Jump to navigation. We Judging W.T. Cosgrave scholarship and promote awareness of how science and the humanities enrich our lives and benefit society. We believe that good research needs to be promoted, sustained and communicated.

The Academy is run by a Council of its members. Membership is by election and considered the highest academic honour in Ireland. Cosgrave has been neglected by scholars in comparison with Judging W.T. Cosgrave prominent twentieth-century Irish leaders. This biography, by a leading Irish historian, uses sources not previously consulted to examine his career as local politician, rebel, minister, head of government for almost ten
years, and opposition leader. In particular, it assesses his role as a state-builder Judging W.T.

Cosgrave a key figure in the Irish democratic tradition. Solve our book cover jigsaw puzzle here. Having lectured briefly at the University of East Anglia he took up a post in UCD, where he taught for over three decades and served in various positions, including as head of the School of History and Archives, before retiring in He has lectured widely in Ireland and across the globe.

He has published widely on Modern Irish History. The Royal Irish Academy has developed teaching material that Judging W.T. Cosgrave of use in the classroom. Designed to be both stimulating to students and integral to the relevant school curriculum, the goal is to motivate and inspire Judging W.T. Cosgrave, second level and third level students on the island of Ireland.

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This biography, by a leading Irish historian, uses sources not previously consulted to examine his career as local politician, rebel, minister, head of government for almost ten years, and opposition leader. In particular, it assesses his role as a state-build W.


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There are few biographies of W. Cosgrave, but this was an excellent book covering a man who held the Irish Free State together over its first tumultuous years, and managed to create a successful democratic state.

It primarily covers his time in government, but it does have chapters on his early life, his career in Dublin Corporation, his experience of the Rising and the War of Independence, as well as A fascinating book about the little-known Judging W.T. Cosgrave head of an independent Irish Government. It primarily covers his time in government, but it does have chapters on his early life, his career in Dublin Corporation, his experience of the Rising and the War of Independence, as well as his time after government in opposition, and his retirement.

Cosgrave’ is a brilliant book which I would recommend to anyone wanting to know more about the first President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State. Aug 08, Ted Farrell rated it really liked it. For all my life, W T Judging W.T. Cosgrave has been a grey, lifeless figure. I have Judging W.T. Cosgrave only a sketchy knowledge of his career from his death sentence into his leadership of the first administration in independent Ireland to his gracious handing over of power to his political enemies in This work has fleshed out this career and given me an enhanced understanding of the man and the pressures of leadership in an Ireland unrecognizable today.

He was not without his faults, but then, who is? Patrick McCusker rated Judging W.T. Cosgrave really liked it Judging W.T. Cosgrave 13, Darragh Kelly rated it it was Judging W.T. Cosgrave May 03, Peter rated it it was amazing Jan 26, Daire rated it really liked it May 01, Peter A Cosgrove rated it it was amazing Jun 06, Niamh Hendy rated it it was amazing Jan 28, DavegiI rated it really liked it Dec 26, Cormac Farrell rated it really liked it May Judging W.T.

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Book Review: Judging W.T. Cosgrave – The Irish Story

Judging W. The book launch was notable in the presence of Taoiseach Enda Kenny; Judging W.T. Cosgrave, the one for Judging Dev in was attended by Bertie Ahern statements in themselves about how Civil War politics continues to define the contemporary sort in Ireland. Cosgrave, de Valera and Lemass may be long dead, but the ghosts of their wars continue to be felt today. Cosgrave was a man gravely underestimated, at first, by his political enemies.

History has judged Cosgrave to be something of a ghost himself. Why this would be the case, Laffan seems reluctant to explore. He is, after all, more focused on praising his subject than reminding his readers why such praise had been lacking before. Perhaps it was due to being sandwiched Judging W.T. Cosgrave the overwhelming presences of Michael Collins and de Valera, or people equating his calm, judicious manner with a lack of charisma.

Such mild appearances were deceiving. Upon the sudden deaths of Arthur Griffith and Collins in the newly-chosen chairman of the Free State cabinet found himself with the unenviable task of heading a government under siege. Any failure to implement such strategic executions, in his opinion, was the equivalent of losing a battle. Cosgrave is best remembered for his hardline policy of executions during the Irish Civil War.

With the Irish language, he was game, and his government took steps to make it compulsory. But his own was never more than patchy and went no further than signing the minutes of Cumann na nGaedheal meetings in Irish. Even this token gesture was dropped after the party lost power in and he switched to signing them in English.

He may have liked to talk about the Gaelicization of Ireland, but lacked the commitment to enforce anything substantial, much like the country in general.

In any case, Cosgrave was more interested in balancing the books. Cultural and nationalist goals took second place. The choices of state symbolism are the most fun to read, probably Judging W.T. Cosgrave much as they were for the cabinet to discuss: the artist designing the pig that was to feature on the half-penny coin was requested to reduce the fullness of its jowls.

Why this should be important is not stated. Other choices on symbols Judging W.T. Cosgrave all too illuminating: the official seal of state would be a harp but not one, God forbid, with a female figure included. Catholic morality was the order of the day. This priest was not to be the only clergyman vocal Judging W.T. Cosgrave how the state should be run. An eager-to-please, almost servile Judging W.T. Cosgrave to what the Church Judging W.T. Cosgrave thought was to be a regular feature of Cumann na nGaedheal.

By Faith, this, of course, meant the Catholic one. Mercifully, his fellow cabinet members thought Judging W.T. Cosgrave was a step too far, but if Ireland had avoided the route to theocracy it would still become one in all but name under Cumann na nGaedheal and its successor governments. Laffan reminds his readers that no government then could have defied the Church and survived, and indeed none did until very recently. Even so, whether it was proposing to Dublin Corporation as early as that it work with the Dublin Vigilance Committee on the subject of objectionable films or the Archbishop of Dublin being sent on request an advance copy of the draft constitution, Cosgrave was only too happy to oblige.

In fairness to the man, he did his best to resist the worst examples of Judging W.T. Cosgrave, such as the case of Letitia Dunbar-Harrison, the Mayo librarian refused a position due to her Protestantism. Dunbar-Harrison, for all that, only held her new post in the Department of Defence briefly, as she soon Judging W.T. Cosgrave and was thus obliged to resign, another sign of the times that makes us lucky to be in the present one.

As opposition leader, the same calm, unpretentious traits that had served him well as a nation-builder came to be seen as liabilities. As opposition leader, the same calm, unpretentious traits that Judging W.T. Cosgrave served him well as a nation-builder came to be seen as liabilities in an increasingly stagnate and directionless party.

Civil War divisions still colour the memory of WT Cosgrave. In many ways, as Laffan notes, the two men were kindred spirits to the point, it was claimed, of Lemass modelling his style of debate on that of Cosgrave. Both were quick to praise the practical qualities in the other — practicality being amongst the highest of virtues for both — and both their Judging W.T.

Cosgrave governments sought to be meritocracies Judging W.T. Cosgrave than the usual clientelism of parish-pump politics. Yet Lemass has been highly regarded to this day while Cosgrave is remembered, when he is at all, with not much more than polite respect. Your email address will not be published. Leave a Reply Cancel Judging W.T.

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