



Where the Buck Stops: The Personal and Private Writings of Harry S. Truman

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In the bestselling tradition of Margaret Truman's biography Harry S. Truman, here are the 33rd U.S. President's fascinating theories and opinions on leadership and leaders, plus his picks for the best and worst presidents--all in his bluntly honest "give-em-hell" style.

Where the Buck Stops: The Personal and Private Writings of Harry S. Truman Details

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From Reader Review Where the Buck Stops: The Personal and Private Writings of Harry S. Truman for online ebook

Andrew says

An interesting read. Harry tells it like it is.

L says

This is a fun book. I'm not a big fan of political books, but this one is written in an informal, almost gossipy, style that fascinated me. Truman gives us his opinions of the presidency, presidential history, his list of good and bad Presidents and why he ranked them as such. Don't expect impartial journalism and don't expect to completely agree - these are Truman's opinions, after all - but having sat in the hot seat his opinions are worth respecting.

This is a great book.

Ross Rosenfeld says

Absolutely fantastic book. Truman's voice really shines through.

Crystal says

I am really glad I read this and will read it again sometime. I laughed quite a bit at his honest way of talking and this book is a wonderful history lesson written as if he stood in front of class and lectured or (as someone else mentioned) as if he's speaking across the kitchen table carrying on conversation. I learned a lot, too, about truths they skip teaching us in school. I haven't seen my 74 year old dad read a book but he's asked me for this one. I have a feeling that for him it will be like catching up with an old friend.

Neal says

Harry has his say. Loved it!

Les Wolf says

I cried at the end of this book. Truman doesn't devote a single word to self promotion and he shows his unswerving devotion to FDR and to what he believes to be those policies that are in the best interest of the country as a whole. The book serves as a primer for U. S. history but is written in a very personal and

informal manner. It gives the reader the feeling of a fireside chat while discussing past presidents and policies. Harry Truman does not mince words when voicing his opinion. I was very interested in discovering his thoughts and feelings about dropping the atomic bomb. He did a pretty good job of answering those questions. I had hoped that Truman would devote more than a single chapter to his time in office but the book has piqued my interest in further investigating a number of key players in our history including Andrew Jackson, Aaron Burr and FDR.

Theresa says

Probably I'm too biased to write a proper review on account of I have a tattoo of HST on me, forever. He is one of my absolute favorite guys in all US history. (And not necessarily just for presidential reasons.)

...for real

Doug says

I love Harry's blunt, straight talking style. Who better to capture him in print than the apple of his eye.

Rachel says

As an author, Truman is not as fascinating as he was in public life. His writing is very much "stream of consciousness," filled with euphemisms and colloquialisms that cheapen the thoughts he is trying to convey. Though he presents his book as a history of the United States (going back to the time of the pilgrims) it carries a significant flavor of his own perceptions as a liberal policy-maker. His opinions about what makes a president or a public figure great or a failure are nearly offensive in their over-simplification.

Aaron Million says

This isn't so much a book as a collection of President Harry Truman's views on former presidents interspersed with his commentary on the history of the country. Certainly partisan, as one would expect with Truman - who was famous for being honest and pulling no punches with people. The book was not particularly well-written, as Truman frequently repeats himself and jumps around - talking about presidents that he thought were very poor, then beginning a sort of American history lesson, only to go back to talking about presidents.

Truman was vicious when it came to Eisenhower, even devoting a chapter just to how bad of a president he thought Ike was. This reflects his bitterness (not entirely unjustified by any means) at his relationship with Eisenhower turning sour throughout the 1950s. He was not objective concerning Eisenhower. In the same

vein, he steered clear of criticizing his friend President Herbert Hoover, even though he had no trouble criticizing Hoover's two predecessors - Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge. Hoover's philosophy on government was very similar to those two Republicans, yet Truman brushed lightly over Hoover's horrible handling of the beginning of the Great Depression.

He also minimized any deficiencies that FDR had (I am a big fan of FDR too, but there were many things that he did wrong/were not admirable about him). But what I disliked the most was that he would list election results too often - giving the actual popular and electoral votes along with the states that certain candidates carried. Ahh! Too much.

Still, I like Truman, and it is nice to read honest opinions by someone who functioned well at the highest level of power.

Philip Blen says

With every sentence you hear Truman's voice. A truly marvelous book. Through his writing about his peers, you glean what he was made of. It was a enjoyable book.
