

# Henry Kissinger: A Comprehensive Biography by Walter Isaacson

Henry Kissinger is one of the most influential and controversial figures in American history. As National Security Advisor and later Secretary of State under Presidents Nixon and Ford, he played a pivotal role in shaping the course of the 20th century.



## Kissinger: A Biography by Walter Isaacson

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 23941 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 897 pages



In this comprehensive biography, Walter Isaacson draws on unprecedented access to Kissinger's personal papers and interviews with key figures to paint a vivid portrait of a complex and fascinating man.

Isaacson traces Kissinger's journey from his childhood in Nazi Germany to his rise to power in the Nixon administration. He examines Kissinger's role in the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Middle East conflict. He also explores Kissinger's personal life, including his marriages and his relationships with other world leaders.

Isaacson's biography is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, foreign policy, or the life of one of the most enigmatic figures of our time.

## **Early Life and Education**

Henry Kissinger was born Heinz Alfred Kissinger on May 27, 1923, in Fürth, Germany. His parents, Louis and Paula Kissinger, were German Jews who owned a small toy factory. In 1938, with the rise of the Nazi Party, the Kissingers fled Germany for England.

Kissinger attended the University of London and then Harvard University, where he studied political science. He graduated from Harvard in 1950 and went on to teach at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## **Academic Career**

Kissinger was a brilliant scholar and a gifted teacher. He published several influential books on nuclear strategy and foreign policy. In 1969, he was appointed National Security Advisor to President Nixon.

## **National Security Advisor**

As National Security Advisor, Kissinger played a key role in shaping Nixon's foreign policy. He helped to negotiate the end of the Vietnam War and the opening of relations with China. He also played a major role in the Cold War, working to reduce tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union.

## **Secretary of State**

In 1973, Kissinger was appointed Secretary of State. He continued to play a major role in foreign policy, working to negotiate a peace settlement in the Middle East and to promote détente with the Soviet Union.

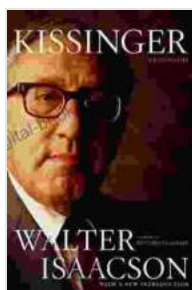
## Later Years

Kissinger left the government in 1977. He went on to become a successful businessman and author. He has also served as a consultant to several presidents and world leaders.

## Legacy

Henry Kissinger is one of the most influential and controversial figures in American history. His foreign policy legacy is complex and contested. Some historians argue that he was a brilliant strategist who helped to prevent nuclear war. Others argue that he was a war criminal who prolonged the Vietnam War and destabilized the Middle East.

Regardless of one's opinion of his legacy, there is no doubt that Kissinger was a major figure in the 20th century. His life and career are a fascinating study in power, diplomacy, and the human condition.



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