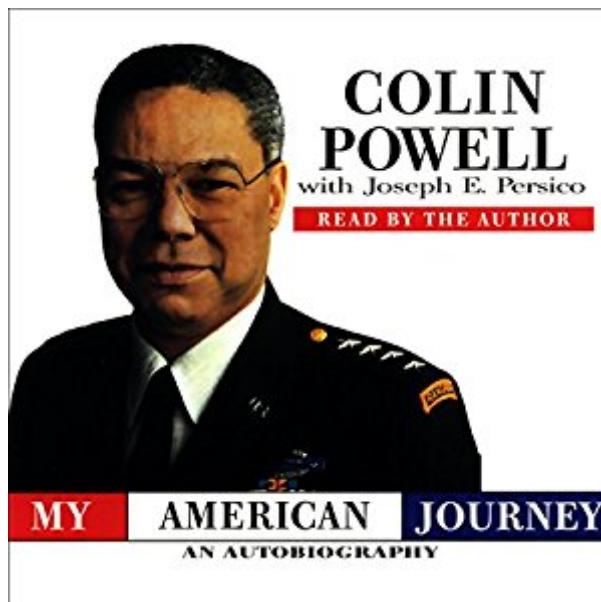


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# My American Journey: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

"A GREAT AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY . . . AN ENDEARING AND WELL-WRITTEN BOOK."--The New York Times Book Review Colin Powell is the embodiment of the American dream. He was born in Harlem to immigrant parents from Jamaica. He knew the rough life of the streets. He overcame a barely average start at school. Then he joined the Army. The rest is history--Vietnam, the Pentagon, Panama, Desert Storm--but a history that until now has been known only on the surface. Here, for the first time, Colin Powell himself tells us how it happened, in a memoir distinguished by a heartfelt love of country and family, warm good humor, and a soldier's directness. *MY AMERICAN JOURNEY* is the powerful story of a life well lived and well told. It is also a view from the mountaintop of the political landscape of America. At a time when Americans feel disenchanted with their leaders, General Powell's passionate views on family, personal responsibility, and, in his own words, "the greatness of America and the opportunities it offers" inspire hope and present a blueprint for the future. An utterly absorbing account, it is history with a vision. "The stirring, only-in-America story of one determined man's journey from the South Bronx to directing the mightiest of military forces . . . Fascinating."--The Washington Post Book World "Eloquent."--Los Angeles Times Book Review "PROFOUND AND MOVING . . . Must reading for anyone who wants to reaffirm his faith in the promise of America."--Jack Kemp The Wall Street Journal "A book that is much like its subject--articulate, confident, impressive, but unpretentious and witty. . . . Whether you are a political junkie, a military buff, or just interested in a good story, *MY AMERICAN JOURNEY* is a book well worth reading."--San Diego Union Tribune "Colin Powell's candid, introspective autobiography is a joy for all with an appetite for well-written political and social commentary."--The Detroit News From the Paperback edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoyed reading GEN Powell's biography. The hard copy of his book has been sitting on my shelf but I decided to read the Kindle version instead because of my traveling. His life truly epitomizes the American Dream born from Jamaican immigrant parents and rising to the highest ranks in the Army then Sec. Of State. Throughout his military career at the Pentagon, GEN Powell walked a fine line to balance his civilian-military relationships which, helped prepare him as a diplomat. What's so transparent about his book is that how his life experiences formulated his political views of being fiscally conservative yet socially conscience. I recently had a chance to listen to him give a speech at Ft. Leavenworth, KS during a ceremony unveiling his statue. SEC and GEN Powell delivered an eloquent speech that I could almost hear his voice read out loud directly from his book. A true statesman and Soldier! I highly recommend this book!

This autobiography covers Collin Powell's life from early childhood through retirement from the Army, with a few post-Army experiences. At the time of its writing he clearly did not anticipate serving as Secretary of State or in any other future high-visibility position. It was the intended capstone of his public career. The book is well-stocked with a readable selection of anecdotes from Powell's family, military and political lives. Perhaps of even greater value are the lessons Powell draws from these experiences. Some are succinct, like Powell's Rules written on scraps of paper kept on his desk. They include "Get mad, then get over it," "Officers always eat last," and "Share credit." Others are longer statements of personal philosophy or perspective. Here are nine of Collin Powell's hard-won lessons:- "Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off."- "Never be without a watch, a pencil, and a notepad."- "Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."- "With vision only, you get no follow-through. With enforcers only, the vision is realized, but leaves a lot of wreckage. Good chaplains pick up the pieces and put everything together again." [On three complementary leadership styles.]- "I had long since learned to cope with Army management fashions. You pay the king his shilling, get him off your back, and then go about doing what you consider important."- "The staff meeting served one useful purpose, however. It stroked

the participants' egos and made them feel like part of the team."- "There was a lot of talk about Powell the 'reluctant warrior.' Guilty. War is a deadly game and I do not believe in spending the lives of Americans lightly." - "The commander in the field is always right and the rear echelon is wrong, unless proved otherwise." - "Reject the easy path of victimhood. Dare to take the harder path of work and commitment, a path that leads somewhere." There are longer lessons, too. Along with thoughtful portraits of military and political leaders, on-the-ground accounts of historical events, and candid assessments of U.S. military capability from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. Powell is critical while remaining respectful, and cautionary while remaining optimistic. His own account of his life and service to his country is worth reading and enjoying. It is highly recommended.

What a story! He was such an exceptional person from day one! I enjoyed this book so much!! I really like his thinking!

I have to say I have read this book so many times I have memorized most the passages. Gen. Powell provides us with the tapestry of his life. He came from immigrant parents and was directionless most of his youth. When he got to CCNY and joined the Pershing Rifles (Army ROTC), he found his calling and his career. He describes his love for the military, especially the Army, and for his country. But he also is able to step back and reveal flaws of himself and the career that he loves. This is an American story. General Powell is a man that I admire as a service member, a family man, and a diplomat. Well done, sir.

Surprised this held my interest throughout and I'm female, non-veteran, white and a senior but would be an excellent choice for anyone; very interesting that acquaints one with familiar named people and world events in the news over about 1950 to 1990's; gave me a better appreciation for the life of our troops!!

I thought I knew a lot about General Powell, but this journey he has taken is very enlightening and inspirational. General Powell has served himself and nation so honorably that it should be mandatory reading for every student, at least by her or his junior year in high school. The book explains, quite expertly, what a true patriot should model.

This is a great book. I have been reading a lot of autobiographies and biographies lately and this is by far the best I have discovered. It reads like a novel. I can't believe some studio has not make it

into a major motion picture. You will beam with pride in our country, you will honor the armed forces and you will be so impressed with a man who has served his country all of his career. Lots of inside the whitehouse scenes. I really learned a lot about the army as I didn't have the privilege to serve.

I appreciated his honesty about his thought process even as he was growing up as a child. I am particularly grateful for the insight he provided as Secretary of State under the Bush administration. He provided contextual details that made for better understanding of his foreign policy positions even in the face of intense internal conflict with the Bush policy makers. A great read.

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