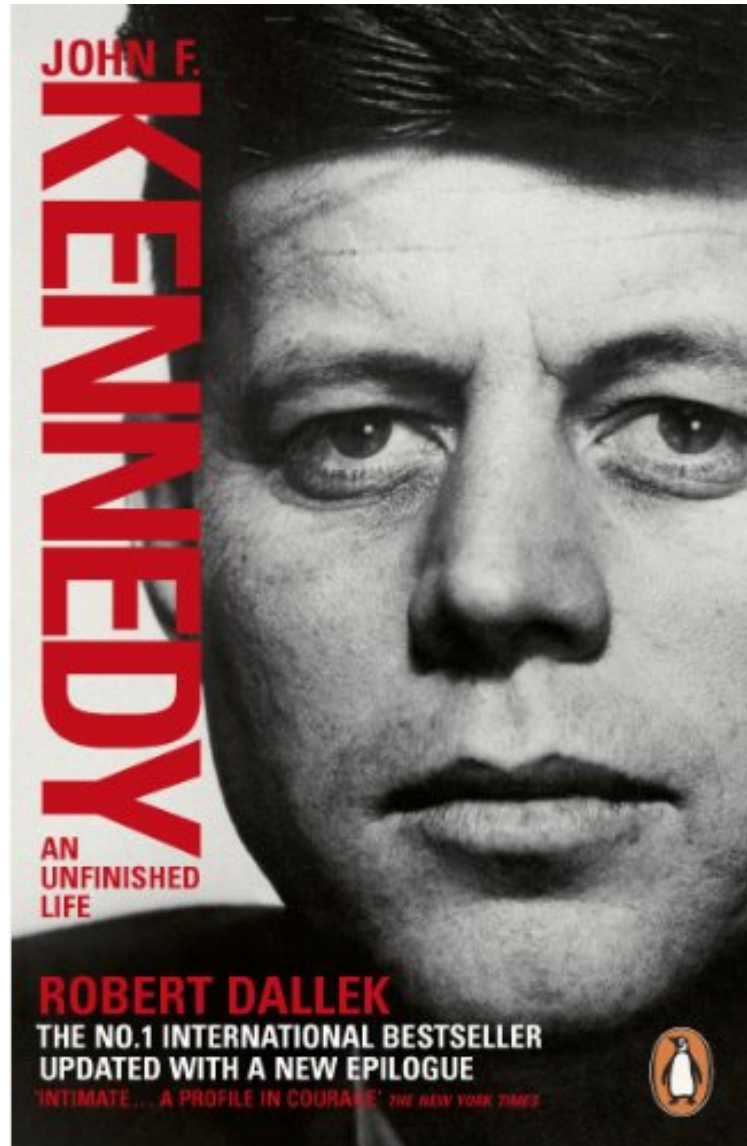


[Read free] John F. Kennedy: An Unfinished Life 1917-1963

## John F. Kennedy: An Unfinished Life 1917-1963

Von Robert Dallek

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**Von Robert Dallek : John F. Kennedy: An Unfinished Life 1917-1963** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John F. Kennedy: An Unfinished Life 1917-1963:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Eine sehr tiefgründige, intensive, sehr ausgeglichene BiografieVon KrisSkroWie die meisten kannte auch ich die Pfeiler in Kennedys Leben: Das Attentat, das Verhlnis zu Vater und Bruder, Jackie sowie sein Handeln in der Kuba Krise.Selbst mit diesem Vorwissen ist das Buch sehr berraschend und aufschlussreich. Mir waren seine

gesundheitlichen Probleme nicht in diesem Ausma bekannt. Sein jahrelanger Kampf mit Medikamenten und verschiedenen Behandlungsmethoden um seine Leiden in den Griff zu bekommen zeigt doch eine ziemlich neue Facette von ihm. Auch wusste ich relativ wenig von seinem Werdegang bis ins Weiße Haus und auch das wird sehr intensiv beleuchtet. Die Präsidentenjahre bekommen dann natürlich den größten Teil der Biographie. Es gibt hier auch einfach viel zu schreiben: Kuba-Krise, Berlin-Krise, Vietnam, das Verhältnis zu Chruschtschow usw. Seine Erfolge (Umgang mit der Kubakrise), Niederlagen (Schweinebuchtinvasion) werden sehr detailliert und ausbalanciert beschrieben. Kennedy wird nicht zum Helden hoch stilisiert (durch die Kubakrise), aber auch nicht als Taugenichts dargestellt. Das Buch verlässt sich weitgehend auf Fakten und spekuliert sehr wenig. Es ist schon erstaunlich. Kennedy hat es dem Geld seines Vaters und seinem Charisma und dem damaligen politischen Klima zu verdanken (die Leute lechzten nach einem neuen Gesicht) dass er Präsident geworden ist. Ihm hat sicherlich politische Erfahrung gefehlt. Am Ende war aber vllt. genau das was ihn zu einem guten Präsidenten gemacht, er war halt nicht so fixiert auf damalige vorherrschende politische Standpunkte. Er war sehr offen und flexibel und sein (zum Teil) zögern hat eventuell einen 3. Weltkrieg verhindert. Und genau so wird er im Buch skizziert, ein charismatischer Anführer, zum Teil unerfahren, aber doch entscheidungsstark, manchmal eher um politischen Konsens bemüht als ein moralischer Führer (Schwarzenbewegung), aber immer darum bemüht die Welt nicht in einen weiteren Weltkrieg zu führen. Fazit: Kein Buch für zwischendurch. Wer sich intensiv mit dem Leben und Wirken von J.F.K auseinandersetzen will kommt an diesem Buch nicht vorbei! Absolute Empfehlung. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Thorough, Balanced Biography

Von James Gallen "An Unfinished Life" is Robert Dallek's superb biography of John F. Kennedy. Dallek carries JFK's story from his ancestry through to his post-mortem assessment. Through the course of this thorough biography, he follows two consistent themes, Kennedy's health and womanizing. The story is a fascinating one. Beginning with his Boston Irish politician grandfathers, Patrick Kennedy and John F., Honey Fitz, Fitzgerald, the reader is led to understand how JFK was guided into his political career. The smaller, sickly brother of his apparent Joe, Jr., John's education and naval service were directed by his overbearing and ambitious father Ambassador, Joseph P. Kennedy. After graduation from Choate, JFK pursued studies at the London School of Economics, Princeton, Stanford and Harvard. It was at Choate that his health became a lifelong problem, primarily centered on adrenal gland insufficiency, gastrointestinal disorders, and back pain. It was also at Choate that JFK began a lifelong practice of womanizing. Both of Kennedy's afflictions influenced his naval service. His cavorting with a suspected NAZI spy resulted in his transfer out of Naval Intelligence and into a desk job. Through family and political influence, his medical history was overlooked when transferring to the PT service. It was as commander of PT 109 that he achieved military glory. While on a night patrol a Japanese destroyer sideswiped his boat, setting up a JFK's heroic rescue of a burned crewman and strenuous efforts to avoid capture by the enemy and achieve rescue by American forces. Impressions that this incident started his back problems are shown to be incorrect because they were pre-existing conditions and by his survival efforts and his later command of another boat before deteriorating health sent him back to the states and discharge. Back in civilian life after Joe, Jr. had been killed, Joe, Sr. arranged for an open U.S. House seat that John won. Through this and his Senate career, during which he amassed a lackluster record, John was often absent due to health problems. Resentment over his failure to vote on the censure motion against his friend, Joseph McCarthy would follow him for the rest of his life. His bid for the 1956 vice-presidential nomination was an important step in making JFK a national figure. After angling for Stevenson's endorsement, Team Kennedy launched into a floor fight when Adlai turned the decision over to the convention. Failure engendered a determination to win the presidential nomination in 1960. The planning for the 1960 campaign began at Hyannisport and ended there on election night. Dallek does an excellent job of guiding the reader through the primaries, principally Wisconsin and West Virginia, the convention maneuvers, the debates with Nixon and the assessment of how and why Kennedy won. Upon moving into the White House, JFK was confronted with a series of crises starting with the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, followed by the unsettling Vienna summit with Khrushchev, the Berlin Missile Crisis, the rising Civil Rights movement and the overthrow of President Diem in South Vietnam. One gets the sense that events controlled Kennedy and that he responded to them, on the whole, rather well. The Democratic political disunity in Texas that drew him to his death is explained as well as the step by step events culminating in the president's assassination. This book gives the reader a lot of information and many things to think about. I believe that it is a fairly objective treatment of its subject, showing his strengths while not overlooking his weaknesses. I arrived at a new appreciation of Kennedy, both positively and negatively. It has whetted my appetite to learn more about him. A book that accomplishes that merits a strong endorsement. 2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. ... not just simply another Kennedy biography!

Von mike0706 Unlike any other biography of U.S. President J. F. Kennedy 'An Unfinished Life' sheds new light on the life of one of America's most interesting political figures of the 1960's. Drawing on previously undisclosed medical records of JFK, Robert Dallek is in a position to provide the reader with new aspects about Kennedy's life. Dallek clearly shows the many challenges Kennedy faced during his presidency. Although many of these were political in nature, the toughest (and also the most enduring) challenge to Kennedy was his chronic health problems. The consideration of the Kennedy's medical history gave Dallek the opportunity to set his foot on in the puzzle of Kennedy's life. One might claim a biography considering medical records and the like runs the

risk of adopting a style which is characteristic for tabloid newspapers, but Dallek easily fends off any such criticism. Throughout its more 600+ pages the book remains committed to a high-level standard of a serious biographical investigation. For those who are interested in the life of JFK and do not mind a comprehensive political analysis, this book may be of certain interest.

Kurzbeschreibung Mass-market edition of the first authoritative single-volume biography of John F. Kennedy to be written in nearly four decades. Drawing upon first-hand sources and never-before-opened archives, prize-winning historian Robert Dallek reveals more than we ever knew about Jack Kennedy, forever changing the way we think about his life, his presidency and his legacy. Dallek also discloses that, while labouring to present an image of robust good health, Kennedy was secretly in and out of hospitals throughout his life, so ill that he was administered last rites on several occasions. He never shies away from Kennedy's weaknesses, but also brilliantly explores his strengths. The result is a full portrait of a bold, brave and truly human John F. Kennedy. Pressestimmen "Comprehensive, judicious, evenhanded, original. An Unfinished Life has the sober judgment and nuanced accuracy that make it ring true in all the controversial and tricky parts." (Los Angeles Times Jack Newfield) "An intimate portrait indeed . . . unexpected and important. . . . This is nothing if not a profile in courage." (New York Times Book Ted Widmer) "It's hard to believe that someone could find anything new to say about John F. Kennedy, but Dallek succeeds in this riveting and well-documented biography." (The New Yorker) "One of the most engrossing biographies I have ever read. . . . An Unfinished Life is nothing less than a masterpiece." (David Herbert Donald, author of Lincoln) "Neither debunking nor further mythologizing, Dallek fashions a balanced but fast-paced tale of sex and power that scribes from Shakespeare to Jacqueline Susann would have killed for." (People Steve Dougherty) Kurzbeschreibung Mass-market edition of the first authoritative single-volume biography of John F. Kennedy to be written in nearly four decades. Drawing upon first-hand sources and never-before-opened archives, prize-winning historian Robert Dallek reveals more than we ever knew about Jack Kennedy, forever changing the way we think about his life, his presidency and his legacy. Dallek also discloses that, while labouring to present an image of robust good health, Kennedy was secretly in and out of hospitals throughout his life, so ill that he was administered last rites on several occasions. He never shies away from Kennedy's weaknesses, but also brilliantly explores his strengths. The result is a full portrait of a bold, brave and truly human John F. Kennedy.