In many ways, Theodore Roosevelt — who read Adams's book with interest — would prove to be this leader, invigorating the executive branch in both the domestic and the foreign arenas. In so doing, he became the first modern president. Roosevelt was well suited for this role. What a previous president may have done hesitatingly or without fanfare, Theodore Roosevelt made a matter of principle. He deserves credit for innovation, even, paradoxically enough, in cases in which he was exercising an executive prerogative that one of his recent predecessors had in fact pioneered. Presidential scholar Edward Corwin has spoken of the "personalization of the presidency," by which he means that the accident of personality has played a considerable role in shaping the office. Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919. Publication date. 1913. Book digitized by Google from the library of University of California and uploaded to the Internet Archive by user tpb. Addeddate. 2008-09-19 20:11:30.