



# Memoirs, Vol 2: Years of Trial and Hope

*Harry Truman*

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## **Memoirs, Vol 2: Years of Trial and Hope Details**

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### **Aaron Million says**

Volume II picks up following the conclusion of the momentous year of 1945. This volume takes Truman through the next seven years until he retires in January of 1953, after serving not quite eight years as President. We see a more confident Truman emerge here. He is no longer hobbled by the fact that FDR kept him in the dark about virtually everything during Truman's three month vice-presidency. WWII is now over, the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan had already been made, and he had time to fill out his Cabinet to his liking.

About 25% of the book is taken up with talking about the Korean War. Despite all of the critical things that occurred during Truman's time in office, he is probably most remembered for two: dropping atomic bombs on Japan to force the end of WWII, and committing United States forces to the Korean War. Truman begins this part with a discussion of where the situation was at in Korea when fighting broke out, and how it came to be that basically the northern half of the country was Communist while the southern half was not. He then brings in General Douglas MacArthur, and proceeds to explain in detail all of the problems that his administration had with the vainglorious general. This may be too detailed for some, but anyone interested in how a president exercises power and exactly when and where he decides to use it, will find this of value. Truman explains his thought process behind his eventual decision to relieve MacArthur of command. Truman, and many others, repeatedly tried to avoid this circumstance, and if anything Truman let MacArthur's insubordination go on too long (Truman himself admits to this). He knew that firing the general would create a political firestorm for him, and also possibly damage the morale of the troops fighting in Korea. However, MacArthur really left him no choice. As Truman stated, the Constitution placed the President in charge of the military, and Truman would have not been respecting his own office had he continued to allow MacArthur to not only stray from administration policy but be openly hostile. This decision was enormously unpopular at the time, and Truman was vilified by many people. But it has withstood the test of time, as has Truman's initial decision to intervene in Korea, and today it is widely regarded as superb example of a president needing to maintain the authority of his office and not allowing himself to be dictated to by a commander in the field.

While Truman was able to write about MacArthur without seeming bitter - indeed he went out of his way to praise MacArthur's abilities as a general and as a soldier - he could not maintain the same tone when speaking of his successor as president, Dwight Eisenhower. The latter was quite involved in Truman's administration, serving in various important positions (Army Chief of Staff, NATO Supreme Commander). Historians have disagreed over exactly what all transpired to rupture their relationship, but in any event, by the time that Eisenhower was running for president in 1952, there was no love lost on either side. As in most personal conflicts, there are things that either man could have done or said to have kept the dissolution of their relationship from happening. While Truman certainly had his faults like all of us do, I am personally inclined to pin more of the cause on Eisenhower here (this is not based on just the reading of this book) as the correspondence between the two shows Ike as being cold and aloof, and he was not upfront with Truman - maintaining that he would not be running for the Republican nomination in 1952 up until almost the moment that he declared.

At any rate, Truman abruptly concludes the book on this somewhat negative note: Eisenhower assuming the presidency. He writes of the strained transition period, and then suddenly the book ends. No reflections on his time in the White House, if he missed it, his thoughts on living in Washington D.C. for eighteen years, or

saying good-bye to all of the people that he worked with over the years. There was very little mention of his wife, Bess, or his daughter, Margaret. He did write a nice passage about his mother's death in 1947, and how he was sad that she did not live to see him elected president in his own right in 1948.

Overall, this volume seemed more personal in tone than the first one did. Truman wrote with more vigor and customary bluntness than before, and it comes out throughout the book. Even when writing about the 1948 campaign and election, he gave a brief history of election campaigns in the U.S. and provided his commentary on many former presidents and the circumstances that brought them to the White House. While not spell-binding in style - in some parts, the narrative does drag - this is a worthwhile read for anyone interested in Truman, his presidency, the early Cold War, or American history during this period.

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## **Hai Quan says**

With small exception, we can divide the world into two groups of nations : Large and / or industrialized ones and small and/ or non-industrialized ones.

With no exception, since ancient time until now ,the first kind have been adopting imperialism as a mean to expanse their borders, enrich their national economies at the cost of vast destruction and suffering to the latter , through ,of course wagging wars among themselves and against the latter.

Within the national borders, we can divide the people into two kinds: The nobles, wealthy,medicine men ( perform all religious rituals and heal the sick, represent God , render judgments, they encompass Lawyers, Doctors, Priests and Priestesses, Politicians etc) who compose of a tiny percentage of the population (thereafter referred as TOP DOGS ) .....and the rest (Laborers, Farmers, small land owners,small shopkeepers, blue collar employees and lowly white collar employees}, thereafter referred as UNDERDOGS

With a very small exception , the TOP DOGS, Truman was surely one among them , have been always preying upon the UNDERDOGS 's sweat and blood

for themselves, their family and cohorts the superior quality and quantity of food, clothing, dwelling, fame ,fortune and other privileges and last but not least, power.

But of course, they have been very clever, and devious.They used all means within their power to blind the underdogs with all the propaganda machinery they possessed ( mass media) . As a result all the underdogs, if not almost all, happily worshiped them as saviors, obeyed all their orders, praised all their lies as though they were gospel !

Using this concept to read this memoir by the former President of the U T ( No, not Urinary Tract, and certainly not a typo, but President of the United Thieves),Harry S. Truman, one can see much clearer what actually are hiding behind the false ,self-serving, grandiose statements made by this man.In fact one can see such a lying, paternalistic, self-important, stupid,arrogant, devious, ignorant (or pretense to be ignorant of historical facts) kind of a man !

The above assessment is NOT a wholesale muck throwing toward the man to whom perhaps most people worship as a saint , people who are uninformed ( a polite term applied to 80 percent of world population, people who are too poor to afford a basic formal education) , stupid , brainwashed and apathetic, American included.

I will analyze , point by point , and prove the truthfulness of my assessment stated above, using his very words, but of course FROM VERY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE , that of a man living over half his adult

life under the evil of colonialism. Obviously, Truman the big colonialist , if he still alive today, would have had a hard time understanding, much less to accept my perspective , a victim of this "great" President 's national ( really !) policy of ROBBING AND KILLING toward Native American and other people of third world countries ( He listed Andrew Jackson , the infamous inventor of "THE TRAILS OF TEARS" , against Native American among his heroes !).Mind you , this robbing and killing were not ended with the death of Jackson. It have been the major policy of all U S administrations since the earliest time until now, Truman's included.Proof ? Please visit [www.aimovement.org](http://www.aimovement.org) .

He had lied through his teeth with a straight face throughout his thick volumes of memoir. I don't have time and enough care to read both volumes.Actually I don't want to wast my precious time to read even one volume.Why should I ? They are full of lies, half truths and self-praises Just from briefly glancing through them I can realize Truman 's false, paternalistic, grandiose, arrogant and self-serving ideas, concepts and policies in every pages !

He represented no one but only himself, his family and his privileged class of TOP DOGS.He worked only for them, but of course got pay from the tribute he extracted from the UNDERDOGS.He , his family and his cohorts shed no blood, the UNDERDOGS did. He , his family and his cohorts shed no tears, suffered no casualty, lost no property, the underdogs did.

Therefore it was easy for him to boast about his "grand " achievements, his legacy, his grand deeds !

Let's start with him being a big liar.

In chapter 10, he repeated again and again how much he concerned about the miserable living condition of the Jews in camps, how hard he had done to solve that problem because he felt it was his responsibility as the President of the U. S. to help and protect those who were the victims of persecution due to their race, skin color, religious belief etc....etc...Very good thinking, very lofty ideal , very nice sounding words !

**BUT THEY ARE ALSO LIES ! BIG LIES !**

Why ? You may ask.

Well, for one thing, historically he and all his predecessors would salivate heavily whenever the picture of Middle East appeared.Oil, for Peter sake ! Yes, Oil, crude oil reserves.Million tons of 'em .

That , my dear readers and fellow book reviewers , were the true reason for his love , his heartache toward the Jews ' misery, being stranded among very angry, hostile "savage" Arabian hosts who happen to be nice enough to extend their hospitality to a bunch of Jewish refugees,who had escaped from being rounded up and exterminated by the bad boy Hitler and his honchos

All Truman 's predecessors ( and later , his successors ) used Israel as the political leverage to stick their bloodied soaked snouts into the crude oil reserves in the Middle East underground.

It was little mater to Truman if the Jewish guests now repaying their benefactors with a little request of granting them the hosts' land , a big part of the land, so the poor guests may please resettle . Not only a small number, but lots of them, equal to half the hosts population !

Now, if the neighbors from a slum quarter came to Truman[s house for an emergency stay, and later ask him to please move to other rooms so they can stay permanently , would this grand statesman agree ?

Can you see ? He was a big liar !

As I have stated above, he lied through his teeth, with a straight ( albeit fat, that of a well fed , well nourished man) face ! ( See the book's cover )Why ? How ?

Well , the Native Americans ! Those irksome people ! Kept complaining about the ridiculous , ancient story about their ancestral land, almost all of it , being robbed cleanly by the white settlers , with a little help from the US government.

Yep, those savages ! Why couldn't they content with uprooting their villages,packing their tools,wrapping their children in rags, uprooting their crops,leaving their ancestor bones behind, killing all their domestic animals , salting 'em, using 'em as food to fill their stomachs for the very long trip, toward a very far away wilderness,toward the unknown horizon, their new homes ?

It was little mater to Truman if only a small number of the poor , unlucky red men ,women and children survived the hardship of those infamous "TRAILS OF TEARS" !He still kept crowing about how great was his America, with all the big , lofty , nice sounding words ( but empty in reality) about DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM , FREEDOM, FREEDOM ,ERECTION (Sorry, ELECTION ), DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRACY , PROTECT THE WEAK, CHILDREN, WOMEN , EQUALITY, NO RACIAL PERSECUTION, EQUALITY ...blah....blah....

If he was such a nice guy,so much concerned with the peaceful solution for the plight of the Jews, with great power of the Prez of the U S, why didn't he let the poor victims of Hitler terrible deeds to settle in the U S soil ?.He has hundreds if not hundred thousands of acres of unoccupied lands under his disposal with little help from his friends in the Congress and the House of Representative

Of course, the reason was very clear: He has no love for any one , Jews included. But the Jews served as the reason for his interference into the political systems of the Middle East, to provide his access to its oil reserves.

And why didn't he return some if not all land that his predecessors robbed from the rightful owners , the different tribes of Native Americans who had been suffered terribly from the monstrous injustice inflicted upon them by all of the U S governments,Truman 's included.The Native American suffered not only the lost of almost all of their ancestral land but also the continuous persecution , even in Truman time,that was heaped upon all who protested peacefully or otherwise this unjust , criminal act against them?

I am not going into the can of worms of black slaves of yesteryear and the neo-slaves and the shameful persecution of people of all shades of skin colors who were active in the fight for equality in Truman 's time and even in this modern, "other" America.

Lying through his teeth indeed !

( more later)

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**Ira says**

Though such a memoir is clearly bound to present the author in a favorable light, this is a revealing, useful

account by a president who faced a set of challenges and crises that easily match those confronted in any other era. Very worthwhile.

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### **a.t.m. says**

#### **Superb book authored by a great president.**

The years after President Roosevelt died were filled with events requiring action and personal conviction. President Truman was responsible for dropping two atomic bombs on Japan to end the second world war. He had to make key decisions on Berlin, Greece, and Korea. President Truman was a simple man, yet, his legacy lives on for all of his contributions to our country. This book should required reading at all levels in our educational system.

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### **Leah G says**

Truman rocks. That's all.

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### **Dan says**

Truman brings his honesty and his biases to this review of his Presidential years. It is straightforward as he was.

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### **Bob Ryan says**

Recaps the Truman presidency that started with the death of FDR at the end of World War II. Truman organizes the book by covering a separate topic into its own chapter, for instance, the first chapter is about the creation and organization of the Atomic Energy Commission. The largest portions of the book is directed toward the Korean War and the post WWI Cold War against the Russians. There is a impressive listing of accomplishments, the creation of the modern day Defense Department, the Office of Strategic Services that became the Central Intelligence Agency, and Truman's efforts to control farm prices and to nationalize the steel industry to appease the steel workers union. Truman also tried to institute national health care because he was concerned so many WWII draftees weren't healthy enough to serve in the war.

The Truman Administration was also instrumental in the creation of Israel. Originally sold as a plan to deposit 100,000 Jewish refugees into Palestine after WWII because no European nation would accept them, it grew into the separate state of Israel. The US agreed to pay the Arab states \$59 million to accept the refugees, but that was just the beginning of the problems we continue to have today in that area of the world. The Marshall Plan was instituted after WWII partially to rebuild Europe but also because Russia was moving into economically devastated countries and setting up Communist governments. Much of Truman's foreign policy was reacting to the Soviets in areas all over the world. The Korean War was one such Russian inspired excursion by the North Koreans and the Communist Chinese. Truman's firing of General Douglas MacArthur at the end of war was a huge political event

Considering Truman's entire presidency was only 6 years, there was a lot of event, foreign and domestic, that

are still being felt today.

Truman was a "big government" liberal who searched for a Federal solution to every issue. He never held a job in the private section. After he served in WWI he became a county official where he lived and worked his way up the Democratic political ladder. The book doesn't suggest why Roosevelt selected him as Vice President. When he ran for re-election in 1948 he felt he was the only one who could possibly deal with the presidency and when he left the job to Eisenhower in 1952 he wonders how the man who was the Supreme Commander of the US Armed Forces in WWII could possibly handle the job.

Truman writes in a clear cut style and includes transcripts of speeches and letters in his support. It's a long book, but easy to read. Truman wrote it to make sure his views were presented fairly after he was gone from the scene and it fulfills that purpose.

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### **Cws says**

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### **Steve says**

#### **Give 'em hell, Harry**

Long winded and dry. They say history repeats itself. Maybe, at any rate Harry certainly does. Nonetheless, the events chronicled represent a very critical period in our nation's history. Being told from the perspective of the chief executive makes it even more relevant.

President Truman had to deal with Russia, China and Korea in tense situations that could have resulted in WW-III. Planning for the coming atomic age, a steel industry strike, a rogue General MacArthur, legislative conflicts, and lack of Supreme Court backing. What more could a President desire.

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