

Leadership: In Turbulent Times

Doris Kearns Goodwin

Download now

Read Online 

Leadership: In Turbulent Times

Doris Kearns Goodwin

Leadership: In Turbulent Times Doris Kearns Goodwin

Are leaders born or made? Where does ambition come from? How does adversity affect the growth of leadership? Does the leader make the times or do the times make the leader?

In *Leadership*, Goodwin draws upon the four presidents she has studied most closely—Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson (in civil rights)—to show how they recognized leadership qualities within themselves and were recognized as leaders by others. By looking back to their first entries into public life, we encounter them at a time when their paths were filled with confusion, fear, and hope.

Leadership tells the story of how they all collided with dramatic reversals that disrupted their lives and threatened to shatter forever their ambitions. Nonetheless, they all emerged fitted to confront the contours and dilemmas of their times.

No common pattern describes the trajectory of leadership. Although set apart in background, abilities, and temperament, these men shared a fierce ambition and a deep-seated resilience that enabled them to surmount uncommon hardships. At their best, all four were guided by a sense of moral purpose. At moments of great challenge, they were able to summon their talents to enlarge the opportunities and lives of others.

Leadership: In Turbulent Times Details

Date : Published September 18th 2018 by Simon Schuster


ISBN : 9781476795928

Author : Doris Kearns Goodwin

Format : Hardcover 473 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Politics, Biography, Leadership, North American Hi..., American History, Presidents

 [Download Leadership: In Turbulent Times ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Leadership: In Turbulent Times ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Leadership: In Turbulent Times Doris Kearns Goodwin

From Reader Review Leadership: In Turbulent Times for online ebook

Bruce Katz says

3.75 (yes, I know it's silly, but it feels right). Goodwin is to my mind a national treasure. Her earlier books hold pride of place on my shelves. This new book, however, simply didn't move me as much. I'm not sure when she decided to write it — I understand that years of research typically go into her books — but one can't read Leadership without being reminded again and again of the many shortcomings of our current political leaders. Indeed, it might be that the deeply worrisome nature of our times led her to engage in a different kind of project than she otherwise would have undertaken. In this book she looks at the four presidents with whom she is most familiar — Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, and LBJ — in an effort to distill what leadership qualities enabled them to accomplish as much as they did in such difficult circumstances. I found her conclusions somewhat less than convincing, perhaps because the exercise by its very nature allows the researcher to choose whatever traits and circumstances he/she likes to highlight, excluding everything else. I found myself being reminded of the many 'secrets of successful leaders' books I edited when I was in publishing. That said, there is much of interest in Leadership. It's worth reading because her subjects are worthy of study, most of the points she makes seem valid (if not replicable), and because just about anything such an astute and gifted a researcher as Goodwin writes deserves serious attention. I'll be interested to learn what others think of the book.

Matt says

Doris Kearns Goodwin pairs her superior research skills with an ability to recount history in a comprehensive manner to bring readers this wonderful book on political power in the most difficult situations. Patching together some of her past work on four American presidents, Goodwin examines the rise to power of each man, as well as how they were able to overcome significant adversity to right the proverbial apple cart. Goodwin chooses to explore the life and times of four men synonymous with great achievements throughout their lives: Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt (Teddy), Franklin Roosevelt (FDR), and Lyndon Johnson (LBJ). Told using three themes, Goodwin explores a rise to prominence, sustaining of power (including ascending to the presidency), and utilisation of that power when times were tough. In Goodwin's examination of Lincoln, she tells of a gangly man who was always driven to better himself, even when others could not see his end goal. Lincoln loved to learn and questioned the status quo at every turn. When he chose to run for office, he was quite verbose in his explanation, but was able to win others over with his oratory skills, rather than simply following the pre-ordained path of the party under whose banner he sought to run. Winning a place, first in the Illinois Senate and eventually as a congressman, Lincoln sought to expand what was taking place by asking the questions about what else could be done. When he won the presidential election of 1860, Lincoln entered the White House in turbulent times. Goodwin examines many of the struggles he had, as the country tore itself apart, forcing him to take action. This included writing and delivering the Emancipation Proclamation, one of the greatest speeches that Lincoln ever gave. Goodwin seeks to argue that the speech itself was not the only struggle, but also Lincoln's trying to pass it and keep his Cabinet together. Teddy Roosevelt was always a man who sought to do his own thing. His father was a daunting character in his life, but this did not stop Teddy from striving to excel. He was a man of many words, but also one who knew how to relate to everyone. Goodwin examines how Teddy could rise to any occasion and win over those who might otherwise not give him a second look. Playing politics in New York, Roosevelt was able to work within the GOP ranks and earn himself a senior bureaucratic position where he could exemplify his 'man of the people' persona. He shied away from little and, given the chance, changed in head first to meet adversity. A police commissioner helped him win the favour of New Yorkers, but he

was not done there. After the assassination of President William McKinley, Roosevelt—who had been destined for the doldrums of obscurity when he was the vice-president—ascended into the White House. Unsure what to expect, he was saddled with a coal strike that almost paralyzed the country. While others would have let business and labour work out their differences, Teddy waded into those waters and diligently acted to solve the problem for the American people. Teddy's fifth cousin, FDR, chose another path for his success. Born into significant wealth, Franklin Roosevelt was handed a congressional seat and told to run with it. FDR chose to represent the party well, using new and innovative techniques to get his name out to the masses in New York. He was a keen worker and would not let anything get in his way. When he was struck with polio, he faced what was surely his greatest obstacle, but FDR would not stand down. Forced to reinvent himself, with the help of his wife, FDR toppled the hurdles and ascended to the governor's mansion in New York before riding the wave of success during America's darkest days. Goodwin examines America's reaction to the Great Depression before introducing FDR's solution in a series of economic and social changes during those first one hundred days in office. Now a yardstick by which many presidents are measured, those first few months proved to be FDR's way of staring down the despair and breathing new life into a shaky America. The final man under exploration is the irascible Lyndon Johnson, whose rise within Texas politics seemed almost pre-ordained. However, LBJ came from modest means and had to claw his way up the ladder, serving first as a teacher and principal in a small school. From there, he found new and exciting ways to work any crowd around him, earning him points wherever he went. As Goodwin explains, LBJ did politics the Texas way, not always by the book, but certainly represented those around him effectively. When he won national office, LBJ had to learn the ropes again, but his gumption helped him rise to power, where he served in both congressional houses with distinction, rubbing elbows with some of the big names in politics at the time. It was another assassination that saw LBJ assume the presidency, but he wasted no time in getting his agenda in order. As Goodwin shows, LBJ's desire to ensure his predecessor's desire to offer tax cuts and deliver civil rights to a significant portion of the underprivileged population. LBJ fought tooth and nail, using his experience in Congress, as well as numerous personal relationships to further this cause and ensure that America remained on the course towards success in the latter decades of the 20th century. Goodwin shows how the president refused to let congressional or regional walls stymie his ideals to bring equality to a country that was still feeling the effects of its Civil War a century before. Goodwin draws obvious parallels between the first and fourth of her study subjects to show how the argument of equality for all had come full circle, subtly showing that all the bloodshed was, realistically, for naught. Still, LBJ would not give up on these domestic issues, even as his international realm fell apart the more intense the Vietnam War became. In her conclusion, Goodwin takes a final look at these men and how their deaths impacted America. Did the population learn from these men and were their legacies impactful? Goodwin sums everything up with some of her trademark blunt analysis, while offering the reader some hope as America returns to tumultuous times, even if the man at the helm could never hope to lead effectively. A sensational book that gets to the core of power in four men so very different but also so much alike. Adversity need not cripple anyone, as long as determination is your guide. Highly recommended to those who love political biographies and would love to see great men in action, as America suffers through new turbulent times.

I thoroughly enjoy political biographies, particularly when they are well researched and written in such a way that anyone can enjoy them. Doris Kearns Goodwin has earned this reputation in her half-century of writing and exploring the world of politics through the eyes of a historian. While I have read comprehensive biographies of all four men, I left this piece with more knowledge and a better understanding of what it takes to steer the massive political ship that is the United States of America away from turbulence and hidden icebergs. Goodwin develops this piece, based on some of her past work writing about these men, creating threads that connect them, even as they differed so much. Taken a look at their rises to power, Goodwin compares them all in four introductory chapters, before forging ahead to discuss their ascents. This political build-up, while different in its path, can again be tied together by other threads, which makes up the four middle chapters. Then, when each man had been chosen to lead America (or moved into the position by assassination), they excelled greatly and used their own political acumen to pave the way to a better and more sustainable America. Goodwin argues that America was better for the leadership these four men exemplified, even if the history books offers varied judgment. The curious reader will take much away from

this book, seeing themes between the four presidents that many might have missed before. Goodwin's writing is easy to digest and her arguments are sound. She is a passionate and powerful storyteller who will not shy away from any challenge. As America is back in a time of tumult, with its people divided and politicians fighting more than in recent decades, this book is a refreshing look at how to REALLY make America great again!

Kudos, Madam Goodwin, for dazzling us with your abilities. I hope many take the time to see your central arguments and discover how American political history comes to life under your pen.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

TL says

I received this via Goodreads Giveaways in exchange for an honest review. All my opinions are my own.

Short review since head is still on the mend (better than yesterday at least)

The author is the history teacher I would have loved to have in high-school (aside from one in my school, the others weren't good at keeping me interested). She brings history alive and is good at keeping the reader engaged in the subjects she writes about.

This one wasn't as good as *Team of Rivals* but was still an interesting read. It didn't feel as put together as it could have been though. If time travel were possible one day, I would love to go back and meet most of these men and just talk to them, observe them.. that would be amazing.

More than once I found myself thinking "Were these men fated/born into their times because their souls would be needed and they were the only ones who could do what they did? Or did the times make them into the person the country needed? Or both?"

Did that make sense? Haha, the author puts forth the same question better than me but it does make you wonder hmm?

Looking at the title, I'm probably not the only guessing or wondering at the reason(s) she wrote it but one can only guess *shrugs*

This one would be good as an introduction to new readers of her work. I only have one other of her books to judge by so far, so I can't say if longtime readers would enjoy this one or not.

Lorna says

Leadership: In Turbulent Times is a powerful look at the qualities of leadership exhibited, each in their own way, and as determined by history and the unique crises and challenges faced by four transformational presidents - Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson. Beloved historian Doris Kearns Goodwin separates her book into three sections: *Ambition and the Recognition of Leadership*; *Adversity and Growth*; and *The Leader and the Times: How They Led*. Kearns Goodwin explores the transformational leadership of Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and the implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation; the crisis leadership of Theodore Roosevelt in the wake of the industrial revolution dealing with economic and social issues at the beginning of the twentieth century; the turnaround leadership of Franklin Roosevelt as he assumed office in the wake of the depression and collapse of the economy focusing on the corrective measures that were implemented in the first hundred days; and the visionary leadership of Lyndon Johnson as he came to the presidency following the assassination of John Kennedy and vowing to establish sweeping civil rights legislation as part of his Great Society. In these turbulent and unsettling times, it is comforting to know that this country has not only survived adversity in the past, but has found ways to improve this nation.

Donna Wetzel says

Thank you Goodreads and Doris Kearns Goodwin for my free copy of *Leadership: In Turbulent Times*. This is an excellent book which I thoroughly enjoyed reading. Ms. Goodwin has the ability to take complicated subject matter and transform it into easy to read and understand text. She is a storyteller like Abe Lincoln and Lyndon Johnson, who are two of the past presidents discussed in this book. She gives many examples to support her viewpoints as to why these men had such great leadership qualities. On a personal note, not one of the qualities that were mentioned in the book, appear to be qualities President Trump possesses, but that is my personal opinion. Our current President is not mentioned in the book, yet the sharp contrasts to the current administration cannot be ignored.

Katy says

I came away impressed with all four presidents, but my opinion of Lyndon Johnson was increased the most. Probably because I knew the least about him going into the book and I was impressed with him as a leader and person. An awesome read.

Alisa says

Great book! Doris Kearns Goodwin has written a compelling treatise on leadership using four Presidents she has studied intimately as the central characters: Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. For each President she describes their formative years and the forces that shaped their personal attributes, illustrates the role that adversity played early in their careers, and how they assumed the mantle as leaders during a critical point during their presidency. Her analysis is thought provoking, well researched, and told in a way that really brings out the personalities of each man. Goodwin is a masterful writer and story teller, and reading her work keeps you glued to the page. I'm fascinated by how Presidents, at least the good ones, rise to the occasion and what it is in each of them that makes them the right person for the right time, especially in times of bedrock-shaking challenge. This book offers a glimpse. Really well

done, highly recommend.

Jenna (Bookiemoji) says

Brilliant. I learned something about each president in their respective chapters. But became a bit muddled and long-winded when the author spoke by topic in the later half of the book and jumped between each president, sometimes mid-thought. Regardless, this is a very important book that I see doing well upon release. It's a sad read, too, as it inadvertently highlights those things that are lacking in our current "leadership".

Alan Tomkins-Raney says

Goodwin, a gifted writer and esteemed historian, structured this book as a series of case studies in presidential leadership. Her subjects for our consideration are Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. The book is divided into three sections. The first two sections read more like standard mini-biographies as they discuss first, each man's ambition and recognition of his own leadership potential, and second, periods of adversity and growth that profoundly mark each man and develop his character and leadership capacity. The third section of the book is the part that I enjoyed the most and found to be the most informative and fascinating. This portion of the book reads like a political science or civics textbook and reveals in vivid detail how they lead during the fraught and turbulent times when they truly made history. The riveting narrative, details, and inspired insight of this section of the book is why I gave this volume five stars. I must add that as I was reading this book, I did feel comforted by the reminder that we do have a unique form of government through which dedicated public servants of exceptional character and ambition can achieve wondrous results for their country during turbulent times when the populace is fearful and roiled. We may not currently have leadership that can inspire and unify the citizenry, but we have had it in the past, and to me that provides hope that we ought to certainly be capable of it again in time. I really liked this book. For me studying history can provide hope and inspire me to better my own character and abilities to apply in regular day to day life. In this sense, I feel like I learned the most from Abe Lincoln and FDR, but I enjoyed the whole book. LBJ was fascinating as always. As for TR, I didn't get much out of his example, but I suppose others may. I definitely recommend this book for students and fans of history and politics.

Helga Cohen says

In **Leadership**, Goodwin explores leadership qualities from four presidents she has studied most closely. Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, Theodore Roosevelt during the coal strike, Franklin Roosevelt during his first 100 days, and Lyndon Johnson in civil rights. She explores how they recognize leadership qualities within themselves and how they were recognized as leaders by others. We see how they entered public life and how they were filled with confusion, adversity, confusion and hope. Abraham Lincoln showed transformational leadership as he expanded the North's war aims from union to emancipation through the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. He wanted emancipation for all and was determined to get agreement from his rivals to accomplish it. Theodore Roosevelt provides leadership through crisis management by how he brought labor and management to the forefront during the Great Cold Strike of 1902 and solved the crisis and brought consensus. Franklin Roosevelt responded in a masterful way projecting leadership in his first 100 days with his response during the Great Depression. He implemented

the New Deal and closed the banks then slowly opened them in order to save them and regain the people's confidence. Lyndon Johnson demonstrated his leadership by using all the forces at his disposal by persuading Congress and the Senate and every one of interest in passing the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965). This altered the legal terms of how blacks and whites interacted and could become integrated in all facets of life.

Goodwin describes the early lives of each of these men and how they grew into their leadership roles through adversity and fortitude. Leaders must know themselves and their own times if they want to change them. It requires wisdom which they showed in abundance. She also showed the humanity of these four great leaders which was uplifting.

Goodwin is a great historian and terrific writer. In this book she used materials from her earlier books but organized them in a different context to explore the leadership aspects in these presidents. She did a masterful job in combining biographical detail with historical context. She writes with insight and gives us hope. I highly recommend this book.

Joseph Sciuto says

What a wonderful, wonderful book by the brilliant Doris Kearns Goodwin. Over the last couple of decades and especially now, I have asked myself, "Where have you gone George Washington, Abe Lincoln, T.R., Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Harry Truman and in a sense "Leadership in Turbulent Times" by Mrs. Goodwin has answered that question. They having gone anywhere, but apparently the leadership in our country has refused to study and emulate these men; whereas the four Presidents in this book, Lincoln, T.R., Franklin Roosevelt and Johnson, understood the importance of history and the history of our country and what the Founders envisioned and most importantly what America stands for.

All four Presidents had many things in common, but a few things that really stand out is that all of them put country above themselves and formed an intimacy with all the American people, despite class, race, or religion. When Franklin Roosevelt died a reporter noted, "One man has died and 130 million people feel alone."

Before reading this book I had read a lot about Presidents Lincoln and T.R, some about President Franklin Roosevelt but virtually nothing about President Johnson. The Viet Nam War has so defined his Presidency that it is only after reading this book that I have come away with an appreciation for his legislative accomplishments, which until this day, have not been equaled by any U. S. Administration ... From Civil Rights and Health Care ... To Voting Rights and Equal Housing. The "Great Society" literally transformed the American Landscape.

Despite whatever previous knowledge I had about the other 3 Presidents, I nevertheless learned a lot more about each, and especially how they approached the most pressing issues and tragedies of all time. "Whatever can be done today, cannot wait until tomorrow."

I highly recommend this book. Thank you Mrs. Goodwin.

Bryan Craig says

What makes a great leader? Are they born or bred? These are some of the questions Goodwin asks the reader. I really liked how Goodwin organized the material in her study of four great presidents: Lincoln, TR, FDR, and LBJ. She unpacks important traits of their childhood, how they recovered from their lowest points, and how they succeeded at their biggest moments as presidents.

Other scholars remind us that presidential greatness is hard to find, and after reading this, this fact still holds true, but Goodwin's easy writing style and important messages can inspire any one of us to be better at what we do.

These four presidents all thought about something bigger for the country, held a strong vision of where they wanted to take the country, and asked the people to help. It seems many top-level politicians don't think in these terms, or if they do, they don't have humility or empathy.

One critique is that Goodwin didn't examine the failed moments these presidents had in office with one exception: LBJ and Vietnam. I think we can learn about leadership from the failures as well as the successes.

Jean says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I also learned a few things about presidents, I have read many of their biographies. I am a big fan of Goodwin. She states she started working on this book in 2013 and it took her five years to research and write. I felt that the release of the book at this current time in our presidential affairs was quite pertinent.

Goodwin wrote biographies over the years of each of the presidents. She chose for this book: Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Lindon Baines Johnson. The book is divided into three thematic areas: ambition and recognition of leadership; adversity and growth; and how they led. In the final section Goodwin examines different types of leadership: transformational, crisis management, turnaround and visionary.

The book is well written and researched. I found it interesting that each president struggled with his own variety of emotional problems. Goodwin reveals how each president had different leadership abilities. I found the three case studies in part three most interesting. Goodwin has presented two republican presidents and two democrat presidents. The book is unbiased. The book is well organized and easy to read. Goodwin is a master storyteller; that skill brings history to life. I highly recommend this book.

I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. The book is just over eighteen hours. The narration was excellent. Goodwin narrated the introduction and epilog. Beau Bridges, David Morse, Jay O. Sanders and Richard Thomas each narrated a president. It was great having different narrators as it allowed distinction between each president.

Teri says

Doris Kearns Goodwin profiles four past presidents who endured tumultuous times during their administrations. Abraham Lincoln had to work through warring factions in the US to see the Emancipation Proclamation become law. Teddy Roosevelt had to deal with a miners strike. FDR took over the country during the depression, seeing multiple programs and projects instituted for his New Deal to come to fruition to stabilize the country's economy. Lyndon Baines Johnson took over as president when the nation lost JFK to an assassin's bullet. He worked hard to see Civil Rights legislation passed during a tumultuous time in our history. All four men had specific leadership qualities that allowed them to persevere through trials and tribulations during their administrations to achieve major goals in moving our country forward. Are these qualities learned or ingrained in these men? They all had uphill battles throughout their lives and their learned experiences in life certainly contributed to their leadership styles.

Goodwin looks at the lives of these men in three sections. The first section covers their young lives and leadership traits they developed before their foray into politics. The second section described some of the hardships they endured in life and their uphill battle getting into politics. The final section covers a specific case study for each president: Emancipation Proclamation, miner's strike, New Deal programs, and Civil Rights legislation. For each president, Goodwin details the leadership qualities that helped these men persevere through turbulent times to become great leaders.

I enjoy Goodwin's writing and how she analyzed each president and their leadership qualities. They were not perfect men, so she did show some of their flaws. In the final chapters, she focused on specific case studies that showed these qualities and the strengths of each man. She did not go into other issues that the presidents dealt with, outside of a brief discussion on the Vietnam war. That seemed a little out of place. I liked how Goodwin focused on one aspect of each man to really show what makes a person a great leader.

Faith says

This book has mini biographies of four presidents selected by the author as exemplars of leadership abilities: Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson. There is a chapter for each, under each of three themes: ambition and early recognition of leadership ability; adversity and growth; and how they led during crises in their presidencies. There is also an epilogue that describes the ends of their lives. Aside from Lincoln, I hadn't really thought about that, and it was interesting to learn that each man died relatively young, Lincoln in his 50s and the others in their 60s. Of course I learned a lot more than that from this book, and one of the best things about it was that it made me want to learn even more about each of these men.

I liked reading about the early experiences that shaped these men, but the most interesting chapters to me were the ones describing how each president faced a particular crisis during his presidency. Lincoln struggled with when to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Theodore Roosevelt faced a coal strike threatening the country. In 100 days during the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt had to lead the country through bank failures and create the New Deal programs. Johnson had a brief window after Kennedy was assassinated in which he could convince Congress to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Since the author was also Johnson's biographer, this chapter of the book felt fuller and more immediate. It included other Johnson accomplishments like the voting rights act, Medicare, tax cuts, federal aid to education, Head Start, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the expansion of immigration to admit people other than Europeans. She also described his great failure, the Vietnam War, during which he made terrible decisions and lied to the public. It was nice to read about presidents who actually believed that the government could and should help people and that leaders could and should bring people together.

