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# The Age Of Reagan A History 1974 2008

## Sean Wilentz

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The Age of Reagan  
Simon & Schuster  
From the two-time  
Pulitzer Prize finalist,

bestselling historian, pragmatic leadership  
and author of Our and steadfast vision  
First Civil War—and transformed the  
"the rare academic nation. In his  
historian who can magisterial new  
write like a bestselling biography, H. W.  
novelist" (USA Brands brilliantly  
Today)—comes an establishes Ronald  
irresistible portrait of Reagan as one of the  
an underestimated two great presidents  
politician whose of the twentieth

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century, a true peer to surviving members of JACKSON, THE Franklin Roosevelt. Reagan ' s MAN WHO  
 Reagan conveys with administration, SAVED THE  
 sweep and vigor how Brands has crafted a UNION (Ulysses S.  
 the confident force of richly detailed and Grant), and  
 Reagan ' s fascinating narrative TRAITOR TO HIS  
 personality and the of the presidential CLASS (Franklin  
 unwavering nature of years. He offers new Roosevelt).  
 his beliefs enabled insights into Ronald Reagan  
 him to engineer a Reagan ' s remote Simon and  
 conservative management style Schuster  
 revolution in and fractious West John Ehrman  
 American politics Wing staff, his deft offers analysis  
 and play a crucial handling of public of the  
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 communism in the transform the tax in American  
 Soviet Union. code, and his deeply politics &  
 Reagan shut down misunderstood society that  
 the age of liberalism, relationship with marked the  
 Brands shows, and Soviet leader Mikhail years of the  
 ushered in the age of Gorbachev, on Reagan  
 Reagan, whose which nothing less presidency  
 defining principles than the fate of the during the  
 are still powerfully world turned. Look 1980s. He  
 felt today. Employing for H.W. Brands's considers the  
 archival sources not other biographies: fundamental  
 available to previous THE FIRST shifts in  
 biographers and AMERICAN American  
 drawing on dozens of (Benjamin Franklin), attitudes &  
 interviews with ANDREW examines the

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way Reagan built a right wing consensus around key policies. Ronald Reagan and the Space Frontier Harper Collins

The compelling biography of an American icon 's early years – as an aspiring actor, Hollywood star, and family man. Ronald Reagan was one of the most powerful and popular American presidents. The key to understanding his political success and the remarkable likability and effortless charisma

that made it possible lies embedded in his early years as a Hollywood movie star. Using never-before-published interviews, documents, and other materials, acclaimed writer and biographer Marc Eliot sheds new light on Reagan 's film and television work opposite some of the most talented women of the time; his starlet-strewn bachelor days; his tumultuous first marriage to Jane Wyman and his career-making second marriage to Nancy Davis; his

controversial eight years as the president of the Screen Actors Guild; his place in the “ Irish Mafia ” alongside Pat O ' Brien, James Cagney, Spencer Tracy, and Errol Flynn; and his friendships with Jimmy Stewart and William Holden, as well as with super-agent Lew Wasserman, who was instrumental in developing the persona that would prove essential to Reagan 's future as a world leader. Set against the glamorous and often combative background of

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Hollywood 's Golden Age, Eliot 's biography provides a nuanced examination of the man and uncovers the startling origins of the legend. "A fresh look . . . [at] the genesis of Reagan 's later public persona." —New York Times "Film critic and historian Marc Eliot has dug up even more about young sportscaster 'Dutch' Reagan, his journey west to Hollywood, his B-movie career . . . his relationship with super-agent Lew Wasserman,

and his rocky marriage to his first wife, actress Jane Wyman." —USA Today **Reaganland** Simon and Schuster New York Times Bestseller: A "remarkable and evenhanded study of Ronald Reagan" from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Lincoln at Gettysburg (The New York Times). Updated with a new preface by the author, this captivating biography of America's fortieth president recounts

Ronald Reagan's life—from his poverty-stricken Illinois childhood to his acting career to his California governorship to his role as commander in chief—and examines the powerful myths surrounding him, many of which he created himself. Praised by some for his sunny optimism and old-fashioned rugged individualism, derided by others for being a politician out of touch with reality, Reagan was both a popular and

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polarizing figure in the 1980s United States, and continues to fascinate us as a symbol. In Reagan's America, Garry Wills reveals the realities behind Reagan's own descriptions of his idyllic boyhood, as well as the story behind his leadership of the Screen Actors Guild, the role religion played in his thinking, and the facts of his military service. With a wide-ranging and balanced assessment of both the personal and political life of this outsize American icon, the author of such acclaimed works as *What Jesus Meant* and *The Kennedy Imprisonment* "elegantly dissects the first U.S. President to come out of Hollywood's dream factory [in] a fascinating biography whose impact is enhanced by techniques of psychological profile and social history" (Los Angeles Times).

[The Triumph of Nancy Reagan](#)  
 Bloomsbury Publishing  
 Ronald Reagan is arguably the most successful post-war American president. A transformational leader, he is broadly credited with renewing American prosperity after the stagflation-hit 1970s, laying the foundations for Cold War victory and bringing about the shift to the right in late-twentieth century politics. In this new biography, Iwan Morgan shrewdly assesses Reagan's considerable achievements whilst also highlighting the shortcomings that were an

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indisputable part of hawk to negotiator ever.  
 his record. Based for nuclear-arms *The Eighties*  
 on extensive reduction, while Penguin  
 research, this also examining his A moving memoir  
 book plots a role in the Iran- of the beloved  
 chronological path Contra scandal. fortieth president  
 through Reagan's This book of the United  
 life covering his ultimately shows States, by his  
 upbringing; his that what made son. February 6,  
 rise and fall as a Reagan an 2011, is the one  
 Hollywood star; American icon hundredth  
 his time as above all else was anniversary of  
 California his optimism Ronald Reagan's  
 governor; and his regarding his birth. To mark the  
 pursuit of the country and his occasion, Ron  
 presidency. ability to articulate Reagan has  
 Morgan offers a its best values - written My Father  
 detailed evaluation even if he himself at 100, an  
 of the pragmatic did not always live intimate look at  
 conservatism that up to these. the life of his  
 was the hallmark Today, as the father-one of the  
 of Reagan's Republican Party most popular  
 presidential grapples with its presidents in  
 leadership in new direction and American history-  
 domestic affairs. identity, told from the  
 In the international understanding the perspective of  
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 explains Reagan's Reagan and knew Ronald  
 metamorphosis Reaganism is Reagan better  
 from Cold War more relevant than than any adviser,

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friend, or colleague. As he grew up under his father's watchful gaze, he observed the very qualities that made the future president a powerful leader. Yet for all of their shared experiences of horseback rides and touch football games, there was much that Ron never knew about his father's past, and in *My Father at 100*, he sets out to understand this beloved, if often enigmatic, figure who turned his early tribulations into a stunning political career. Since his death in 2004, President Reagan has been

a galvanizing force that personifies the values of an older America and represents an important era in national history. *Ron Reagan* traces the sources of these values in his father's early years and offers a heartfelt portrait of a man and his country-and his personal memories of the president he knew as "Dad." *The Remarkable Ronald Reagan* The New Press Ronald Reagan was a natural leader, well-remembered not just for his political leadership, but also for his warmth, kindness, dignity, and optimism.

There's a lot kids can learn from Reagan, about our country and about being good leaders and good people. *The Remarkable Ronald Reagan: Cowboy and Commander in Chief* is a fun, colorful look at his life, from his humble beginnings as the son of a shoe salesman, to his years as a Hollywood actor, his service in WWII, his life as a rancher, and finally the culmination of his political career in the Oval Office. There's plenty that even adults can learn as they read along with their kids, including Reagan's efforts to stand up against racial discrimination, and

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his powerful faith in God. The Remarkable Ronald Reagan is a treat for the entire family. *The Age of Reagan: The Fall of the Old Liberal Order* Random House Trade Paperbacks

The past thirty-five years have marked an era of conservatism. Although briefly interrupted in the late 1970s and temporarily reversed in the 1990s, a powerful surge from the right dominated American politics and government from 1974 to 2008. In *The Age of Reagan*, Sean Wilentz, one of our nation's

leading historians, accounts for how a conservative movement once deemed marginal managed to seize power and hold it, and describes the momentous consequences that followed. Vivid, authoritative, and illuminating from start to finish, *The Age of Reagan* is a groundbreaking chronicle of America's political history since the fall of Nixon. *The Age of Reagan: The Conservative Counterrevolution* Anchor

From New York Times bestselling biographer Bob Spitz, a full and rich biography of an

epic American life, capturing what made Ronald Reagan both so beloved and so transformational. More than five years in the making, based on hundreds of interviews and access to previously unavailable documents, and infused with irresistible storytelling charm, Bob Spitz's REAGAN stands fair to be the first truly post-partisan biography of our 40th President, and thus a balm for our own bitterly divided times. It is the quintessential American triumph, brought to life with cinematic vividness: a young man is born into poverty and raised in a series of flyspeck



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towns in the Midwest radio sportscaster, by a pious mother and a reckless, alcoholic, largely absent father. Severely near-sighted, the boy lives in his own world, a world of the popular books of the day, and finds his first brush with popularity, even fame, as a young lifeguard. Thanks to his first great love, he imagines a way out, and makes the extraordinary leap to go to college, a modest school by national standards, but an audacious presumption in the context of his family's station. From there, the path is only very dimly lit, but it leads him, thanks to his great charm and greater luck, to a solid career as a shrewd judgments, and doesn't flinch from a full reckoning with the man's strengths and limitations. This is no hagiography: Reagan was never a brilliant student, of anything, and his disinterest in hard-nosed political scheming, while admirable, meant that this side of things was left to the other people in his orbit, not least his wife Nancy; sometimes this delegation could lead to chaos, and worse. But what emerges as a powerful signal through all the noise is an honest inherent sweetness, a gentleness of nature and willingness to see the good in people and in this country, and then, astonishingly, fatefully, to Hollywood. And the rest, as they say, is history. Bob Spitz's REAGAN is an absorbing, richly detailed, even revelatory chronicle of the full arc of Ronald Reagan's epic life - giving full weight to the Hollywood years, his transition to politics and rocky but ultimately successful run as California governor, and ultimately, of course, his iconic presidency, filled with storm and stress but climaxing with his peace talks with the Soviet Union that would serve as his greatest legacy. It is filled with fresh assessments and

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that proved to be a tonic for America in his time, and still is in ours. It was famously said that FDR had a first-rate disposition and a second-rate intellect. Perhaps it is no accident that only FDR had as high a public approval rating leaving office as Reagan did, or that in the years since Reagan has been closing in on FDR on rankings of Presidential greatness. Written with love and irony, which in a great biography is arguably the same thing, Bob Spitz's masterpiece will give no comfort to partisans at either extreme; for the rest of us, it is cause for celebration.

*Dutch Springer*

A masterful account of how Ronald Reagan and his national security team confronted the Soviets, reduced the nuclear threat, won the Cold War, and supported the spread of freedom around the world. "Remarkable... a great read."—Robert Gates • "Mesmerizing... to put down."—Paul Kennedy • "Full of fresh information... will shape all future studies of the role the United States played in ending the Cold War."—John Lewis Gaddis • "A major contribution to our understanding of the Reagan presidency and the twilight of the Cold War era."—David Kennedy With decades of

hindsight, the peaceful end of the Cold War seems a foregone conclusion. But in the early 1980s, most experts believed the Soviet Union was strong, stable, and would last into the next century. Ronald Reagan entered the White House with hardno certainty of what would happen next, only an overriding faith in democracy and an abiding belief that Soviet communism—and the threat of nuclear war—must end. The Peacemaker reveals how Reagan's White House waged the Cold War while managing multiple crises around the globe. From the emergence of global terrorism,

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wars in the Middle East, the rise of Japan, and the awakening of China to proxy conflicts in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, Reagan's team oversaw the worldwide expansion of democracy, globalization, free trade, and the information revolution. Yet no issue was greater than the Cold War standoff with the Soviet Union. As president, Reagan remade the four-decades-old policy of containment and challenged the Soviets in an arms race and ideological contest that pushed them toward economic and political collapse, all while extending an olive branch of

diplomacy as he sought a peaceful end to the conflict. Reagan's revolving team included Secretaries of State Al Haig and George Shultz; Secretaries of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Frank Carlucci; National Security Advisors Bill Clark, John Poindexter, and Bud McFarlane; Chief of Staff James Baker; CIA Director Bill Casey; and United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick. Talented and devoted to their president, they were often at odds with one another as rivalries and backstabbing led to missteps and crises. But over the course of the presidency, Reagan and his team still

developed the strategies that brought about the Cold War's peaceful conclusion and remade the world. Based on thousands of pages of newly-declassified documents and interviews with senior Reagan officials, *The Peacemaker* brims with fresh insights into one of America's most consequential presidents. Along the way, it shows how the pivotal decade of the 1980s shaped the world today.

**Sleepwalking Through History**  
Forum Books  
When Ronald Reagan was elected in 1980, limits on NASA funding and the

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lack of direction under the Nixon and Carter administrations had left the U.S. space program at a crossroads. In contrast to his predecessors, Reagan saw outer space as humanity's final frontier and as an opportunity for global leadership. His optimism and belief in American exceptionalism guided a decade of U.S. activities in space, including bringing the space shuttle into operation, dealing with the 1986 Challenger accident and its aftermath, committing to a permanently crewed space station, encouraging private sector space efforts, and fostering

international space partnerships with both U.S. allies and with the Soviet Union. Drawing from a trove of declassified primary source materials and oral history interviews, John M. Logsdon provides the first comprehensive account of Reagan's civilian and commercial space policies during his eight years in the White House. Even as a fiscal conservative who was hesitant to increase NASA's budget, Reagan's enthusiasm for the space program made him perhaps the most pro-space president in American history. **The Reagan Era** Columbia University Press

Explores Reagan's political career, from his role in the California tax revolt to the economic success the United States experienced during his term in office.

**What I Saw at the Revolution**  
Yale University Press

In this concise yet thorough history of America in the 1980s, Doug Rossinow takes the full measure of Ronald Reagan's presidency and the ideology of Reaganism. Believers in libertarian economics and a muscular foreign

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policy, Reaganite and its debt to the widening conservatives in backlash gender gap to the 1980s generated by the the triumph of achieved civil rights yuppies and rap impressive movement, as music, from success in their well as Reagan's tax efforts to transform entanglement buildup to the American government, of crime and the celebrity of politics, and rise of mass Michael Jackson society, ushering incarceration. and Madonna, in the political Rossinow Wall Street and social narrates the scandals to the system conflicts that successes of Bill Americans rocked U.S. Gates and Sam inhabit today. foreign policy Walton, from the Rossinow links toward Central first "war on current trends in America, and he terror" to the end economic explains the role of the Cold War inequality to the of the recession and the brink of policies and during the early America's first social 1980s in the war with Iraq, developments of decline of this history, lively the Reagan era. manufacturing and readable yet He reckons with and the growth of sober and the racial politics a service unsparing, gives of Reaganism economy. From readers vital

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perspective on a decade that dramatically altered the American landscape. *Reagan* Penguin  
Few scholars have paid close attention to the factors internal to the Republican Party that helped the Right to consolidate its power within the party between the 1960s and the 1980s. Plugging the gap in party literature, *The Rise of the Republican Right: From Goldwater to Reagan* provides

a comprehensive account of the rise of the Republican Right in the years between Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential defeat and the election of Ronald Reagan as president in 1980. Specifically, it offers a historical-institutional analysis of the organizational factors internal to the Republican Party that helped the conservative Right maintain, and then expand its ascendant position within the GOP in the critical years

between Goldwater and Reagan. Brian M. Conley demonstrates how the growth of the Right during this period was aided by a desire on the part of many Republican leaders to rebound from electoral defeat by rebuilding the party organizationally, rather than reforming it politically, through the introduction of a more "service"-oriented party structure. *The Rise of the Republican Right*

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will interest academics, party scholars, and researchers eager to gain a more nuanced understanding of the factors that helped the Right become a dominant force within the Republican Party.

Ronald Reagan

Penguin

Hailed by the New Yorker as "a superlative study of a president and his presidency," Lou Cannon's *President Reagan* remains the definitive account of our most significant presidency in the last fifty years.

Ronald Wilson Reagan, the first

actor to be elected president, turned in the performance of a lifetime. But that performance concealed the complexities of the man, baffling most who came in contact with him. Who was the man behind the makeup? Only Lou Cannon, who covered Reagan through his political career, can tell us. The keenest Reagan-watcher of them all, he has been the only author to reveal the nature of a man both shrewd and oblivious. Based on hundreds of interviews with the president, the First Lady, and hundreds of the administration's major figures, *President Reagan*

takes us behind the scenes of the Oval Office. Cannon leads us through all of Reagan's roles, from the affable cowboy to the self-styled family man; from the politician who denounced big government to the president who created the largest peace-time deficit; from the statesman who reviled the Soviet government to the Great Communicator who helped end the cold war.

Ronald Reagan

W. W. Norton & Company

The best-selling author of *Nixonland* presents a portrait of the United States during the

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turbulent political and economic upheavals of the 1970s, covering events ranging from the Arab oil embargo and the era of Patty Hearst to the collapse of the South Vietnamese government and the rise of Ronald Reagan. **The Other Eighties** Simon and Schuster “Those who say that we’re in a time when there are no heroes, they just don’t know where to look.” –President Ronald Reagan, January 20, 1981 Hero. It was a word most Americans weren’t using much in 1980. As

they waited on gas and unemployment lines, as their enemies abroad grew ever more aggressive, and as one after another their leaders failed them, Americans began to believe the country’s greatness was fading. Yet within two years the recession and gas shortage were over. Before the decade was out, the Cold War was won, the Berlin Wall came crashing down, and America was once more at the height of prosperity. And the nation had a new hero: Ronald Wilson Reagan. Reagan’s greatness is today widely acknowledged, but his legacy is still misunderstood. Democrats accept

the effectiveness of his foreign policy but ignore the success of his domestic programs; Republicans cheer his victories over liberalism while ignoring his bitter battles with his own party’s establishment; historians speak of his eloquence and charisma but gloss over his brilliance in policy and clarity of vision. From Steven F. Hayward, the critically acclaimed author of *The Age of Reagan: The Fall of the Old Liberal Order*, comes the first complete, true story of this misunderstood, controversial, and deeply consequential presidency. Hayward pierces the myths and



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media narratives, masterfully documenting exactly what transpired behind the scenes during Reagan's landmark presidency and revealing his real legacy. What emerges is a compelling portrait of a man who arrived in office after thirty years of practical schooling in the ways of politics and power, possessing a clear vision of where he wanted to take the nation and a willingness to take firm charge of his own administration. His relentless drive to shrink government and lift the burdens of high taxation was born of a deep appreciation for the grander blessings of liberty.

And it was this same outlook, extended to the world's politically and economically enslaved nations, that shaped his foreign policy and lent his statecraft its great unifying power. Over a decade in the making, and filled with fresh revelations, surprising insights, and an unerring eye for the telling detail, this provocative and authoritative book recalls a time when true leadership inspired a fallen nation to pick itself up, hold its head high, and take up the cause of freedom once again.

*The Reagan Moment*  
Routledge

In this engaging new book, Bradford Martin illuminates a different 1980s than many remember—one whose history has been buried under the celebratory narrative of conservative ascendancy. Ronald Reagan looms large in most accounts of the period, encouraging Americans to renounce the activist and liberal politics of the 1960s and '70s and embrace the resurgent conservative wave. But a closer look reveals that a sizable swath of Americans

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strongly disapproved of Reagan's policies throughout his presidency. With a weakened Democratic Party scurrying for the political center, many expressed their dissatisfaction outside electoral politics. Unlike the Vietnam era protesters, activists of the 1980s often found themselves on the defensive, struggling to preserve the hard-won victories of the previous era. Their successes, then, were not in ushering in a new era of progressive reforms but in

effecting change in apartheid regime in areas from professional life to popular culture, while beating back an even more forceful political shift to the right. Martin paints an indelible portrait of these and other influential, but often overlooked, movements: from on-the-ground efforts to constrain the administration's aggressive Latin American policy and stave off a possible Nicaraguan war, to mock shanties constructed on college campuses to shed light on corporate America's role in supporting the

South Africa. The result is a clearer, richer perspective on a turbulent decade in American life. **The Reagan Revolution: A Very Short Introduction** Hill and Wang Named a Best Book of the Year by Financial Times "Singular, stylish and slightly intoxicating in its scope." —Rolling Stone Acclaimed media critic J. Hoberman's masterful and majestic exploration of the Reagan years as seen through the unforgettable movies of the era The third book in

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a brilliant and ambitious trilogy, celebrated cultural and film critic J. Hoberman's *Make My Day* is a major new work of film and pop culture history. In it he chronicles the Reagan years, from the waning days of the Watergate scandal when disaster films like *Earthquake* ruled the box office to the nostalgia of feel-good movies like *Rocky* and *Star Wars*, and the delirium of the 1984 presidential campaign and beyond. Bookended by the Bicentennial celebrations and the Iran-Contra

affair, the period of Reagan's ascendance brought such movie events as *Jaws*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Blade Runner*, *Ghostbusters*, *Blue Velvet*, and *Back to the Future*, as well as the birth of MTV, the Strategic Defense Initiative, and the Second Cold War. An exploration of the synergy between American politics and popular culture, *Make My Day* is the concluding volume of Hoberman's *Found Illusions* trilogy; the first volume, *The Dream Life*, was described by

Slate's David Edelstein as "one of the most vital cultural histories I've ever read"; *Film Comment* called the second, *An Army of Phantoms*, "utterly compulsive reading." Reagan, a supporting player in Hoberman's previous volumes, here takes center stage as the peer of Indiana Jones and John Rambo, the embodiment of a Hollywood that, even then, no longer existed. **My Father at 100** Post Hill Press No one has ever captured Ronald Reagan like Peggy Noonan. In *When Character Was King*, Noonan

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brings her own reflections on Reagan to bear as well as new stories—from Presidents George W. Bush and his father, George H. W. Bush, his Secret Service men and White House colleagues, his wife, his daughter Patti Davis, and his close friends—to reveal the true nature of a man even his opponents now view as a maker of big history. Marked by incisive wit and elegant prose, *When Character Was King* will both enlighten and move readers. It may well be the last word on Ronald Reagan, not only as a leader but as a man.