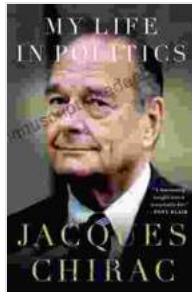


# My Life in Politics: A Journey of Passion, Conviction, and Service



## My Life in Politics by Jacques Chirac

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4442 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 369 pages



In the tapestry of human experience, few threads are as intricate and compelling as those woven through the annals of politics. It is a realm where ambition, idealism, and the desire to shape the destiny of nations intertwine, creating a dynamic and often tumultuous landscape. For those who dare to venture into this arena, the journey is one of both immense privilege and profound responsibility.

I have been fortunate to have spent a lifetime immersed in the world of politics, serving as Mayor of Paris, Prime Minister of France, and President of the French Republic. It has been a journey filled with its share of challenges, triumphs, and moments of profound personal and national significance. In this memoir, I will share my experiences, insights, and the driving forces behind my dedication to public service.

## A Childhood Steeped in Patriotism

I was born on November 29, 1932, in the historic city of Paris. My father, Abel-François Chirac, was a successful businessman, and my mother, Marie-Louise Valette, was a devoted homemaker. Our family was deeply rooted in the traditions of the French Republic, and I was raised with a profound appreciation for the values of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

My childhood was marked by the tumultuous events of World War II. Paris was occupied by German forces, and our family endured the hardships and privations of that dark period. Despite the challenges, my parents instilled in me a deep love of country and a belief in the importance of fighting for what is right.

### **In the Footsteps of De Gaulle**

After completing my studies, I began my political career in 1962, when I was elected to the National Assembly as a member of the Gaullist party, the Union for a New Republic (UNR). I was deeply influenced by the ideas of General Charles de Gaulle, the legendary leader who had led France to liberation during the war and who had established the Fifth Republic.

De Gaulle's vision of a strong and independent France, anchored in its European roots, resonated deeply with me. I believed that France had a unique role to play in the world, and I was determined to contribute to its greatness.

### **Mayor of Paris: A Transformative Experience**

In 1977, I was elected Mayor of Paris, a position I held for 18 years. It was a transformative experience that shaped my political outlook and deepened my commitment to public service.

As Mayor, I oversaw a period of significant urban renewal and modernization. I implemented ambitious projects to improve public transportation, create green spaces, and revitalize historic neighborhoods. I also worked tirelessly to address the social and economic challenges facing the city's residents.

Through my work as Mayor, I gained a firsthand understanding of the complexities of urban governance and the importance of listening to the voices of all citizens. I learned the value of pragmatism, collaboration, and the ability to balance competing interests.

### **Prime Minister and President of France**

In 1986, I was appointed Prime Minister of France by President François Mitterrand. It was a time of economic and social turmoil, and I was tasked with implementing a series of difficult reforms.

As Prime Minister, I focused on reducing government spending, privatizing state-owned industries, and promoting economic growth. I also worked to strengthen France's position in the European Union and to improve relations with our European partners.

In 1995, I was elected President of the French Republic. It was the culmination of a lifelong dream, and I was deeply honored to serve as the leader of my country.

As President, I continued to pursue my agenda of economic reform and European integration. I also worked to address pressing social issues, such as unemployment, poverty, and discrimination.

One of the most challenging moments of my presidency came in 2003, when I opposed the United States-led invasion of Iraq. I believed that the invasion was illegal and that it would destabilize the region. My stance was unpopular with many French citizens, but I stood by my convictions.

## **Reflections on a Life in Politics**

After serving two terms as President, I retired from politics in 2007. I have spent the years since then reflecting on my life in public service and sharing my experiences with others.

Politics is a demanding and often unforgiving profession. It requires a thick skin, a strong work ethic, and an unwavering belief in the power of human agency. It is also a profession that can be deeply rewarding, offering the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of others.

Throughout my career, I have been guided by a few core principles: the importance of putting the interests of the nation first, the value of compromise and dialogue, and the need to always strive for excellence.

I have also learned the importance of listening to the voices of all citizens, regardless of their political affiliation or social status. True leaders, in my view, are those who are able to connect with the hopes and aspirations of their people and to translate those aspirations into concrete policies and actions.

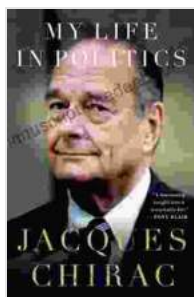
As I look back on my life in politics, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have served my country. I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of democracy and the resilience of the human spirit.

I believe that the future of France and of Europe lies in our ability to come together as a community of nations, based on the shared values of liberty, equality, and solidarity. It is a vision that I will continue to champion in the years to come.

My journey in politics has been one of passion, conviction, and service. I have had the privilege of serving my country in times of both peace and war, and I have witnessed firsthand the challenges and opportunities that face our democracy.

I have learned that politics is not a game, but a noble profession that requires dedication, integrity, and a willingness to fight for what is right. I have also learned that true leadership is about more than power or personal ambition. It is about serving the people, listening to their concerns, and working tirelessly to improve their lives.

I am grateful for the trust that the French people have placed in me, and I will continue to work for a better future for our country and for all of Europe.



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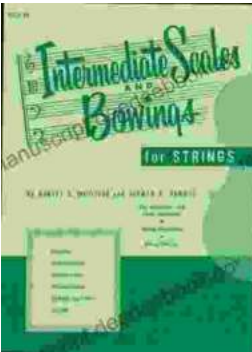
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