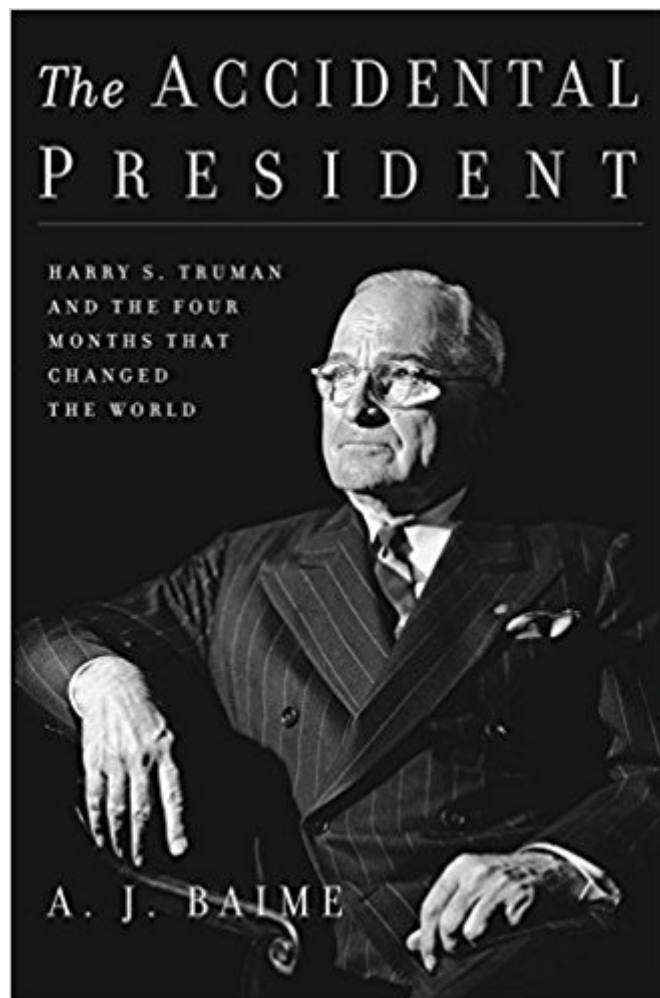




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# **The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman And The Four Months That Changed The World**



## Synopsis

The dramatic, pulse-pounding story of Harry Truman's first four months in office, when this unlikely president had to take on Germany, Japan, Stalin, and the atomic bomb, with the fate of the world hanging in the balance. Heroes are often defined as ordinary characters who get thrust into extraordinary circumstances, and through courage and a dash of luck, cement their place in history. Chosen as FDR's fourth term Vice President for his well-praised work ethic, good judgment, and lack of enemies, Harry S. Truman--a Midwesterner who had no college degree and had never had the money to buy his own home--was the prototypical ordinary man. That is, until he was shockingly thrust in over his head after FDR's sudden death. During the climactic months of the Second World War, Truman had to play judge and jury, pulling America to the forefront of the global stage. The first four months of Truman's administration saw the founding of the United Nations, the fall of Berlin, victory at Okinawa, firebombings of Tokyo, the first atomic explosion, the Nazi surrender, the liberation of concentration camps, the mass starvation of Europe, the Potsdam Conference, the controversial decision to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the surrender of Imperial Japan, and finally, the end of World War II and the rise of the Cold War. No other president had ever faced so much in such a short period of time. Tightly focused, meticulously researched, rendered with vivid detail and narrative verve, *THE ACCIDENTAL PRESIDENT* escorts readers into the situation room with Truman during this tumultuous, history-making 120 days, when the stakes were high and the challenge even higher. The result is narrative history of the highest order and a compelling look at a presidency with great relevance to our times.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A.J. Baime is a master. His reporting and storytelling are woven to hypnotic effect. Opening the first page of *The Accidental President* is like pulling up a chair to Truman's White House desk where we sit engrossed as world events unfold in the most intimate manner, titanic in scale. Baime brings us as close as we are likely to get to this completely surprising, quirky, wily, and transformational president. This is history and humanity in lush, vivid color." —Doug Stanton, author of *The Odyssey of Echo Company* and *Horse Soldiers*

"A.J. Baime is a master storyteller, and *The Accidental President* contains everything a reader could ever want from a work of history: characters that jump off the page, tension that makes your pulse pound, and smooth, smart writing that makes you think. Amazing!" —Jonathan Eig, author of *Ali: A Life and Luckiest Man*

"Intimate and absorbing, A.J. Baime's biography uses new sources to paint Harry Truman as a complex and thoroughly American figure. A sharply-drawn portrait of an era as well as a man." —Stephan Talty, author of *The Black Hand* and *Agent Garbo*

"No president in history — particularly one who came in without having been briefed by his predecessor — has faced such monumental decisions. A.J. Baime has put a spotlight on those four months, recounting them faithfully and with heart, so that you come away with not only a sense of history, but a sense of the man, Harry Truman, as well. As Grandpa himself said a few years later, 'It's hell to be President of the Greatest Most Powerful Nation on Earth.'"

—Clifton Truman Daniel, Truman's grandson and author of *Growing Up with My Grandfather: Memories of Harry Truman*

"An entertaining new history of Truman's first months in office...filled with events that are strikingly proportionate to what the Trump administration has weathered since January."

—John Batchelor, *The Daily Beast*

"A fast-paced, well-detailed chronology of Truman's transformation from an official with little administrative responsibility into a politically astute and ultimately beloved leader.... A warmly human portrait of an unlikely president."

—Kirkus Reviews

"An attractive tale for fans of both presidential and WWII history. . . Baime opens a clear . . . window on a pivotal moment in history." —Publishers Weekly

A.J. Baime is the New York Times bestselling author of *The Arsenal of Democracy: FDR, Detroit, and an Epic Quest to Arm an America at War* and *Go Like Hell: Ford, Ferrari, and Their Battle for Speed and Glory at Le Mans*. Both books are in development for major motion pictures. Baime is a longtime regular contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*, and his articles have also appeared in the *New York Times*, *Popular Science*, and *Men's Journal*. He lives in Granite Bay, California. Visit A.J. at [Facebook.com/ajbaime](https://facebook.com/ajbaime) and [Trumanbook.com](http://Trumanbook.com).

The author early on lays out the premise that Truman's first 4 months as president were the most challenging of any administration. The book chronicles the presidency from April 12, 1945 when Roosevelt died to August of that year and the end of World War 2. The 2nd half of the book for me is the best, and Baime does a masterful job of highlighting all the obstacles Truman faced.. Hitler, Stalin, Nazi Germany, Japan, and more. The book's title is taken from Truman's quote himself when by his own admission he became president by accident. This isn't an exhaustive biography of Truman. For that you'd want to read David McCullough's masterpiece. But it gives a great idea how much Truman had to face in his first 4 months, more than anyone should have to work through.

This is not a biography of Truman; but as the author states it is a study of the first four crucial months of his Presidency. Truman was an "ordinary man" and our last President who was not a college graduate. Yet, he had enormous common sense, and approached his monumental task of replacing Roosevelt with courage and energy. Although the author has a silly comment about "the U.S. military committed acts it still struggles to justify more than seventy years later;" Baime seems to come out justifying the use of nuclear weapons, agreeing with Ambrose and Brinkley. "Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938

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