

An Uncle Eric Book

Ancient Rome

How It Affects You Today

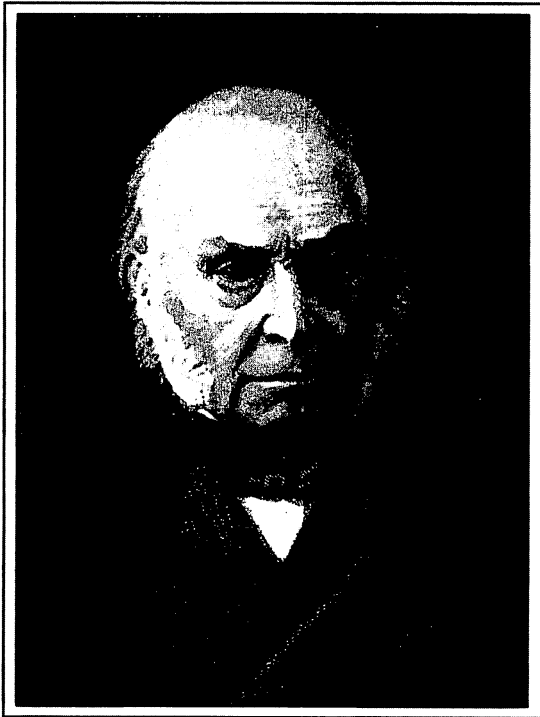


Second Edition

by Richard J. Maybury

“Our political way of life is by the laws of nature, of nature's God, and of course presupposes the existence of God, the moral ruler of the universe, and a rule of right and wrong, of just and unjust, binding upon man, preceding all institutions of human society and of government.”

—John Quincy Adams



John Quincy Adams

President of the United States, 1825-1829

Engraved by W. Wellstood after a photograph by Mathew Brady.

Reproduced from THE DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN PORTRAITS
published by Dover Publications, Inc., in 1967

About the Uncle Eric Series

The Uncle Eric series of books is written by Richard J. Maybury for young and old alike. Using the epistolary style of writing (using letters to tell a story), Mr. Maybury plays the part of an economist writing a series of letters to his niece or nephew. Using stories and examples, he gives interesting and clear explanations of topics that are generally thought to be too difficult for anyone but experts.

Mr. Maybury warns, “beware of anyone who tells you a topic is above you or better left to experts. Many people are twice as smart as they think they are, but they’ve been intimidated into believing some topics are above them. You can understand almost anything if it is explained well.”

The series is called **UNCLE ERIC’S MODEL OF HOW THE WORLD WORKS**. In the series, Mr. Maybury writes from the political, legal, and economic viewpoint of America’s Founders. The books can be read in any order and have been written to stand alone. To get the most from each one, however, Mr. Maybury suggests the following order of reading:

Uncle Eric’s Model of How the World Works

Uncle Eric Talks About Personal, Career, and Financial Security

Whatever Happened to Penny Candy?

Whatever Happened to Justice?

Are You Liberal? Conservative? or Confused?

Ancient Rome: How It Affects You Today

Evaluating Books: What Would Thomas Jefferson Think About This?

The Money Mystery

The Clipper Ship Strategy

The Thousand Year War in the Mideast: How It Affects You Today

World War I: The Rest of the Story and How It Affects You Today

World War II: The Rest of the Story and How It Affects You Today

(Study guides available or forthcoming for above titles.)

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Ancient Rome

How It Affects You Today

Second Edition

**by Richard J. Maybury
(Uncle Eric)**

published by
Bluestocking Press
www.BluestockingPress.com

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Printed and bound in the United States of America.

Cover Design by Brian C. Williams
Edited by Jane A. Williams

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Maybury, Rick.

Ancient Rome : how it affects you today / by Richard J. Maybury.--
2nd ed.

p. cm. -- (An Uncle Eric book)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-942617-56-8 (soft cover : alk. paper)

1. Rome--Politics and government--30 B.C.-476 A.D. 2. World politics--20th century. 3. Civilization, Modern--Roman influences.
I. Title II. Series: Maybury, Rick. "Uncle Eric" book.

DG273.M39 2004
909.82--dc22

2004007438

Published by Bluestocking Press • P.O. Box 1014
Placerville, CA 95667-1014
web site: www.BluestockingPress.com

To my publisher, Jane Williams,
who had the foresight and tenacity
to resurrect Uncle Eric.



“...the entire [Uncle Eric] series should be a required, integral, component of the social studies curriculum in all public and private schools. This would bring a quantum leap upward in the quality of citizenship in this country in a single generation.”

**—William P. Snavely
Emeritus Professor of Economics**

Uncle Eric’s Model of How the World Works

What is a model? In his book *UNCLE ERIC TALKS ABOUT PERSONAL, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL SECURITY*, Richard Maybury (Uncle Eric) explains that one of the most important things you can teach children or learn yourself is:

Models are how we think, they are how we understand how the world works. As we go through life we build these very complex pictures in our minds of how the world works, and we’re constantly referring back to them—matching incoming data against our models. That’s how we make sense of things.

One of the most important uses for models is in sorting incoming information to decide if it’s important or not.

In most schools, models are never mentioned because the teachers are unaware of them. One of the most dangerous weaknesses in traditional education is that it contains no model for political history. Teachers teach what they were taught—and no one ever mentioned models to them, so they don’t teach them to their students.



For the most part, children are just loaded down with collections of facts that they are made to memorize. Without good models, children have no way to know which facts are important and which are not. Students leave school thinking history is a senseless waste of time. Then, deprived of the real lessons of history, the student is vulnerable.

The question is, which models to teach. Mr. Maybury says, “The two models that I think are crucially important for everyone to learn are economics and law.”

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PENNY CANDY? explains the economic model, which is based on Austrian economics, the most free-market of all economic models. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JUSTICE? explains the legal model and shows the connection between rational law and economic progress. The legal model is the old British Common Law—or Natural Law. The original principles on which America was founded were those of the old British Common Law.

These two books, PENNY CANDY and JUSTICE, provide the overall model of how human civilization works, especially the world of money.

Once the model is understood, read ARE YOU LIBERAL? CONSERVATIVE? OR CONFUSED? This book explains political philosophies relative to Uncle Eric's Model—and makes a strong case for consistency to that model, no exceptions.

Next, read ANCIENT ROME: HOW IT AFFECTS YOU TODAY, which shows what happens when a society ignores Uncle Eric's Model and embraces fascism—an all too common practice these days, although the word fascism is never used.

To help you locate books and authors generally in agreement with these economic and legal models, Mr. Maybury wrote EVALUATING BOOKS: WHAT WOULD THOMAS JEFFERSON THINK ABOUT THIS? This book provides guidelines for selecting books



that are consistent with the principles of America's Founders. You can apply these guidelines to books, movies, news commentators, and current events—to any spoken or written medium.

Further expanding on the economic model, **THE MONEY MYSTERY** explains the hidden force affecting your career, business, and investments. Some economists refer to this force as velocity, others to money demand. Whichever term is used, it is one of the least understood forces affecting your life. Knowing about velocity and money demand not only gives you an understanding of history that few others have, it prepares you to understand and avoid pitfalls in your career, business, and investments. **THE MONEY MYSTERY** is the first sequel to **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PENNY CANDY?** It provides essential background for getting the most from **THE CLIPPER SHIP STRATEGY**.

THE CLIPPER SHIP STRATEGY explains how government's interference in the economy affects business, careers, and investments. It's a practical nuts-and-bolts strategy for prospering in our turbulent economy. This book is the second sequel to **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PENNY CANDY?** and should be read after **THE MONEY MYSTERY**.

THE THOUSAND YEAR WAR IN THE MIDEAST: HOW IT AFFECTS YOU TODAY explains how events on the other side of the world a thousand years ago can affect us more than events in our own hometowns today. In the last quarter of the 20th century, the Thousand Year War has been the cause of great shocks to the investment markets—the oil embargoes, the Iranian hostage crisis, the Iraq-Kuwait war, the Caucasus Wars over the Caspian Sea oil basin, and September 11, 2001—and it is likely to remain so for decades to come. Forewarned is forearmed. You must understand where this war is leading to manage your career, business, and investments.