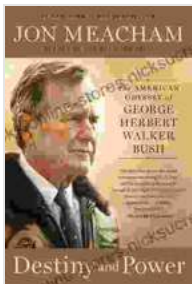


The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush: From Connecticut Yankee to 41st President of the United States



Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush by Jon Meacham

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 139093 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 794 pages



The life and career of George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, is a chronicle of American history in the 20th century. Born in a prominent New England family, Bush served in the Navy during World War II and later became a successful businessman in the Texas oil industry. He entered politics in the 1960s and served in the House of Representatives and as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and China. As President, Bush presided over the end of the Cold War and the Gulf War, and he is credited with helping to shape the post-Cold War world order.

Early Life and Education

George Herbert Walker Bush was born on June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts. He was the eldest son of Prescott Bush, a successful investment banker, and Dorothy Walker Bush. Bush's family was wealthy and well-connected, and he attended the prestigious Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. After graduating from Phillips Academy, Bush enrolled at Yale University, where he studied economics and political science. While at Yale, Bush was a member of the Skull and Bones society and served as captain of the Yale baseball team.

After graduating from Yale in 1948, Bush joined the U.S. Navy. He served as a pilot during World War II and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service. After the war, Bush returned to Yale and earned a master's degree in economics.

Business Career

After graduating from Yale, Bush moved to Texas and began a career in the oil industry. He worked for several different oil companies before starting his own company, Zapata Offshore Company, in 1953. Zapata Offshore became a successful oil exploration and production company, and Bush made a fortune in the oil business.

Political Career

Bush entered politics in the 1960s. He ran for the U.S. Senate in 1964 but was defeated by the incumbent, Ralph Yarborough. In 1966, Bush was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas. He served in the House for six years and was a member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon appointed Bush as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Bush served in this position for two years and played a key role in the negotiations that led to the end of the Vietnam War. In 1973, Nixon appointed Bush as U.S. Ambassador to China. Bush was the first U.S. Ambassador to China since the two countries had severed diplomatic relations in 1949. He served in this position for two years and helped to normalize relations between the United States and China.

Vice Presidency

In 1980, Bush was elected Vice President of the United States on the ticket with Ronald Reagan. Bush served as Vice President for eight years and was a loyal and effective partner to Reagan. He played a key role in Reagan's economic and foreign policy initiatives, and he was often seen as the heir apparent to Reagan.

Presidency

In 1988, Bush was elected President of the United States. He defeated the Democratic candidate, Michael Dukakis, in a landslide victory. Bush's presidency was dominated by the end of the Cold War and the Gulf War.

The Cold War was a period of heightened tension between the United States and the Soviet Union that lasted from the end of World War II until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. During the Cold War, the two superpowers competed for global influence and engaged in a series of proxy wars around the world. Bush played a key role in ending the Cold War. He met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev several times and helped to negotiate the INF Treaty, which eliminated intermediate-range nuclear missiles. In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, and in 1991, the Soviet Union

collapsed. Bush's leadership during the end of the Cold War was widely praised.

The Gulf War was a conflict between Iraq and a coalition of 35 countries led by the United States. The war began in 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Bush authorized the use of force to expel Iraq from Kuwait. The Gulf War lasted for six weeks and ended with the liberation of Kuwait. Bush's leadership during the Gulf War was also widely praised.

In addition to the end of the Cold War and the Gulf War, Bush also presided over a period of economic prosperity. The U.S. economy grew steadily during Bush's presidency, and unemployment fell. However, Bush's popularity declined in the wake of the 1990-1991 recession. In 1992, Bush was defeated by the Democratic candidate, Bill Clinton.

Post-Presidency

After leaving the White House, Bush remained active in public life. He founded the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas. He also served as a special envoy for President George W. Bush. In 2018, Bush died at the age of 94.

Legacy

George H.W. Bush is remembered as a successful businessman, politician, and diplomat. He played a key role in ending the Cold War and the Gulf War, and he helped to shape the post-Cold War world order. Bush was a moderate Republican who believed in bipartisanship and international cooperation. He was a respected leader who served his country with honor and distinction.

Additional Information

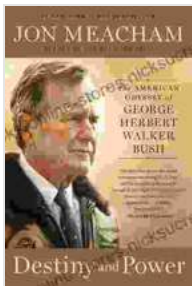
- The White House: George H.W. Bush
- Miller Center: George H.W. Bush
- Britannica: George H.W. Bush

Images





George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan



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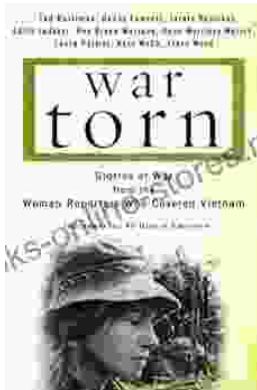
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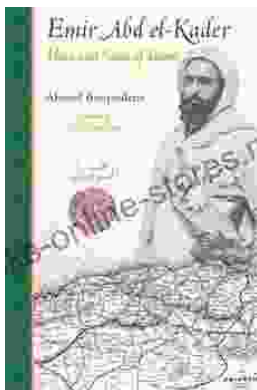
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