the government in the lives of citizens.

#### **Key Themes**

Several key themes emerge throughout Coolidge's inaugural address:

- Limited Government: Coolidge believed in the principle of limited government and the importance of individual liberty. He advocated for a smaller federal government with reduced regulation and taxation.
- Fiscal Responsibility: Coolidge emphasized the importance of fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget. He argued that the government should not spend beyond its means and should avoid excessive debt.
- Free Market Capitalism: Coolidge was a strong supporter of free market capitalism and believed that the economy was best left to the private sector. He advocated for deregulation and lower tariffs to promote economic growth.
- Patriotism and Nationalism: Coolidge expressed a deep sense of patriotism and nationalism. He emphasized the importance of unity, loyalty, and a shared national identity.

#### **Literary Devices**

Coolidge's inaugural address is noted for its use of several literary devices:

- Parallelism: Coolidge frequently used parallelism to create a sense of balance and rhythm in his speech. For example, he stated, "We must never forget that the strength of America is not in its wealth but in its faith; not in its size but in its ideals."
- Metaphor: Coolidge employed metaphors to illustrate his ideas. He compared the nation to a "shipwright" who has "built a new ship" and is about to "sail forth upon the uncharted seas.".
- Pathos: Coolidge appealed to the emotions of his audience by using pathos, particularly when discussing the sacrifices made by American soldiers. He declared, "They died for our liberty and for our honor; they died for our sake and for our country."

#### **Enduring Legacy**

Coolidge's inaugural address has had a lasting impact on American political discourse and policy. His emphasis on limited government, fiscal responsibility, and free market capitalism has shaped the ideological landscape of the Republican Party and the broader conservative movement.

Coolidge's words about patriotism and national unity continue to resonate with Americans today, reminding them of the importance of shared values and a common destiny.

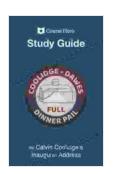
#### **Study Questions**

To enhance your understanding of Calvin Coolidge's inaugural address, consider the following study questions:

- What were the key historical events and social trends that influenced Coolidge's speech?
- Identify the main themes articulated by Coolidge in his address.
- How did Coolidge use literary devices to make his speech more persuasive and memorable?
- What is the enduring legacy of Coolidge's inaugural address in American politics and society?
- Compare and contrast Coolidge's views with those of other American presidents, such as Woodrow Wilson or Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Calvin Coolidge's inaugural address remains a significant piece of American history and a valuable resource for understanding the political and social climate of the early 20th century. By studying this speech, we can gain insights into the challenges and aspirations of the United States during a transformative era.

This study guide offers a comprehensive framework for analyzing and interpreting Coolidge's inaugural address. By engaging with the historical context, key themes, literary devices, and enduring legacy of this speech, students, historians, and general readers can deepen their understanding of this pivotal moment in American history.



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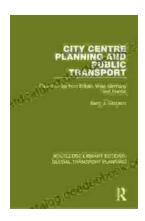
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