



# Madam Secretary: A Memoir

By Madeleine Albright

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A national bestseller on its original publication in 2003, *Madam Secretary* is a riveting account of the life of America's first woman Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. For eight years, during Bill Clinton's two presidential terms, Albright was a high-level participant in some of the most dramatic events of our time—from the pursuit of peace in the Middle East to NATO's intervention in the Balkans to America's troubled relations with Iran and Iraq. In this thoughtful memoir, one of the most admired women in U.S. history reflects on her remarkable personal story, including her upbringing in war-torn Europe and the balancing of career and family responsibilities, and on America's leading role in a changing world.

With a new epilogue by the author, *Madam Secretary* offers an inimitable blend of Albright's warm humor, probing insights, and distinctive ideas.

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## Madam Secretary: A Memoir By Madeleine Albright Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Albright proposes to "combine the personal with policy" in these memoirs, a sensible narrative strategy, considering her emblematic struggles as a working mother breaking through the glass ceiling of the foreign policy establishment to become U.N. ambassador and secretary of state. Albright's recollections of her background as a child refugee from Czechoslovakia and its twin scourges of Nazism and Communism (later, she accounts for the belated discovery of her Jewish heritage) suggest a basis for her belief in "assertive multilateralism." Although she laments coining this derided term, it's an apt name for her doctrine that human rights should be protected by the international community, led by American power. In the Clinton administration, this was the hawkish position, opposed by Colin Powell, William Cohen and others more cautious about military commitments. Albright treats these and other rivalries with restraint, but she is relatively candid about policy and personality conflicts, to an extent unusual in a diplomat and welcome in an autobiographer. Pitched at a popular audience, Albright's anecdotal style is engagingly direct, but it's not suited to mounting a comprehensive defense of humanitarian interventionism in light of failures in Somalia, Rwanda and Bosnia. Albright is willing to admit mistakes, though she generally pursues the political memoirist's standard agenda of spinning the historical record. Filled with shrewd character sketches of world leaders, Albright's descriptions of the Balkan conflicts, the Middle East peace process and other critical negotiations are thorough and insightful. This memoir captures the disarmingly blunt purposefulness that made its author an irrepressible force in foreign affairs.

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From [The New Yorker](#)

This memoir by America's first female Secretary of State is a deeply conventional book, full of long accounts of negotiations and reflections on the proper uses of American power. Albright is not out to settle scores (her criticisms of colleagues are mild at worst) and seems, on balance, pleased with the foreign-policy record of the Clinton Administration. This might have made a dull book, were it not for Albright's appealing character—personally ingenuous but professionally sophisticated, earnest but hard-nosed. Her eye for details—clothing, food, travel conditions—helps bring the diplomat's world to life, and her portraits of foreign leaders are lively and evocative. The result is a book that creates a sense of policy made by real people, not by world-bestrident titans.

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Review

"Albright's deft memoir is the quintessential tale of her transitional generation of middle-class American women." -- *The Miami Herald*

"A fascinating mix of the official and the unofficial, the political and the personal." -- *Rocky Mountain News*

"Candid, [she] veers comfortably between the personal and the political. Offers a rare female perspective on diplomatic life." -- *Time Out New York*

"From mother and socialite to professor and secretary of state...she is frank, assertive...straight-shooting." -- *The New York Times*

"Her portraits of foreign leaders are lively and evocative...she creates a sense of policy made by real people." -- *The New Yorker*

"Madeleine Albright has written a different kind of memoir...It's Albright unplugged." -- *USA Today*

"One of the most diverting political bios in recent memory." -- *Entertainment Weekly*

"The fascinating story of a remarkable person who has served her country well." -- *Dallas Morning News*

"Thorough and insightful. Filled with shrewd character sketches of world leaders...Albright's style is engagingly direct." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"Unlike other memoirs, it has hardly a hint of score settling." -- *Time*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jon McKibben:**

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* seemed to be making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* is not only giving you a lot more new information but also being your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship together with the book *Madam Secretary: A Memoir*. You never truly feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

#### **Kevin Blais:**

The actual book *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* has a lot of information on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was authored by the very famous author. Tom makes some research prior to write this book. That book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

#### **Martin Herrin:**

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get prior to. The *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* giving you one more experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful facts for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Norma Barnes:**

On this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list will be Madam Secretary: A Memoir. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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