History of American presidential elections, 1789-1984

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Edition/Format: Print book : English View all editions and formats
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Details

Genre/Form: History
Additional Physical Format:
New York, Chelsea House [1971]
(OCoLC)574188354
Online version:
New York, Chelsea House [1971]
(OCoLC)609539398

Document Type: Book
All Authors / Contributors: Arthur M Schlesinger, Jr.; Fred L Israel; William P Hansen

ISBN: 0070797862 9780070797864
OCLC Number: 141923
Description: 4 volumes (xxxvii, 3959 pages) ; 24 cm + 1 supplemental volume (xvii, 372 pages ; 24 cm.).

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Responsibility: Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., editor ; Fred L. Israel, associate editor ; William P. Hansen, managing editor.
The United States presidential election of 1788–89 was the first quadrennial presidential election. It was held, from December 15, 1788 to January 10, 1789, under the new Constitution ratified in 1788. George Washington was unanimously elected for the first of his two terms as president, and John Adams became the first vice president. Under the Articles of Confederation, ratified in 1781, the United States had no head of state. Separation of the executive function of government from the legislative...more.