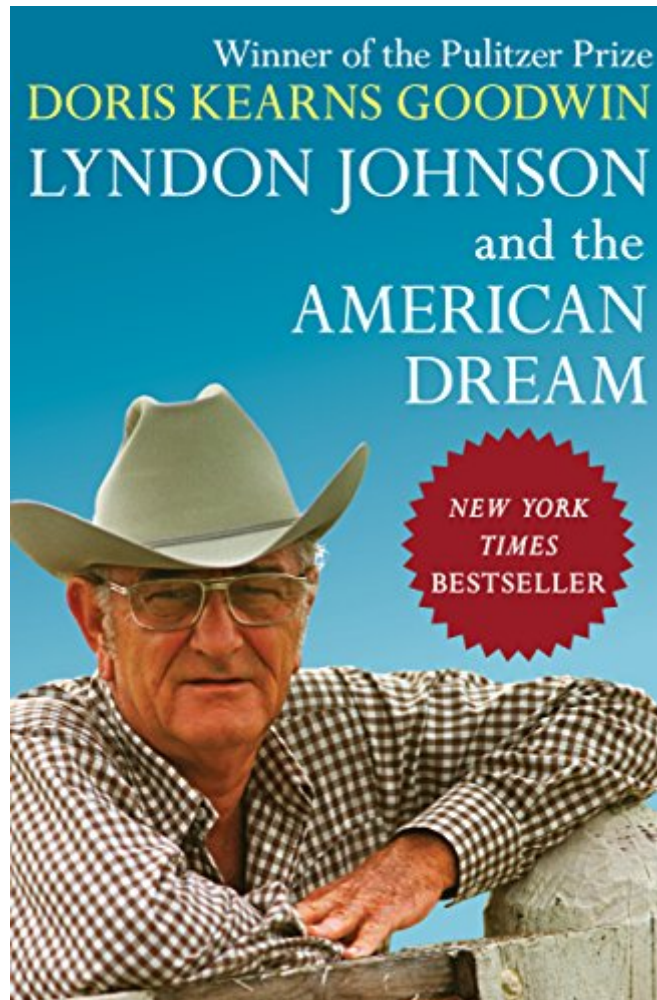




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Lyndon Johnson And The American Dream



Synopsis

An engrossing biography of President Lyndon Johnson from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Team of Rivals* Hailed by the New York Times as "the most penetrating, fascinating political biography I have ever read," Doris Kearns Goodwin's extraordinary and insightful book draws from meticulous research in addition to the author's time spent working at the White House from 1967 to 1969. After Lyndon Johnson's term ended, Goodwin remained his confidante and assisted in the preparation of his memoir. In *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream* she traces the 36th president's life from childhood to his early days in politics, and from his leadership of the Senate to his presidency, analyzing his dramatic years in the White House, including both his historic domestic triumphs and his failures in Vietnam. Drawn from personal anecdotes and candid conversation with Johnson, Goodwin paints a rich and complicated portrait of one of our nation's most compelling politicians.

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Customer Reviews

As always, DKG's writing style is lucid and eminently readable. That said, I would have imagined there would have been more of a tale to tell. Much is made of LBJ's mindset, which repeats itself throughout this story, as LBJ progresses from one level of governance to another. Then, the epilogue repeats the same stuff again. I'm left with a degree of sadness for the man, and relief the book came to an end.

I would have given this 5 stars but Doris Kearns Goodwin just gets into too much analysis from a psychological perspective. Keep in mind, however, that she was probably right about theories on LBJ. Her political views also come into play just a little too much. On the positive side, this was definitely worth reading. While she may have been biased with her political views, she is very quick to offer alternative points of view. Most importantly, her access to LBJ seems unprecedented. This book was definitely worth the time and money - I enjoyed it and look forward to doing more research on the President and his era.

I thought it was an excellent book. I've read Caro's four volumes and this really complemented those. I strongly recommend Robert Caro's works if you found this interesting.

Normally I love Doris Kearns Goodwin and a lot of the personal interaction between her and JFK was really interesting but a lot of politics was a little muddy and hard to follow. Maybe I was just more interested in his personal side that made him who he was or that the current day status of Congress is so dysfunctional that negotiating and positions described seem unreal.

While I knew most of the events described in this book, Goodwin brought them to life. I was fascinated by the insecurities of LBJ, who appeared on the outside to have none. This book is a must read for presidential history buffs. If you don't know much about LBJ, this book may raise him in your esteem. I know I regard him more highly than I did before reading this book.

A well written analysis of LBJ's political career. It provides the reasons for his success as a U.S. Senator as well as his successes and failures as President. This is more about his political philosophy and the principles that guided him throughout his career. There is no question that he would have been considered one of the great Presidents, but for his decision to get involved in Vietnam. An important contribution to the understanding of Lyndon B. Johnson.

I learned some things about LBJ that I did not know. The book was interesting but sometimes it dragged.

I am an admitted fan of Doris Kearns Goodwin and thoroughly enjoyed her insights on LBJ. I grew up in the 60's so I thought I was generally familiar with this clearly complex man. Doris offers tremendous insights as to what made this man tick and helped explain his genius and quite frankly - extraordinary intransigence and stupidity - over Vietnam. A great read!

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