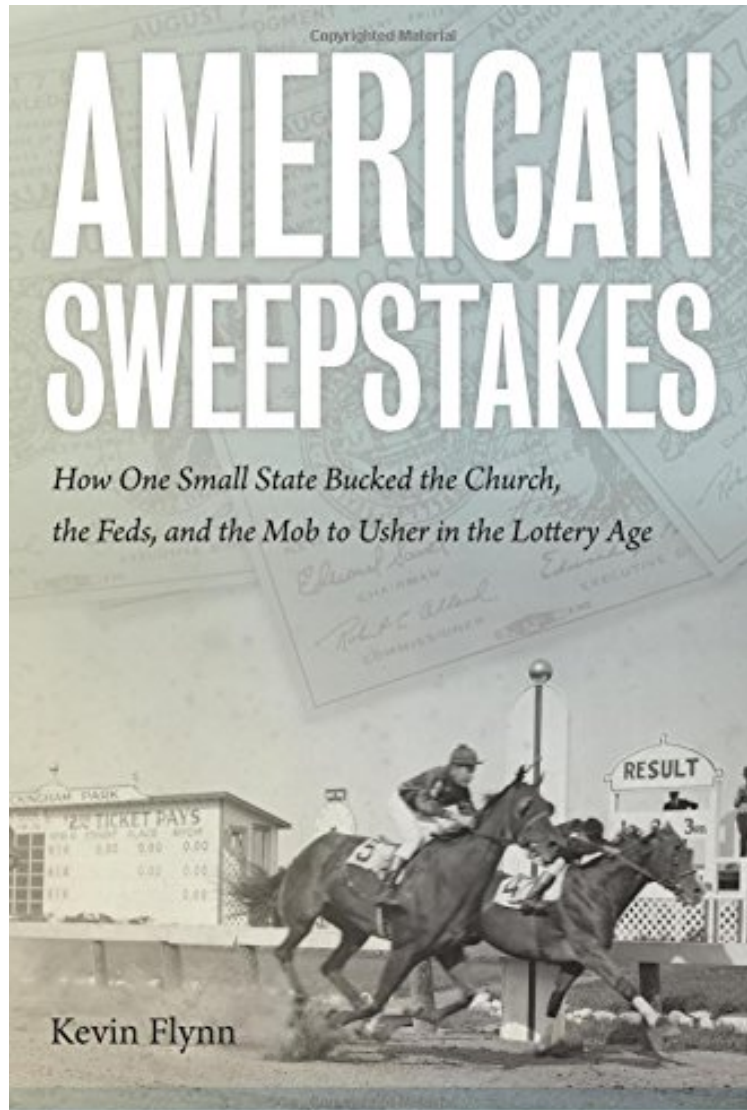


[Mobile pdf] American Sweepstakes: How One Small State Bucked the Church, the Feds, and the Mob to Usher in the Lottery Age

# American Sweepstakes: How One Small State Bucked the Church, the Feds, and the Mob to Usher in the Lottery Age

Kevin Flynn

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**Kevin Flynn : American Sweepstakes: How One Small State Bucked the Church, the Feds, and the Mob to Usher in the Lottery Age** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Sweepstakes: How One Small State Bucked the Church, the Feds, and the Mob to Usher in the Lottery Age:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It brings together notorious characters like Whitey BulgerBy Todd BurdetteThis book is about so much more than the lottery. It brings together notorious characters like Whitey Bulger, Bobby Kennedy and obscure small state politicians in a compelling yarn that captures a moment in American history.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How America Caught Lotto FeverBy Matthew RiesFrom Powerball to Mega Millions, nearly everyone in the United States has heard about stage-run lotteries, but just a little over 50 years ago that wasn't the case as seen in American Sweepstakes. In Kevin Flynn's short history of the birth of the New Hampshire Sweepstakes, the beginning of the modern age of state lotteries is chronicled and how a legal state-run lottery system was created in the process.Flynn chronicles how the New Hampshire Sweepstakes came into law before back over the relationship between the United States and gambling, both legal and otherwise. Flynn then described the federal laws that New Hampshire needed to tightrope around as well as create a corruption free contest that people would have confidence in. Although many individuals were highlighted in the book, it was Governor John King and the Sweepstakes Director Ed Powers who dominated the narrative of the history.Throughout the book, Flynn spends time on a variety of historical subjects that impacted the starting of the Sweepstakes. The Irish Sweepstakes, the acknowledged model for New Hampshire's law, and the Brinks Robbery are the two big historical digressions that add to the reader's perspective of the entire story. In fact foreign policy and federal politics also played a role as both the Kennedy Presidency, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the 1964 New Hampshire Democratic primary were all contributing factors that were non insignificant.American Sweepstakes does not reach 300 pages, but crams in that short length Kevin Flynn wrote a concise but thorough history of the state-run lottery that launched the present American Lottery Age. If you enjoy reading a book about a specific historical event this is the book for you without the dash of agenda politics then this is the book for you, not only do you get the story behind the event but also how other interesting historical events played their own part in a little remembered event.I received this book through LibraryThing's Early Reviewer program.

Long banned in the United States, the Federal government told New Hampshire in 1963 it couldn't start a lottery - not without breaking a score of laws and courting infiltration by racketeers. Led by a motley group of characters - including a governor betting his political career and a celebrated FBI agent - they pushed ahead anyway. That set the first state-operated lottery on a collision course with the Feds, the media, and the church.

"Flynn does a superb job of making all his characters come alive. In an entertaining way, Flynn recalls an important time in America, including the Kennedy era of the 1960s. You can bet on enjoying American Sweepstakes."-Thomas Maier, author of Masters of Sex Flynn does a superb job of making all his characters come alive. In an entertaining way, Flynn recalls an important time in America, including the Kennedy era of the 1960s. You can bet on enjoying American Sweepstakes. (Thomas Maier, author of Masters of Sex)From the Back CoverBy 1963 public lotteries--a time-honored if tarnished method of raising revenue for everything from the Roman roads to Washington's Continental Army--had been outlawed in the United States for seventy years. The only legal gambling in America was found in Nevada, where mob involvement had at first been an open secret, and then revealed as no secret at all. In New Hampshire--a conservative, rural state with no sales tax and persistent problems with funding education--state legislator Larry Pickett had filed a bill to establish a lottery in every legislative session since 1953. To the surprise of many, it won passage a decade later and was signed into law by John King, the state's first Democratic governor in forty years.American Sweepstakes describes how King assembled an unlikely group of supporters--including a celebrated FBI agent and the staunchly conservative publisher of the state's leading newspaper--to establish the first state lottery in the nation, paving the way for what is today a \$78 billion enterprise. Despite the remonstrations of the Catholic Church, the threat of arrest by the federal government, the strident denunciations of nearly every newspaper editorialist in the country, and the very real fear that the lottery would be co-opted by the mob, eleven thoroughbred racehorses leapt from the gate on September 12, 1964, in the first New Hampshire Sweepstakes, ushering in the lottery age in America.