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A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt And The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights



Synopsis

Unafraid to speak her mind and famously tenacious in her convictions, Eleanor Roosevelt was still mourning the death of FDR when she was asked by President Truman to lead a controversial commission, under the auspices of the newly formed United Nations, to forge the world's first international bill of rights. *A World Made New* is the dramatic and inspiring story of the remarkable group of men and women from around the world who participated in this historic achievement and gave us the founding document of the modern human rights movement. Spurred on by the horrors of the Second World War and working against the clock in the brief window of hope between the armistice and the Cold War, they grappled together to articulate a new vision of the rights that every man and woman in every country around the world should share, regardless of their culture or religion. A landmark work of narrative history based in part on diaries and letters to which Mary Ann Glendon, an award-winning professor of law at Harvard University, was given exclusive access, *A World Made New* is the first book devoted to this crucial turning point in Eleanor Roosevelt's life, and in world history. Finalist for the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award

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Customer Reviews

A marvelous account of the formulation and development of the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights'. It really had its gestation in 1941 during the Roosevelt - Churchill meeting at Placentia Bay, off Newfoundland, during the very dark days of World War II. At that stage the spread of German Nazism seemed unstoppable. The Atlantic Charter was made with 'Roosevelt's freedoms' - freedom

of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. One could say that the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' is composed of these four main pillars. The author gives us a history of the evolution of the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' providing us with its' different draft forms. She also gives us excellent and vivid portrayals of the main protagonists involved. We can say they represent a wide range of humanity - Rene Cassin from France, Charles Malik from Lebanon, P.C. Chang from China, John P. Humphrey from Canada, Housa Meht from India and several others. Orchestrating and pushing through this agenda was Eleanor Roosevelt. Her prestige, her boundless energy and her unique ability to encompass and empathize with humanity at large made her able to move this 'Declaration' to approval at the U.N. General Assembly. This was no small task. It is indeed Eleanor Roosevelt's finest hour. It gives her a lasting legacy that mankind should remember for all time. The author also gives a very readable description of the meaning of the Declaration - deciphering for us the battles to make it more readable and acceptable to all members of the various committees who participated in its' writing. It was passed by the U.N. in 1948; only the Soviet bloc countries and Saudi Arabia abstained from voting.

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