



# Speeches That Changed Our Times

From 1945 to the Present

Edited by Carlo Batà

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Discover 38 masterpieces without restraining the emotions they provoke, in the hope that learning from the past will help build a better world for the present and the future.

The history of humankind has always been marked by natural catastrophes, migrations, discoveries, revolutions, and wars. But there have also been speeches that marked an era; instilling hope in crucial moments, reawakening the collective conscience of a population—or of all humanity.

In homes throughout the world, millions of people watched these speeches on television or listened to them on the radio, fascinated by the charismatic words, by the moral integrity, by the tireless passion and sacrifice of the orators, by those who dedicated their entire existence to the causes they believed in.

The thirty-eight speeches featured in this book were delivered over a period that ranges from immediately following World War II to today, and the authors include politicians and brilliant orators, as well as scientists, a writer, a missionary, a businesswoman, a talk-show host, and a young girl.

From Charles de Gaulle's announcement of the end of World War II in 1945, Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" in 1963 and Stephen Hawking's 2022 speech at his 60th birthday symposium, to Ursula von der Leyen's State of the Union address in 2022, **Speeches That Changed Our Times** invites you to read these masterpieces of oratory without restraining the emotions they provoke, in the hope that learning from the past will help build a better world for the present and the future.

**Carlo Batà** is an author, editor and translator who collaborates with important magazines and newspapers. For White Star, he was the co-author, with Gianni Morelli, of the volume *1968. A Revolutionary Year in Photographs* (2017).



**Eleanor Roosevelt**

An appeal for the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Paris, December 9, 1948

These are the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, the first lady of the United States, who played a crucial role in the drafting and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Her speech, delivered in Paris in 1948, is a powerful call for global unity and the protection of fundamental human rights.



**Pope John XXIII**

Address on the occasion of the opening of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican

Vatican City, October 11, 1962

This is the opening address of Pope John XXIII at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. His words are significant for their openness to dialogue and their emphasis on the Church's role in the modern world.

**Stephen Hawking**

Address on the occasion of the opening of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican

Cambridge, United Kingdom, January 11, 2002

Speech at his sixtieth birthday symposium at the University of Cambridge

This is the text of Stephen Hawking's speech at his 60th birthday symposium at the University of Cambridge. It is a profound reflection on his life, his work, and the future of humanity.

