



# 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**

Paris, December 9, 1948

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

Speeches That Changed Our Times is a collection of 38 masterpieces of oratory, from the end of World War II to the present day. Each speech is accompanied by a short introduction and a bibliography. The book is a tribute to the power of words and the role of the orator in shaping the course of history.



**Pope John XXIII**

Vatican City, October 11, 1962

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

The Second Vatican Council was a significant event in the history of the Catholic Church. Pope John XXIII's address on the occasion of its opening was a landmark moment, marking the beginning of a new era of openness and dialogue with the modern world.

**Stephen Hawking**

Cambridge, United Kingdom, January 11, 2002

Speech at his sixtieth birthday symposium at the University of Cambridge

Stephen Hawking's speech at his sixtieth birthday symposium at the University of Cambridge was a powerful and inspiring address. He reflected on his life, his work, and the challenges he faced, offering a message of hope and resilience to all who listen.

