



A TIMELINE OF THE WOMEN
WHO CHANGED AMERICA



April 2022 Her Story ENewsletter Secretaries of State

In this month's Enewsletter we pay tribute to Madeleine Albright, the first female Secretary of State in the U.S., who died in March 2022. We also celebrate and recognize the two women (to date) who have followed in her footsteps: Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton.



In 1997, **Madeleine Albright** became the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government, when she was sworn in as Secretary of State. She was born in Czechoslovakia and her family settled in Denver, Colorado. She served on the National Security Council, as a faculty member at Georgetown University and was the United States Ambassador to the United Nations prior to her appointment as Secretary of State. Albright remained involved in foreign policy throughout the rest of her life. Her many honors include induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and many honorary degrees.



When **Condoleezza Rice** became the Secretary of State in 2005, she was the second woman in that post, the first African American woman and the second African American; Colin Powell had been the first. Rice intended to be a music major but instead discovered and fell in love with international politics at the University of Denver, taught by Josef Korbel, Madeleine Albright's father. Rice graduated with her bachelor's degree in political science. She has been characterized as Korbel's favorite student and she says he was a central figure in her life. Rice's Ph.D. is from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

Rice has a long affiliation with Stanford University that began with a fellowship in 1980. She became an associate professor there in 1981. In 1986, Rice served as a special assistant to the director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. From 1989 to 1991, she was director and then senior director of Soviet and East European Affairs for the National Security Council. In 1993, she was named provost and promoted to full professor with tenure at Stanford.

Rice became the first woman to serve as National Security Advisor and was in that role in the George W. Bush administration from 2001 to 2005. She served as Secretary of State from 2005-2009 after which she returned to Stanford. Rice has received many honorary degrees and has been recognized with honors from Poland and Japan. .



The third female Secretary of State, **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, has been active in the political sphere for more than four decades. Her many roles include First Lady of Arkansas, First Lady of the United States, United States Senator from New York (the first female senator from that state), Secretary of State, and the first female candidate from a major party for President of the United States. A graduate of the Yale Law School, Clinton did her undergraduate work at Wellesley College (as did Madeleine Albright). Clinton met her future husband, Bill Clinton, during her time at Yale.

Clinton continued her legal career while her husband was Governor of Arkansas. After eight years in the White House, she ran for Senator from New York and was elected in 2000. She was elected to a second term in 2006. In 2007, she began her run for President but in 2008, ended her campaign when Barack Obama became the presumptive candidate. After his election as President, Obama named her Secretary of State. Clinton served in that role from 2009 through 2013. She was the Democratic Party's candidate for President in the 2016 election but did not win. Her honors include induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us all. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen

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