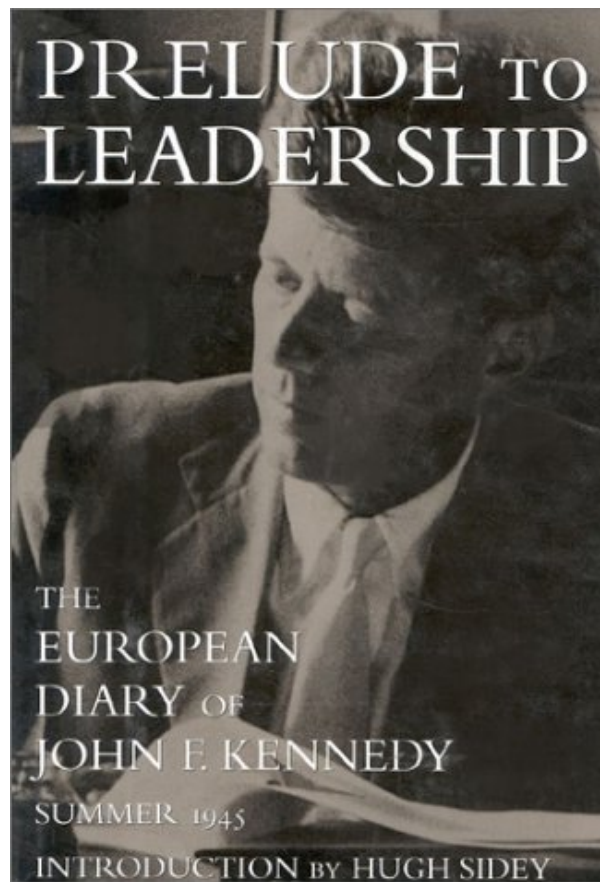
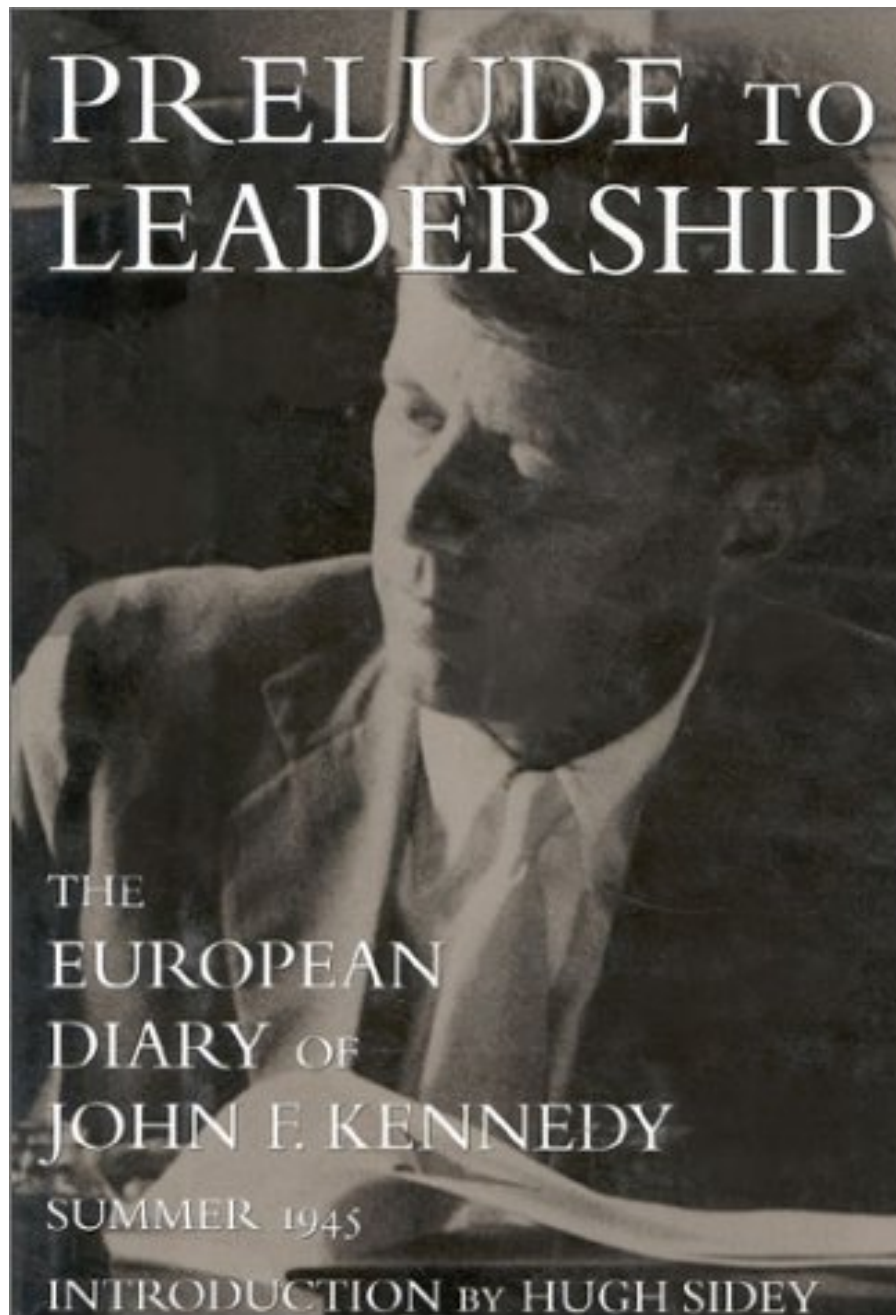


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EUROPEAN DIARY OF JOHN F. KENNEDY :
SUMMER 1945 BY JOHN FITZGERALD
KENNEDY, DEIRDRE HENDERSON**



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From the Back Cover

As World War II was ending and the cold war was just beginning, a twenty-eight-year-old naval hero, decommissioned before war's end because of his crippling injuries, traveled through a devastated Europe. During that trip, John F. Kennedy kept a diary, never before published and until now unknown - even to Kennedy scholars. As the diary makes clear, that European trip was a turning point in the future President's life. The scion of one of America's wealthiest families, Jack Kennedy had grown up in the shadow of an adored older brother destined for greatness. For himself, Jack had intended a quiet career as a college professor or perhaps as an author. But when Joe Kennedy, Jr. was killed in the skies over the English Channel, the expectations of his family and the mantle of leadership passed on to JFK. Would he accept them? That was the question that confronted Kennedy as he traveled in the company of cabinet secretaries and generals, future presidents and prime ministers, toured a humbled Germany, and faced for the first time the power of post-war Russia and the perfidy and bloody-mindedness of Communists in power. It was on this trip, the diary shows, that Kennedy first confronted the "long twilight struggle" for the preservation of Western freedom that would define his Presidency. In these few months an agenda for a Presidency began to be forged. For as the closing pages of the diary make clear, it was at this time that the challenge was accepted, the mantle taken up, and Kennedy began laying plans for his first run for Congress, the first step in his journey to the White House. *Prelude to Leadership* offers, as Hugh Sidey says in his Introduction, an "intriguing new trove" of insight into the mind of a future president preparing himself for a "still distant challenge". It reveals a man who, not yet thirty, understood not only that a new world drama was taking shape, but that he was destined to play a great role in it.

About the Author

Theodore C. Sorensen, former special counsel and adviser to President John F. Kennedy, has practiced international law for more than thirty-four years and has advised numerous international institutions and foreign governments. He is the author of several books on the presidency and domestic and foreign politics, and he has written for "Foreign Affairs," the "New York Times," and other publications.

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Newly discovered diary of a young JFK.

- Sales Rank: #965161 in Books
- Brand: Regnery Publishing
- Published on: 1995-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.18" h x 1.01" w x 6.58" l, 1.35 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 210 pages

Features

- Great product!

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A Valuable Glimpse at a Future President

By Robert Bolton

This book was published in 1995 and it primarily a transcription of JFK's journal notations from his time touring Germany in the summer of 1945. Although he was working technically as a journalist, his father's wealth and social position allowed him to travel in circles and access areas often barred to the average American. Although Kennedy was a young man and still wrote like one (the book cover makes him look borderline boyish), I occasionally had to remind myself that by this point he was also a decorated war veteran who encountered combat in the Pacific.

The entries rarely last for more than a page or two, but they do contain some interesting observations. While visiting one German woman's bedroom, he notes that she is extremely underfed and the risks of coming winter. In line with some of his father's thinking, he also described FDR's New Deal as having at its roots totalitarianism, something that may shock his liberal admirers today. Unlike many of his other published works which were either ghostwritten or substantially polished by others, this work is authored solely by the future president and thus purely in his voice. In tone, he was, as Hugh Sidey says in the introduction, "a serious man on a serious mission." In that regard, this book, while contributing little new to our perspective of post-war Europe, is a valuable glimpse of the man who would one day be president.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

I enjoyed reading this background book

By Pam R

I enjoyed reading this background book. My first political awareness was JFK as I entered middle school and looking back I am impressed more and more with the knowledge and experience he had as a young man and a young President.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Leadership for yesterday, today, and tomorrow

By Pilot

It's as though you were there, with Kennedy, as he travelled through Europe. Through the privilege of his father, Kennedy was granted access to much of world history before it happened. He saw the weakness of Chamberlain as it unfolded in parliament, when Chamberlain was being led around by the nose by Hitler. He saw firsthand the results of weak leaders and the high price to be paid for it.

More Americans need to learn the examples of our history and that of the world and only when we know our own history can we lay a path for the future.

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