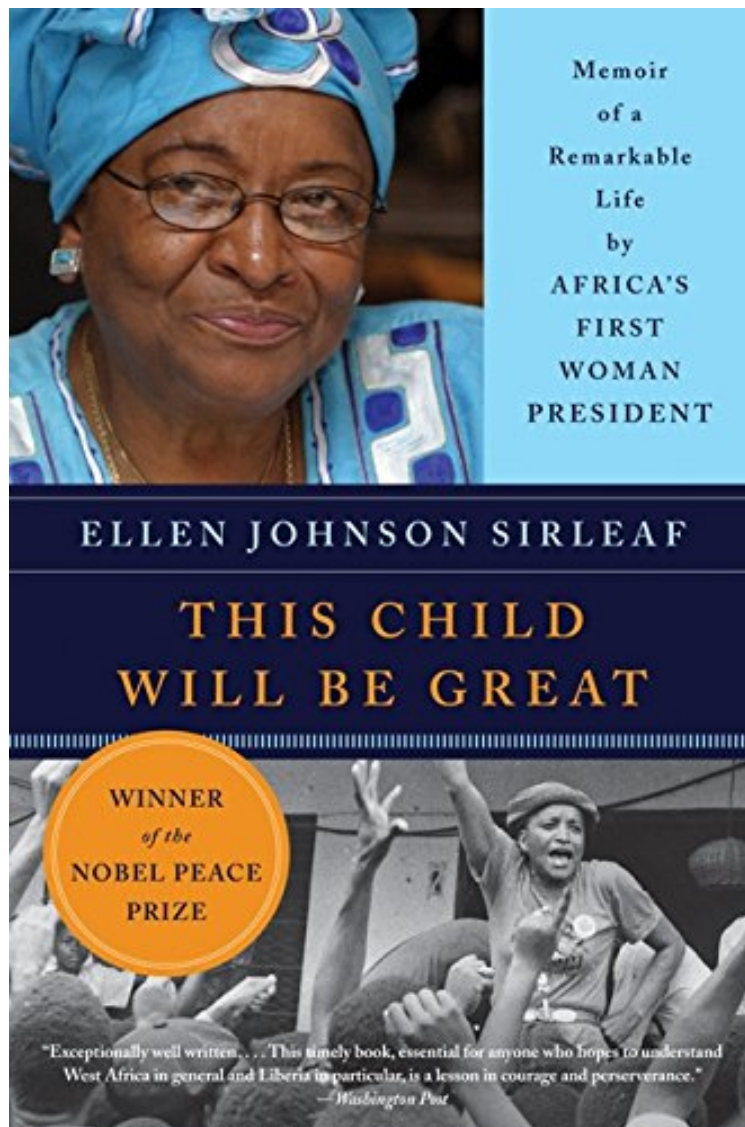


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## This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

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#71607 in Books Ellen Johnson Sirleaf 2010-04-13 2010-04-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .86 x 5.311, .62 #File Name: 0061353485384 pages This Child Will Be Great Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President | File size: 54.Mb

**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf : This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "History" not "Memoir" By Patricia L. Morgan This review request is well-timed - my Book Club will talk about this book tonight and my opinion may be over-ridden. I looked forward to reading this book due to its timely subject (first female President in Africa) and timely subject matter (how a third world country was tossed into total chaos when "democracy" failed). Thus I encourage readers interested in female leadership and the fragility of political systems to read the book. My gripes with it are with how it is written, not what it is written about. First, the book contains "everything you ever wanted to know about Liberia and Ms. Sirleaf and much you don't need to know if you never knew anything about either Liberia or Ms. Sirleaf." In other words, in my opinion, Ms. Sirleaf needed a stronger editor, if not a ghost writer. The book is ponderous in sections ... I rarely "leaf through" a book; I did so at times with this book. Second, and important to me, Ms. Sirleaf did not convey an emotional sense of her journey. For example, she left her children with others while she attended schools and worked abroad, which surely would grip a mother with sadness. It is not conveyed. Further, she was imprisoned and in mortal danger from unstable political enemies, sufficient to terrorize most people (I'd think). She did not convey terror but rather tended to convey, more or less, that she was either "lucky" or felt "safe" in her gut. This while in a jail from which others routinely "disappeared!" I was left thinking that perhaps Ms. Sirleaf felt she had to always portray "strength," which no human being, save the disordered, can reasonably do at all times. Nor should any of us be expected to do so. Thousands upon thousands of Ms. Sirleaf's countrymen were killed by political leaders and warmongers ... Ms. Sirleaf seemed to want to convey that she simply glided above the fray, always challenging and speaking truth to power, but somehow always surviving relatively unscathed, often rescued by the intervention of international colleagues or business acquaintances. She did not develop fully how those relationships came to be so strong either. I'm glad she survived, but I would have appreciated her conveying some sense of human vulnerability. (At one point, Ms. Sirleaf must be whisked out of the country under cover of darkness. I was reminded of Marie Antoinette and her family attempting to escape from Paris, an episode that had my heart racing as I read about it. Ms. Sirleaf crouching in the back of a car in her jeans? Shrug. The dangerous immediacy of the matter was not conveyed to me. It could have been.) Perhaps if Ms. Sirleaf had spent less time on Liberian history and statistics, she could have spent more time telling me about herself ... and not just her "resume." I came away feeling she sort of simply believed the title of her book - she was the child mentioned and she WOULD BE great! Check it off on the Bucket List! OK - but for someone who let me in to learn all sorts of (to me, modestly interesting) information about international banking and African inter-relationships, Ms. Sirleaf did NOT let me in to her feelings. Yet, the book is called a "Memoir," not a "History." I think it was in fact the latter - on both subjects - Liberia and Ms. Sirleaf. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very well written autobiography - meaningful beyond most political reviews By Grizzrob I finished this ebook with a renewed respect for Pres. Johnson. The text and thoughts were very well composed and fluent. This book is a good read for anyone interested in the past, present and future direction of Liberia and Africa in general. Ms. Johnson spends valuable time and effort describing her unique and courageous views on Liberian policy and historical mistakes. On a trip to Liberia not too long ago, she was on my same flight and walked around the plane to greet me and the other passengers - I appreciated her down to earth attitude then, and even more so now after reading this book. Her visceral account of the absolute horrors that have pillaged Liberia was gripping. She wrote it like she claims to live - without fear. I appreciated her blunt accounts of the attitudes of her countrymen - enemies and friends. There were a very few passages that seemed self promoting and maybe a little grandiose, but Ms. Johnson is a politician, after all. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just get on with it... By S. This book is so well written and easy to read. The life story of Ms Sirleaf is fascinating and should be read by all women especially young women. If Ms Johnson Sirleaf can survive growing up with an ill father, an abusive husband, a coup in her country to become the leader of her country we should all throw out excuses and just get on with it.

In January 2006, after the Republic of Liberia had been racked by fourteen years of brutal civil conflict, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Africa's "Iron Lady" was sworn in as president, an event that marked a tremendous turning point in the history of the West African nation. In this stirring memoir, Sirleaf shares the story of her rise to power, including her early childhood; her experiences with abuse, imprisonment, and exile; and her fight for democracy and social justice. She reveals her determination to succeed in multiple worlds, from her studies in the United States to her work as an international bank executive, to campaigning in some of Liberia's most desperate and war-torn villages and neighborhoods. It is the tale of an outspoken political and social reformer who fought the oppression of dictators and championed change. By telling her story, Sirleaf encourages women everywhere to pursue leadership roles at the highest levels of power, and gives us all hope that we can change the world.

From Publishers Weekly Forbes lists Sirleaf, the 23rd president of Liberia and the first elected female president on the African continent, among the 100 Most Powerful Women in 2008. In and out of government, in and out of exile, but consistent in her commitment to Liberia, Sirleaf in her memoir reveals herself to be among the most resilient, determined and courageous as well. She writes with modesty in a calm and measured tone. While her account includes a happy childhood and an unhappy marriage, the book is politically, not personally, focused as she (and Liberia) go

through the disastrous presidencies of Samuel Doe and Charles Taylor. Sirleaf's training as an economist and her employment (e.g., in banking, as minister of finance in Liberia, and in U.N. development programs) informs the perspective from which she views internal Liberian history (e.g., the tensions between the settler class and the indigenous people) and Liberia's international relations. Although her focus is thoroughly on Liberia, the content is more widely instructive, particularly her account of the role of the Economic Community of West African States. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From BooklistAfrica's first elected female president, Sirleaf chronicles her rise from an abused young wife and mother to a woman with a career in government finance and international banking to the president of Liberia since 2006. Sirleaf confronted corruption and incompetence through several Liberian governments and suffered imprisonment and exile for her controversial positions before ultimately returning and challenging the long and troubled history of her nation. Liberia was created by the U.S. to repatriate former slaves, creating a tension between Americo-Liberians and indigenous peoples that continues. She recounts her struggles at home and abroad; she watched dictator Samuel Doe and later Charles Taylor destroy Liberia while she continued to criticize U.S. involvement with corrupt regimes. Having no colonial power to overcome, Sirleaf contends that Liberia has often struggled to develop and maintain a sense of true national integration, something she has sought to achieve as she has worked to bring economic and social stability to her civil-war-torn nation. An inspiring inside look at a nation struggling to rebuild itself and the woman now behind those efforts. --Vanessa Bush This is the incredible story of a woman who spent her life talking tough to the lunatics surrounding her. It is an accessible walk through Liberian history, told by someone who was somehow always in the center of the political storm. (New York Times Book Review) Exceptionally well written, a true story that seems as much a thriller as the remembrances of an ambitious and brave woman. . . . This timely book, essential for anyone who hopes to understand West Africa in general and Liberia in particular, is a lesson in courage and perseverance. (Washington Post) An inspiring inside look at a nation struggling to rebuild itself and the woman now behind those efforts. (Booklist)