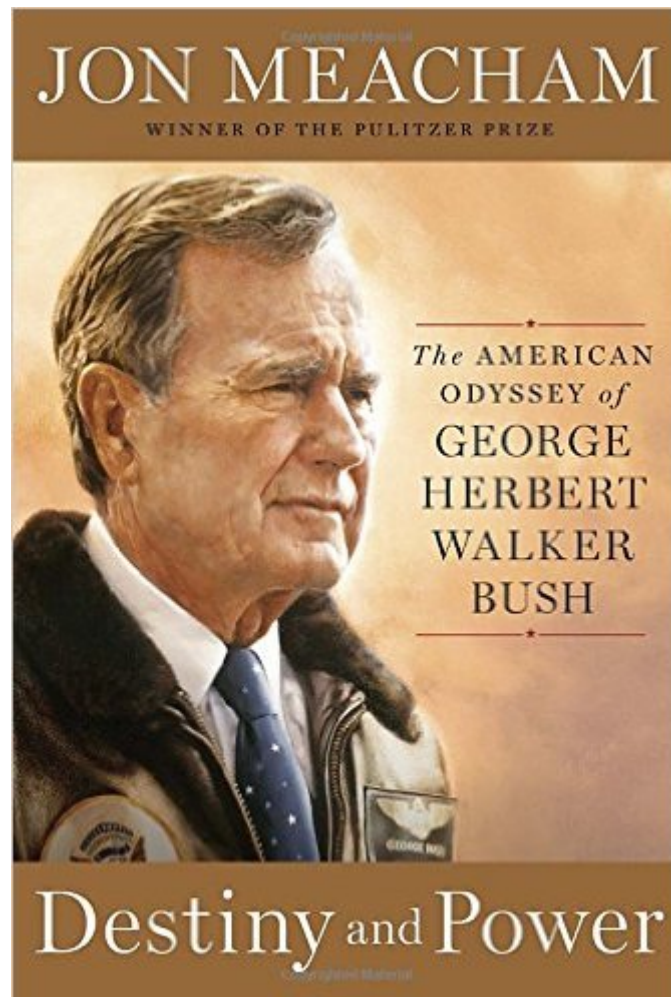


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# Destiny And Power: The American Odyssey Of George Herbert Walker Bush



## Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times Book Review | Time | NPR | St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In this brilliant biography, Jon Meacham, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, chronicles the life of George Herbert Walker Bush. Drawing on President Bush's personal diaries, on the diaries of his wife, Barbara, and on extraordinary access to the forty-first president and his family, Meacham paints an intimate and surprising portrait of an intensely private man who led the nation through tumultuous times. From the Oval Office to Camp David, from his study in the private quarters of the White House to Air Force One, from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the first Gulf War to the end of Communism, *Destiny and Power* charts the thoughts, decisions, and emotions of a modern president who may have been the last of his kind. This is the human story of a man who was, like the nation he led, at once noble and flawed. His was one of the great American lives. Born into a loving, privileged, and competitive family, Bush joined the navy on his eighteenth birthday and at age twenty was shot down on a combat mission over the Pacific. He married young, started a family, and resisted pressure to go to Wall Street, striking out for the adventurous world of Texas oil. Over the course of three decades, Bush would rise from the chairmanship of his county Republican Party to serve as congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, head of the Republican National Committee, envoy to China, director of Central Intelligence, vice president under Ronald Reagan, and, finally, president of the United States. In retirement he became the first president since John Adams to see his son win the ultimate prize in American politics. With access not only to the Bush diaries but, through extensive interviews, to the former president himself, Meacham presents Bush's candid assessments of many of the critical figures of the age, ranging from Richard Nixon to Nancy Reagan; Mao to Mikhail Gorbachev; Dick Cheney to Donald Rumsfeld; Henry Kissinger to Bill Clinton. Here is high politics as it really is but as we rarely see it. From the Pacific to the presidency, *Destiny and Power* charts the vicissitudes of the life of this quietly compelling American original. Meacham sheds new light on the rise of the right wing in the Republican Party, a shift that signaled the beginning of the end of the center in American politics. *Destiny and Power* is an affecting portrait of a man who, driven by destiny and by duty, forever sought, ultimately, to put the country first. Praise for *Destiny and Power* "Should be required reading" if not for every presidential candidate, then for every president-elect. "The Washington Post" "Reflects the qualities of both subject and biographer: judicious, balanced, deliberative, with a deep appreciation of history and the personalities who shape it." "The New York Times Book Review" "A fascinating biography of the forty-first

president.â •â "The Dallas Morning News â œWhen we rank, reconsider, laud, or denounce past Presidents, living or dead, we are taking stock of our own times. In that sense, the vindication of George H. W. Bush is a reflection of what we know weâ™ve lost. Jon Meachamâ™s new biography of Bush, *Destiny and Power*, makes that plain from its very first pages.â •â "The New Yorker â œThe story of the forty-first man to hold the office sheds light not only on the country we were, but the one weâ™ve become.â •â "Los Angeles Times

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

So, this isnâ™t a quick read, but itâ™s a good one, thick with information, back story and really tracing family genealogy at the onset so you get a sense of who is who. Also, before you get all angry about Republican vs. Democrat, etc. Keep in mind, itâ™s a biography, a well written one at that, which highlights some really interesting aspects of Former President Bushâ™s life, itâ™s relatively apolitical and focuses on the actions of Bush. It may seem a bit formal for some, but itâ™s actually a refreshing write, without yelling obscenities or blaming others, itâ™s a really good reflection on Bush, his life, and attitude and approach to various events. It is interesting that the book, in the Prologue, actually starts off in the defeat of Bush in 1992. However, in the Prologue it raises some interesting observations about the changing lens of America, moving away from Presidentâ™s who actively served vs. those who did not. Overall, itâ™s an expansive look at Bushâ™s life, which keeps the reader moving forward with appropriate attention paid to details someone may wish to know a little bit more about, and then keeps moving forward. Itâ™s a really

good biography. An element that I did enjoy was the backstory to the Bush family in general. There is no hiding the aspect that it was and has been an affluent family for quite some time and gives insight into this rise of upper class, it even takes the time to go into a bit of the backstory of Andover, discuss Bush's experiences at the school (at least from the lens of others) and moves in to Bush's time at Phillips Academy. The relationship between "Poppy" (as Bush was called) and Barbara Bush is quite charming, having excerpts from early communication between the two, a relationship that began in 1941/42, prior to Bush entering the military.

"Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush" is the most recent biography of the man who is perhaps one of the most underrated politicians in American history: George H.W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States. Written by Jon Meacham and published in 2015, "Destiny and Power" is an elegantly written and altogether fascinating full-scale biography that brilliantly succeeds in being scrupulously fair and even-handed in its treatment of its subject. Meacham, a journalist who once served as editor of "Newsweek" and is also the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Andrew Jackson, provides a surprisingly admiring and yet honest assessment of the life and accomplishments of George Herbert Walker Bush. In Meacham's view, George Bush was a man who was humble and yet ambitious; a child of wealth and privilege who was generous almost to a fault with those less fortunate than he was; a man deeply imbued with traditional values who was at the same time pragmatic and forward-thinking; and a man who possessed both a well-defined sense of public duty and a strong work ethic. Meacham traces Bush's long career of public service, beginning with his heroic stint as a naval aviator in World War II. After the war, he completed his education and set out for Texas with his new wife, Barbara Pierce Bush. It was there he made his own fortune in the booming Texan oil fields. It was also there that his political career began. Over the course of nearly three decades, he served in a succession of increasingly important government roles: Congressman, US Ambassador to the United Nations, US Envoy to China, CIA Director, and Vice President of the United States. Finally, in 1988, he was elected the 41st President of the United States.

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