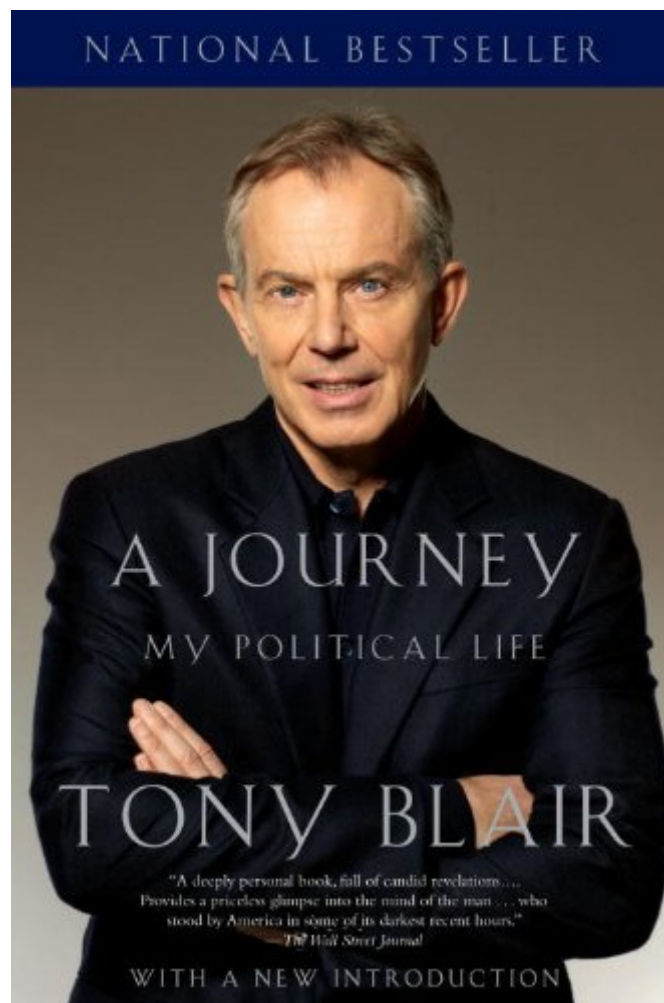


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A Journey: My Political Life



Synopsis

Tony Blair is a politician who defines our times. His emergence as Labour Party leader in 1994 marked a seismic shift in British politics. Within a few short years, he had transformed his party and rallied the country behind him, becoming prime minister in 1997 with the biggest victory in Labour's history, and bringing to an end eighteen years of Conservative government. He took Labour to a historic three terms in office as Britain's dominant political figure of the last two decades. *A Journey* is Tony Blair's firsthand account of his years in office and beyond. Here he describes for the first time his role in shaping our recent history, from the aftermath of Princess Diana's death to the war on terror. He reveals the leadership decisions that were necessary to reinvent his party, the relationships with colleagues including Gordon Brown, the grueling negotiations for peace in Northern Ireland, the implementation of the biggest reforms to public services in Britain since 1945, and his relationships with leaders on the world stage—Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton, Vladimir Putin, George W. Bush. He analyzes the belief in ethical intervention that led to his decisions to go to war in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, and, most controversially of all, in Iraq. *A Journey* is a book about the nature and uses of political power. In frank, unflinching, often wry detail, Tony Blair charts the ups and downs of his career to provide insight into the man as well as the politician and statesman. He explores the challenges of leadership, and the ramifications of standing up, clearly and forcefully, for what one believes in. He also looks ahead, to emerging power relationships and economies, addressing the vital issues and complexities of our global world. Few British prime ministers have shaped the nation's course as profoundly as Tony Blair, and his achievements and his legacy will be debated for years to come. Here, uniquely, we have his own journey, in his own words. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book. I thought it was a really interesting blend of sharing experiences and perspectives along with the opportunity for an American to get a peek into the working of British politics. Like all books of this sort, it sometimes drags as he gets into the details of various bits of politics that weren't keen to me but probably were to British audiences who knew the players better. I thought Blair put forward a coherent, compelling case for his "Third Way" politics laced with both triumphs and sadness as he saw the old "Left or Right" forces re-assert themselves in the waning days of his administration. I thought he carried this off without ever seeming self-congratulatory or bitter and indeed seemed very humble and appreciative throughout. I would recommend it to any political junky.

I have always been impressed by Tony Blair's ability to combine a deep spirituality with an intelligent and practical passion for humanity. I am now in awe of the enormous structural change to social and political systems that he achieved while he was Prime Minister. Until I read this book, I had no idea of his integral part in the peace process in Ireland. What a difference stopping the bombing has made for the Irish people and for the rest of the world! This same man stood by the US and led Britain into war in Iraq, for which many people have never forgiven him. It was particularly illuminating to share Tony's thought processes about the decision to go to war, so articulately expressed, and to understand the challenges, burdens and responsibilities of being a leader with a high level of personal integrity. I now also admire his capacity to motivate projects to completion, even when others are not aligned with his vision, and his ability to write about it so eloquently. I recommend this book for its revelation of the leadership dilemma. I also recommend it for its strategies to overcome them.

Parts of this book are terrific, and parts are extremely boring. At least a third of this book should have been omitted or moved into an Appendix. If this had been done, it would have been a vastly improved book. Because the good parts are so good, I still recommend reading it. But expect to skip several sections. The best parts: the section on the Northern Ireland peace talks; his descriptions of how New Labour broke new ground; his descriptions of "lessons learned"

Dear Reader Despite its appearance this book is not boring; it's a long journey of a politician. This book is a controversial autobiography, especially, during the chapters dedicated to the war in Iraq. According to his pen the UK intervention was "baptised" by the fact that, Saddam Hussein detained the weapons of mass destruction. It is also true that the motivations of the intervention were disavowed by the report compiled by David Kelly, a British scientist and expert on biological warfare. In his defence he tell us that his decision was derived by the fact that the UK's intervention was reasonable and legal according to the reports on his hands. I'd like to speculate on the fact that the hidden message of these chapters are those of a human being with his strenght and weakness, especially when he admit clearly his problems with the bottle, and when he admits that he is a political "manipulator" in my opinion this is a rare autobiography if we consider him as a politician. Cheers! talo

This book was in great shape and came pretty quickly in the mail. I ordered this book for an AP Comparative Governement project and this book worked great! It is a pretty large book, it has over 700 pages in it and it's pretty heavy. But with that in mind, the book was a great price and was in great condition.

For lovers of biographys you won't be disappointed, Tony Blair takes us through a period of British and world history allowing us to see into events going on from his perspective. Tony is generous in his praise of key figures who helped change or make a difference along side him during his time in office but also honest and diplomatic about others. There are areas such as the war in Iraq that will create a difference of opinion and I think the detail of events are seen from a very personal point of view and not totally factual. All round this is "Can't put it down" type of book

Tony Blair's "A Journey: My Political Life" is a must read for all who wants to really understand what Tony Blair is made of. He weaves his story with great understanding of the issues he encounters on

his political journey and he often does this with great wit. He relates to us the complex events that engulf him, like the British/Ireland dispute which finally ends in peace, The death of Princess Ann and his role in advising the Queen to relate to the country's feelings on her sudden death. His backing of the U.S. during the Iraq War, just to name a few. World history buffs will like this informative book. A fair account from a fair minded author.

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