

# Senior Seminar-History of Chicago

## **Reading Guide: City of Big Shoulders, Chapter 11; Richard J. Daley and the City That Works**

Use this guide to take notes as you read the chapter. You should be able to address the following thematic questions...

### **Major Themes:**

1. A strong political machine and stronger personality, when combined, creates a legacy of leadership. Daley was the last of America's big city bosses.
2. Chicago struggled, as did most large American cities burdened by outdated industrial infrastructure, substandard housing, and suburban flight.

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Daley consolidated power in the hands of the mayor's office. What steps did he take to do so?

1. Was head of the CCDP, a position he retained as mayor
2. Convinced the city council to transfer executive power to the Office of Mayor
3. threatened veto power
4. was both party chief and mayor allowing him to impose organization and efficiency on the city's political system

Daley's consolidation of power was aided by two demographic phenomena—what were they?

1. The CCDP's fiercest opposition, middle-class white Protestants—moved to the suburbs. And
2. the outlawing of restrictive housing covenants allowing black middle and upper class residents to leave the south-side for better housing elsewhere.
3. With these opponents gone, Daley was able to turn his full attention to combating opponents within the machine

What lesson was learned during the Kennelly years regarding running a big city with a political machine?

1. the machine was impotent and the city unmanageable without a strong mayor able to impose discipline and leadership.
2. Without political power at the top, authority was diffused among the alderman and city goals were impossible to accomplish.

Daley's political agenda could be characterized as:

1. liberal pragmatist and social conservative
2. believed government should take an active role in improving the lives of people.
3. He tried to give something to everyone-compromised often.
4. Was a social conservative in matters of racial integration—almost reactionary

How did Daley “Turn Chicago Around?”

1. eliminated petty graft common in city hall.
2. building campaign in the loop that created jobs and rejuvenated the area.
3. hired police and firefighters
4. rehabilitated infrastructure (roads, lighting, etc.)
5. New high rise apartments and public housing
6. O’Hare airport

Why was Daley known as “Dick the Builder”?

1. The projects he built downtown including convention centers, expressways and skyscrapers like the Marina Towers, John Hancock Building and Water Tower Place.

What does “patronage” mean?

1. a job or service given in return for a vote

How could the machine assure people did not vote against it?

1. because the machine was connected to the various municipal departments, retribution could be in the form of failure to fix streets, or provide water services. Or “inspect” buildings for violations.

What issues/events would be characterized as Daley failures?

1. MLK & Racial Integration/de facto segregation—public housing in black neighborhoods; winning until hydrant riots—failed to address the real problems allowing them to fester.
2. DNC-anti-war protestors shown being beaten on national TV...”ordered police to “shoot-to-kill.”—the “Battle of Chicago” would negatively define Daley and his Machine.