Title: “Decision Points”

Author: George W. Bush

Publisher: Crown Publishers, 2010

Reading time: 12-15 hours

Length: 477 pages

Price: $35

Reading difficulty: 7 (1 = difficulty; 10 = easy)

Overall rating: 1 (1 = average; 4 = excellent)

In his book of memoirs, “Decision Points,” George W. Bush highlights more than a dozen major decisions that he made in his personal and professional life. Some of these decisions were made prior to his presidency; most were made while he served as the 43rd President of the United States.

Essentially, “Decision Points” focuses on leadership and decision-making, two cornerstones of responsibility for any person in a position of great power. To fully appreciate George W. Bush’s management style and decision strategies, readers are advised to set aside their political ideology and focus on the rationale for his executive decisions that have shaped the world in which we live.

Without question, some of Mr. Bush’s decisions were grounded in personal beliefs and moral leanings; others were made for political expediency. His decision to abstain from alcohol, for example, was faith-based, as was his decision on stem cell research funding. Personnel decisions, on the other hand, were tied to his comfort zone and his perceptions of people.

Former President Bush’s decisions cover the waterfront: Supreme Court nominees, Iraq, tax cuts, Medicare, counterterrorism, cabinet members, foreign policy, Katrina, 9-11 and a host of other opportunities and problems that he encountered during his presidency. Each major decision, and the rationale for it, is described in detail. Mr. Bush identifies the individuals who were consulted on major issues, shares their advice, and explains the basis for each decision covered in the book. In some cases, he revels in making the “right” call; in other instances, he acknowledges his mistakes with regret and remorse.

“Decision Points” is not the typical book of memoirs written by a former president. It will inspire supporters, surprise detractors, and possibly alter perspectives on eight years in American history.

This is the opinion of Jerry Kinard, Head of the Department of Global Management and Strategy at Western Carolina University. For previously reviewed books, visit www.wcu.edu/cob.