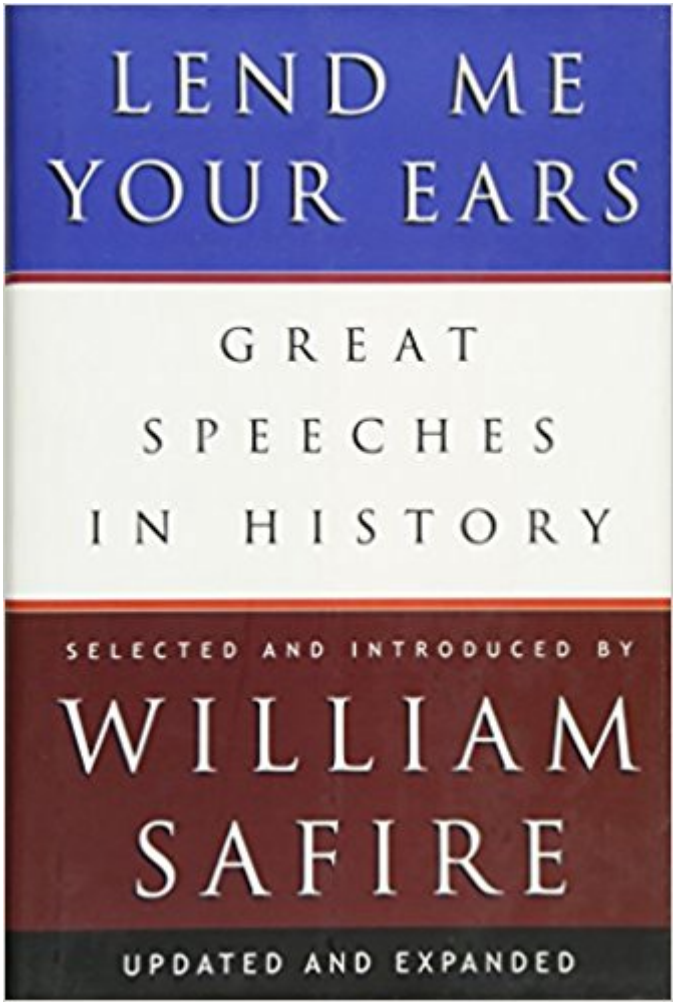
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Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches In History (Updated And Expanded Edition)



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Synopsis

The definitive compendium of classic and modern oratory expandedÃ¢â ¬â ¢with a new preface on what makes a speech "great." An instant classic when it was first published a decade ago and now enriched by seventeen new speeches, Lend Me Your Ears contains more than two hundred outstanding moments of oratory. It is selected, arranged, and introduced by William Safire, who honed his skills as a presidential speechwriter. He is considered by many to be America's most influential political columnist and most elegant explicator of our language. Covering speeches from Demosthenes to George W. Bush, this latest edition includes the words of Cromwell to the "Rump Parliament," Orson Welles eulogizing Darryl F. Zanuck, General George Patton exhorting his troops before D-Day, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaking on Bush v. Gore. A new section incorporates speeches that were never delivered: what Kennedy was scheduled to say in Dallas; what Safire wrote for Nixon if the first moon landing met with disaster; and what Clinton originally planned to say after his grand jury testimony but swapped for a much fiercer speech.

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Customer Reviews

The third edition of this comprehensive collection of oratory through the ages is appropriately edited by former presidential speechwriter Safire—a man who knows firsthand the importance of putting together the right words for the right moment. But many readers will no doubt skip his prefatory lesson in rhetoric and go right to the speeches themselves. The selections range widely through Western history, from Pericles’s funeral oration to fallen Greek soldiers in the Peloponnesian War, to Tony Blair "exhorting his party to fight terrorism." History has yet to pass

judgment on the greatness of the most recent speeches included here, but Safire shows a broad-minded, bipartisan inclusiveness in collecting the words of Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, history’s losers (Sen. Robert Taft opposing war crimes trials after WWII) as well as its victors. And several of the speeches he includes deal with politics only indirectly: such as Louis Pasteur’s paean to scientific education, the Dalai Lama’s sermon on the "Philosophy of Compassion" and Salman Rushdie’s description of a life "Trapped inside a Metaphor." This is an invaluable reference for writers and speakers, students of history and those who simply appreciate great oratory.Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This new edition of Safire’s book, originally published in 1992, retains all the speeches in the first edition and adds 20 new ones, such as Pope Urban II launching the crusades, Bob Dole remembering Richard Nixon, and Colin Powell on racial hatred. Safire’s criteria are subjective?a speech is included if he thinks "it’s great"?and the tone of his unhelpful introduction is one of strained cuteness. Most collections of speeches focus narrowly on particular subjects such as American or classical speeches, with few attempting, like Safire’s, to cover all times and places. In fact, The Guide to Reference Books lists only one: Brewer’s ten-volume World’s Best Orations, published in 1901. Not surprisingly, there is virtually no overlap between Brewer’s 350 and Safire’s 220 selections. Safire’s book is not really necessary for libraries owning the first edition, but it is a good addition for those lacking Brewer’s or in need of modern speeches. With an excellent index.?Peter A. Dollard, Alma Coll. Lib., Mich.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Lend Me Your Ears is a collection of more than two hundred of the world’s greatest speeches. The speeches are arranged by broad themes (for example, "Political Speeches" and "Tributes and Eulogies").Every speech is preceded by a short introduction, including an analysis on what makes that speech great.In my opinion, this book and Copeland’sÃ Â The World’s Great Speeches: Fourth Enlarged (1999) EditionÃ Â are the two best currently-available anthologies in English of the world’s great speeches.Having said that, I wish Lend Me Your Ears had included more speeches from Nobel laureates and from great scientists, writers and artists.I would also like to have seen more speeches from people from outside the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe. In this globalizing world, we should be reading and hearing more speeches from representatives of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

An excellent collection of speeches, nicely organized. The only thing I wish it had is QR codes to videos or audio recordings of the speeches! C'mon, publishers, do some online integration!

This is an extraordinary book. Safire is one of America's leading political commentators.

Safire's collection is, without exception, the best set of speeches out there today. The only competition is Copeland's book and, while Copeland's is more wide-ranging and diverse, Safire reprints the speeches in their entirety. Enormously helpful. Has all of the ones you know should be in there - JFK, MLK, Reagan, Churchill, etc - but also some you wouldn't think of. The beauty of this book is that he prefaces each speech with his own commentary about WHY the speech is special. And, frankly, the introduction, where he opines about the 10 characteristics of a great speech, is worth the hernia you'll get picking up this hefty volume.

This book (or reference guide) contains speeches from many famous presidents and foreign leaders that have changed the world. Although rather lengthy, it has little introductions before the speeches to set the stage that drastically increased my comprehension of the speeches. I would recommend this book to students and adults who want to learn rhetorical styles from the best that can be applied anywhere from business to everyday life.

As a compilation it is probably up there with the classics; it certainly isn't limited by genre, time, space, or ideology. And it has most of the classics, just to make the rhetoric professor comfortable in using it as a sourcebook.The real gems are safire's comments; they are the most pleasurable parts of the work. His writing is so clear, yet sufficiently nuanced that one can't pin him down as playing favorites even when one knows that he would find the speaker or the speech (or both) completely reprehensible.See, in particular, his comments to Rabbi Stephen Wise's speech at a Lincoln Memorial ceremony. It is the type of material than one can truly savor and enjoy.

Anything you are looking for is in here. Bought it on a whim one day looking for some inspiration. :)

The first edition was, and remains, the criterion reference for anyone interested and what makes Amy given speech great (as opposed to simply good or even very good). Safire makes accessible to us a body of speeches that commented on, and sometimes made, history. The revised and

expanded edition still contains the great speeches of the earlier edition, together with additional speeches worthy of the appellation "great". A fine bedside companion, it also is a worthy travel companion -- but only if weight is not a consideration!

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