



A Time to Heal: The Autobiography of Gerald R. Ford

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Autobiography of a former President of the United States, detailing both his personal life and career.

A Time to Heal: The Autobiography of Gerald R. Ford Details

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Lenita says

I really enjoyed this book, got to know more about the person of Gerald R. Ford. Always admired him and thought he got a bum rap. He did what his conscience told him to do, at least he followed through on his principles. He always only wanted to be Speaker of the House. Too bad we don't have him to open the strategic oil reserves to drop the price of oil now! A great memoir, truly worth reading....

James says

A rather well-written book about an under-rated President. He was unelected and served a short term. As President (and the book handles this well) he sought to heal the country's trauma from the lengthy Watergate scandal.

Don Heiman says

President Ford's autobiography is frank and revealing. He inherited an impossible situation when Nixon resigned the presidency. The economy and SALT talks challenged his practical disposition. His economy decisions benefited me personally and profoundly shaped my life. I admire his candor and tenacity.

Brian Schwartz says

This memoir was the most extensive commentary Gerald Ford ever provided regarding American politics. He granted several interviews over the years, but they were usually short and not very introspective. Ford was perfectly willing to retire from the public eye and concentrate on serving on the boards of directors of various businesses. Unlike most ex-presidents who work hard to achieve elder statesman status to either rehabilitate or firm up their place in history, Ford was satisfied with what he'd done in his years of public service.

Ford's intelligence was often underestimated. While he was never called an "amiable dunce" as Clark Clifford once called Ronald Reagan, he never developed a reputation as a brilliant strategist nor was he gifted with a knack for policy development. However, in reading his memoirs, you find a man very comfortable with himself and his decisions. While their politics, demeanor, and conduct of the office were quite different, Ford very much resembles Harry Truman in his self-confidence. Ford's post presidential conduct resembled Harry Truman who left office as one of the most unpopular presidents in history.

America lost a national treasure when it lost Gerald Ford. Carter promised us he'd never lie to us and he almost made it. Ford was also just as honest and forthright in his conduct through his public career and was a superior president to Carter. Ford, who never wanted to lead the country, led it through its most difficult constitutional crisis as well as one of its most difficult periods of foreign relations. He will never get the

credit he deserves simply because of the shortness of his presidency.

Cecilia says

Gerald R. Ford's autobiography. I visited his presidential library which is located on the campus of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. His is the only presidential library where the documents are stored in one place and artifacts stored in another (Grand Rapids, Michigan). Ann Arbor is where Gerald Ford went to university and Grand Rapids is where he lived - hence the two different locations.

Not about the book, it is as bland and low key (I'm trying not to say boring). He talks a lot about the functions of the two of the three branches of the US government which is interesting and enlightening. The Presidency and the Congress are often in conflict with each other as is evident even today. The interesting angel with Ford and the Congress however - even though it was a Democratic majority - is that he expected to have more support from his former Republican colleagues than he actually received.

Given the manner in which he succeeded to the highest office in the Land and the "baggage" he carried from his predecessor - Nixon, he really never could have risen to the level of a President who accomplished great things during his short 2 year term in the office. All in all, an educational look at US government and the character - or lack thereof - which individuals bring to the various offices.

Kati says

I realized I didn't know much about Gerald Ford, besides him taking over as president following Watergate. He actually spent a lot of time in Congress and I was intrigued to learn more about his decades of experience there, particularly in the minority party. However, Ford fails to define himself much beyond the perils of the post-Nixon era, although he does attempt to set the record straight on a number of occasions (as many political memoirs do). I enjoyed learning a bit more about his decision-making approach, and his explanations of his actions, along with his more humble, human moments. I only winced a few times at some references to social programs of government run amok and redistribution of wealth.

Written well, but a bit long. He also only really explains what he is comfortable explaining. I would stick with a shorter biography. But entertaining for political junkies.

Dick says

Gerry Ford - class act. He pardoned Nixon knowing full well there would be a big political price to pay. He did because he did not think the agony of what had gone and how it was ripping the country apart should go one any more. He did the right thing. Even his political opponents who chastised him at the time, have now come around and said he did the right thing. This book is a prize of mine. I always like Ford, ethical and honest and grounded. Sent to him to autograph which he did - with a fine inscription. Did not hurt that Ford was a UM grad, either.

Mirëdon Fusha says

I could surely tolerate some diplomacy even in autobiographies but too much of it ruins the book! Overall, it wasn't that bad!

Raymond says

Not every American president perceived a mission as he took office. Those who recognized a mission did not make a straight-forward, succinct statement regarding their mission. President Gerald Ford made his mission statement the title of his memoir. "A Time to Heal." Following the extraordinary upheavals and doubts and outcries attending Richard Nixon's Watergate capers., Ford - Nixon's hand-picked successor - recognized partisanship needed to be muffled and the country needed to be united behind new efforts. Historians already give Gerald Ford credit for a successful, brief presidency; his stock seems to rise with the passing of years. Gerald Ford's memoir is not a "great book" but it is an accurate reflection of its author, and fascinating for that fact. It may be the most easily-read of presidential autobiographies.

Wayne says

A very well written book.

Mmiller400m says

My long quest to read a book about every president going backwards continues. There were a number of interesting thoughts I had while reading through this. This was the first book of the series that I've somewhat regretted reading Carter's first. I would have liked to revisit Carter's book with the knowledge I've gained here. One interesting point was how close the primary with Reagan was as well as how close the election with Carter ended up being. There were a few more reasons to hate Reagan from this book. I think I can honestly say that Ford was the last Republican President that was a good man and a good President. He was given an impossible task in trying to clean up after Watergate. If he was given 4 more years, I'm confident he would have done well. Something that stuck out to me was the 60 Minutes interview with Betty Ford. In it she mentioned both her pro-choice stance as well as her thoughts about marijuana. She would definitely be seen as very liberal today on those issues. It was interesting reading how Ford thought Carter was touting his religion a little much when that certainly has become a Republican thing from Reagan on and one of my biggest problems with the current political climate. It was also interesting to see how such a little thing could turn into a scandal or wind up being a huge issue. Compare that to today and it's completely different. I wish the Republican Party of today had 10% of the values and character that the Republicans of Ford's time had.

Sher says

I've been reading this concurrently with Hillary Clinton's new autobiography/memoir. Ford's writing is easy and straightforward. He uses these pages to explain himself and to give a sense of what it was like for him to

follow Nixon. Like so many others, he found Nixon quite believable, and in many ways he continued to support him. Ford looks back on what he did wrong- how things could have turned out differently. I was struck how he stood firm on not simulating the economy when he knew it would cause more deficit in the future and he knew it would be an unpopular decision. He thought this was the right thing to do. I found the last part of the book discussing moment by moment the campaign against Carter interesting, in part, because I was reading about Hillary's campaign against Trump at the same time. Lots of similarities in tone and explanation - though her loss was much more shocking to media and Democrats. This book casts Carter in an unfavorable politician light- this surprised me a bit. Some insight into Betty his extrovert wife, and also a sense of the Whitehouse club experience being on the in crowd. He called the book a Time to Heal, because post Nixon's resignation taint was always on his mind, and this feeling that America had been through a series moral blow hung in the air.

Toesnorth's mom says

good!

David-jacky Breech says

Though it was a short Presidency he did more to heal the country and save the Presidency then any one before. Must read for any Presidential buff.

He almost beat Carter and would have if he did not have to spend time running against Reagan in the Primaries.

Eric says

A good book, but rather dry...definitely a man of integrity, but I don't envision him as much fun to party with. His reputation as being honest, hardworking, competent, and a bit "charisma challenged" has not been changed by this book. But we as a country are quite lucky to have had him as president after the crisis manufactured by Nixon.
