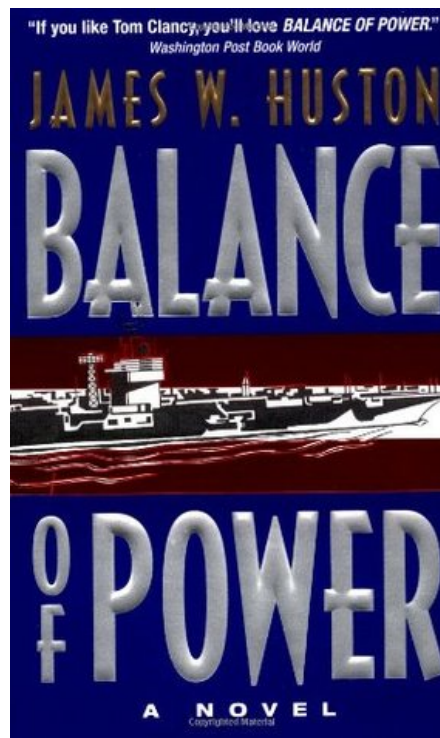




Balance of Power: A Novel

James W. Huston

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Balance of Power: A Novel James W. Huston

One nation indivisible...until now. Off the coast of Indonesia, an American cargo ship has been seized by terrorists, its captain kidnapped and its crew mercilessly slaughtered. In Washington, a peace-loving President's refusal to punish the transgressors has enraged the sitting Congress, led by a determined Speaker of the House.

An ambitious young congressional assistant, Jim Dillon has discovered a time bomb hidden away in America's Constitution- a provision that could be used to wrest power from the Chief Executive; a long-forgotten clause that could incite a devastating constitutional crisis...and plunge the country into chaos.

Now, as a battle group steams toward a fateful confrontation in the Java Sea-commissioned by Congress and opposed by the President- Dillon finds himself in the center of a firestorm that rages from the highest court in the land to the killing fields half a world away. And, suddenly, there is much more at stake than the life of a single surviving hostage and a superpower's military credibility -- as a great nation prepares for war...against itself.

Balance of Power: A Novel Details

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From Reader Review Balance of Power: A Novel for online ebook

James A. Bridger says

A very good read

Other than the main character get actually going on a mission with marines, the story is believable and very well documented. I really enjoyed reading it.

Fran says

Great look at the Constitution and military power. Does balance always mean equal?

A few slow spots in the "military-speak" but good enough that I binge read three of James Huston's books in ONE day!

Patty Cole says

too much military jargon

Xaviera Milan says

I couldn't keep up with the military scenes. The author didn't have to mention every guy on the platoon/crew and go gung-ho on the technical terms. The dialogue between the politicians and staffers seem so naïve. Why do they keep wondering about the audacity of the terrorists to pull off such a stunt? The question became super-redundant. Why is the CIA director chummy with the passive president? The president's chief of staff seems unsure and weak in political will. If I'm not mistaken, Dillon and his friends are just fresh out of law school; why are they, all of a sudden, the go-to people for the big players of Washington? It's like the senior politicians don't even have a clue. Ughh!! Haven't even read half of the book. I had to put it down because, instead of getting excited, I was full of questions and complaints.

Maria C Clark says

A novel?

Made me think, would a modern politician have the guts to do his/her job.
Good story line and modern day thinking

Jon Nelson says

Excellent

Could not put the book down, and also saw D.C. with a different view. Would liked to have the final outcome of blame for following "lawful order".

Nancy Petrick says

Great ?read

I could hardly out this book down. Interesting subject matter. It kept my nose in it from the beginning to the end.

Tanya says

James Huston's Balance of Power is partisan politics on steroids - what happens when the Democratic President and Republican Speaker of the House draw a line in the sand and refuse to compromise. It made for an interesting plot, even though I found the intransigence irritating. Huston is eager to show his familiarity with Naval terms; I don't think I've ever read a book with so many acronyms! The ending lost momentum, and the hinted conflict between two Naval Battle groups never came, but it was still a fun read.

Tulay says

Political legal maneuvering.

Any book that makes me Google and learn something that never paid any attention before gets at least four star. In this fictional story made me read parts of the constitution and learn more about Indonesia, Malacca straits.

Three law school friends, all working in Washington, opposing parties and clerk in supreme court. Their relationships and ideas clearly detailed and was very interesting to read.

But extremely detailed military firearms, ships, fighter jets and combat was too much.

Ian Brown says

OMG! Where do these guys get their materials from? Absolutely delicious novel... great storyteller!!

Carol Smemoe says

Interesting concept

Interesting concept and it kept my attention. It made me rethink about the separation of government. It kept was a descent book

Michael says

This book is a great summer read. When the President fails to respond to an act of international terrorism, the Congress uses an obscure clause in the Constitution to act on its own. A political crisis ensues as the United States Navy is caught between conflicting orders.

This book took me right back to the flight deck of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. Much of the story's action takes place on a fictional aircraft carrier, and I found, as I read, I was transported back to my own stint on CVN-69. Along with an engaging plot and some great battle scenes, the meat of the story--the wrangling over the War Powers Act--is both pertinent and troubling. Congress, not the President, has the power to declare war. In our recent history (Korea, Viet Nam, Central America) it's been the President who has ordered troops in what have been euphemistically called 'police actions.' This story pushes back against that reality.

A fun read. I'll get more from this author.

Scott Murdock says

1st book I've read from writer, He told an interesting story and was hard to put down.
Most everything that happened I believe could have happened.
Will read more if the books in this series

Tim says

This was a good book and I liked the novel approach to the battle between congress and the President; it was an interesting twist on the War Powers Act and an interesting idea that the whole congress could wrap their arms around a bill and that there would be cross party agreement, something we don't see much of in Congress these days. I found myself liking some of the characters, especially the Admiral. Be sure to read "Price of Power", the sequel to this book, to find out what happens to the major characters from this book. Both books together tell the whole story. Recommended for someone who likes political thrillers.

Linda Goudreau says

Good story but very wordy.....

Really reminds me of Tom Clancy works. Why use one sentence when 12 does the same. Had some problems following all the law references but I made it thru. Thanks, Amarillo Turtle

Ronald Howell says

Great read. Very interesting plot.

Janine says

Old fashioned political novel. Men being ruthless and making their ideals come to life. Conflict on beliefs. Fast paced, middle of the road.

Bonnie says

I had mixed emotions about this book. It was interesting and exciting and the scenario doesn't seem as far out as I'd like it to be given the current political polarization we're experiencing in this country. I had problems with some actions that seemed especially illogical: the DOD cutting off an aircraft carrier from all communications so that it couldn't receive vital information. Granted, it might be doing something not approved of by the president and approved by congress but it would seem in the best interests of everyone but the "bad guys" that it know that who exactly the "bad guys" are and what they're armed with.

Tim says

At the end of this novel, author Huston thanks his editor....hmmmm. I believe his editor could have used a much sharper pencil with a giant eraser to condense this story and make it better. There is too much redundancy around battle conflicts and not enough between the legislative and executive branches. 4 of 10 stars

Michael Taylor says

A superb book which used the Constitution as a way to drive the narrative of the book. I have used this with high school students in my government class as a way to see how the Constitution is used in real world situations. Feedback from high school seniors was overwhelmingly positive. Many of them told me that it was the only book that they had read in high school that they had wanted to finish. I used the sequel, THE PRICE OF POWER, as an extra credit assignment. It is a good continuation of the story that deals with the ramifications of the first book. But, BALANCE OF POWER can be enjoyed just by itself.
