

Important Speeches Of The 21st Century



Important Speeches of the 21st Century: Shaping History Through Words

The 21st century, a whirlwind of technological advancement and global upheaval, has witnessed a plethora of powerful speeches that have resonated across the world, influencing policy, igniting movements, and shaping the very course of history. From presidential addresses to activist rallying cries, these carefully crafted pronouncements have captured the zeitgeist, leaving an indelible mark on our collective consciousness. This post delves into some of the most important speeches delivered this century, examining their impact and lasting legacy. We'll explore the rhetorical strategies employed, the context surrounding their delivery, and the ripple effects they continue to generate. Get ready to revisit moments that redefined our understanding of leadership, social justice, and the human spirit.

Section 1: Speeches of Global Significance

This section focuses on speeches that impacted the global stage, addressing issues of war, peace, and international relations.

1.1 Barack Obama's Cairo Speech (2009):

Obama's address to the Muslim world aimed to bridge the gap between the United States and the Islamic world, addressing issues of mutual concern and fostering understanding. The speech, delivered amidst growing tensions, sought to reset the relationship and promote dialogue. Its impact, while debated, significantly shaped US foreign policy discourse for years to come. The strategic use of empathy and direct engagement marked a shift in tone from previous administrations.

1.2 Angela Merkel's Refugee Crisis Speech (2015):

Facing a massive influx of refugees into Germany, Chancellor Merkel's statement on the nation's response became a defining moment in European politics. Her emphasis on humanitarian responsibility and integration sparked both widespread praise and significant criticism. The speech

highlighted the complex ethical and logistical challenges of managing large-scale migration, shaping global debates on refugee policy for years to come. Its impact is still felt today as European nations continue to grapple with migration issues.

Section 2: Speeches that Inspired Social Change

This section highlights speeches that galvanized social movements and prompted significant shifts in social attitudes.

2.1 Malala Yousafzai's UN Address (2013):

A powerful testament to the importance of education, Malala Yousafzai's speech, delivered after surviving an assassination attempt for advocating girls' education, moved the global community. Her courageous words, delivered with unwavering conviction, resonated profoundly, raising awareness about the importance of education for girls and highlighting the plight of those denied this fundamental right. The speech's impact continues to inspire activism and support for girls' education worldwide.

2.2 Greta Thunberg's Climate Change Activism Speeches (2018-Present):

Greta Thunberg's powerful and passionate speeches on climate change have galvanized a global youth movement. Her direct address to world leaders, emphasizing the urgency of climate action, has become a symbol of youth activism and held governments accountable for their environmental policies. Her rhetoric, characterized by stark honesty and emotional appeal, has reshaped the climate change narrative and brought unprecedented attention to the issue.

Section 3: Speeches that Defined Moments in History

This section focuses on speeches that captured the mood and significance of specific historical events.

3.1 George W. Bush's Address to the Nation Following 9/11 (2001):

Bush's address to the nation following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, defined a pivotal moment in American history and the global war on terror. His words, expressing national grief and resolve, set the tone for the nation's response to the attacks and the subsequent military interventions. The speech effectively unified the American public and projected an image of strength and determination.

3.2 Nelson Mandela's Inaugural Address (1994):

Though technically outside the 21st century's timeline, Mandela's inaugural address, delivered after his release from prison, remains profoundly impactful. His message of reconciliation and forgiveness, delivered in a context of profound racial division, set a new tone for South Africa and continues to serve as a model for resolving conflict and promoting peace globally. Its lasting power transcends temporal boundaries, inspiring similar efforts toward unity and healing in other conflict-ridden regions.

Conclusion

The speeches highlighted above represent a small selection from the multitude of impactful pronouncements made in the 21st century. Each speech reflects a unique context, employs distinct rhetorical strategies, and has had a lasting influence on the world. Their power lies not only in their content but also in their ability to resonate with audiences and inspire action. By examining these speeches, we gain a deeper understanding of the critical issues shaping our world and the power of language to drive change. Studying these historical moments underscores the enduring importance of effective communication and powerful rhetoric in shaping the course of human events.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What makes a speech "important" in historical terms? An important speech significantly impacts public opinion, influences policy decisions, inspires social movements, or shapes the course of events on a national or global scale. It often captures the zeitgeist of its time.
2. Are there any criteria for choosing the "most important" speeches? Selection is inherently subjective, influenced by factors like the speaker's influence, the speech's context, and its lasting impact. This list represents a balanced view considering global and social impacts.
3. What role does rhetoric play in the effectiveness of these speeches? Rhetorical devices like metaphor, pathos (emotional appeal), ethos (credibility), and logos (logic) are crucial. Effective speakers use rhetoric to connect with audiences and persuade them.
4. How can we assess the long-term impact of these speeches? Long-term impact can be analyzed by examining their influence on subsequent policies, social movements, and cultural narratives. Historical analysis and ongoing research are necessary to fully understand their long-term consequences.
5. Where can I find transcripts or recordings of these speeches? Many transcripts and recordings are readily available online through reputable archives, news websites, and educational resources. A simple web search for the speech title and speaker should yield relevant results.

important speeches of the 21st century: 100 Speeches That Changed the World Colin Salter, 2019-04-23 The history of the world as witnessed through the most inspiring, rousing, and memorable speeches ever given. Throughout history, passionate orators have rallied nations, challenged accepted beliefs, and changed the course of history. Colin Salter has identified one-hundred of history's most inspirational, momentous, and thought-provoking speeches from ancient Rome and Athens to the 21st century and puts them into context, telling the stories behind the words that made history. A celebration of the power of spoken rhetoric at its finest, this book profiles the words of the world's greatest public speakers. The speeches covered span the spectrum from stirring calls to arms to impassioned pleas for peace, along with speeches that marked major historical events such as the abolition of slavery, women achieving the right to vote, and the expansion of civil rights. Each speech features a concise introduction along with detailed analysis accompanied by key illustrations and photographs. Highlighted speeches include: Elizabeth I's speech in preparation of the Spanish Armada (1588), Sojourner Truth's Ain't I a Woman (1851), Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (1863), Franklin D. Roosevelt, Only thing we have to fear is fear itself (1933), Winston Churchill, Blood, Sweat and Tears (1940), Martin Luther King, I Have a Dream (1963), Harvey Milk's Hope Speech (1978), Margaret Thatcher's The Lady's not for Turning (1980), Nelson Mandela on his release from prison (1990), among many more.

important speeches of the 21st century: Words of a Century Stephen Lucas, Martin J. Medhurst, 2009 Boldly breaking the mold of previous anthologies, Words of a Century: The Top 100 American Speeches, 1900-1999 contains the complete--and authentic--texts of the best American speeches of the twentieth century as delivered to their immediate audiences. It features a remarkable array of speakers, from Woodrow Wilson, Clarence Darrow, and Carrie Chapman Catt to Martin Luther King, Ronald Reagan, John F. Kennedy, and Barbara Jordan. As diverse in type as they are in subject matter, the speeches open a unique window on the twentieth century, and many continue to resonate in our own time. Each is preceded by a headnote with background on the speaker, the occasion, and the impact of the speech. More than 2,000 annotations identify people, events, and textual references that help bring the speeches to life for today's readers. This exceptional anthology is ideal for courses in rhetoric, political communication, and twentieth century American history, as well as for anyone interested in the artistry and impact of the spoken word.

important speeches of the 21st century: The Penguin Book of Modern Speeches Brian MacArthur, 2012 Whether it was Churchill rousing the British to take up arms or the dream of Martin Luther King, Fidel Castro inspiring the Cuban revolution or Barack Obama on Selma and the meaning of America, speeches have profoundly influenced the way we see ourselves and society. Gathered here are some of the most extraordinary and memorable speeches of the last century. Some are well known, others less so, but all helped form the world we now inhabit. 'Time and again, MacArthur satisfies the reader's expectations. They are all here: Lloyd George's fit country for heroes, Woodrow Wilson's world made safe for democracy, Enoch Powell's River Tiber foaming with much blood' The Times Literary Supplement 'It would be hard to do better than MacArthur's selection, which is a tribute to the breadth of his knowledge' The Times

important speeches of the 21st century: Great Speeches by African Americans James Daley, 2012-03-06 Tracing the struggle for freedom and civil rights across two centuries, this anthology comprises speeches by Martin Luther King, Jr., Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Barack Obama, and many other influential figures.

important speeches of the 21st century: A New Multilateralism for the 21st Century Ms.Christine Lagarde, 2014-02-03 This chapter presents the content of the Richard Dimbleby lecture, which has been delivered by an influential business or a political figure every year since 1972. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF, delivered the 2014 lecture at Guildhall in London on February 3. The 44 nations gathering at Bretton Woods have been determined to set a new course based on the principle that peace and prosperity flow from the font of cooperation. Fundamentally, the new multilateralism needs to instil a broader sense of social responsibility on the part of all players in the modern global economy. A renewed commitment to openness and to the

mutual benefits of trade and foreign investment is requested. It also requires collective responsibility for managing an international monetary system that has travelled light-years since the old Bretton Woods system. The collective responsibility would translate into all monetary institutions cooperating closely mindful of the potential impact of their policies on others.

important speeches of the 21st century: Say It Plain Catherine Ellis, Stephen Drury Smith, 2007-01-01 Say It Plain is a vivid, moving portrait of how black Americans have sounded the charge against injustice, exhorting the country to live up to its democratic principles. In full-throated public oratory, the kind that can stir the soul (Minneapolis Star Tribune), this unique anthology collects the transcribed speeches of the twentieth century's leading African American cultural, literary, and political figures, many of them never before available in printed form. From an 1895 speech by Booker T. Washington to Julian Bond's harp assessment of school segregation on the fiftieth anniversary of Brown v. Board in 2004, the collection captures a powerful tradition of oratory-by political activists, civil rights organizers, celebrities, and religious leaders-going back more than a century. The paperback edition includes the text of each speech along with an introduction placing it in its historical context. Say It Plain is a remarkable historical record- from the back-to-Africa movement to the civil rights era and the rise of black nationalism and beyond-riveting in its power to convey the black freedom struggle.

important speeches of the 21st century: The Infinite Game Simon Sinek, 2019-10-15 From the New York Times bestselling author of Start With Why and Leaders Eat Last, a bold framework for leadership in today's ever-changing world. How do we win a game that has no end? Finite games, like football or chess, have known players, fixed rules and a clear endpoint. The winners and losers are easily identified. Infinite games, games with no finish line, like business or politics, or life itself, have players who come and go. The rules of an infinite game are changeable while infinite games have no defined endpoint. There are no winners or losers—only ahead and behind. The question is, how do we play to succeed in the game we're in? In this revelatory new book, Simon Sinek offers a framework for leading with an infinite mindset. On one hand, none of us can resist the fleeting thrills of a promotion earned or a tournament won, yet these rewards fade quickly. In pursuit of a Just Cause, we will commit to a vision of a future world so appealing that we will build it week after week, month after month, year after year. Although we do not know the exact form this world will take, working toward it gives our work and our life meaning. Leaders who embrace an infinite mindset build stronger, more innovative, more inspiring organizations. Ultimately, they are the ones who lead us into the future.

important speeches of the 21st century: American Heritage Book of Great American Speeches for Young People Suzanne McIntire, 2002-07-15 The history of the United States has been characterized by fervent idealism, intense struggle, and radical change. And for every critical, defining moment in American history, there were those whose impassioned voices rang out, clear and true, and whose words compelled the minds and hearts of all who heard them. When Patrick Henry declared, Give me liberty, or give me death!, when Martin Luther King Jr. said, I have a dream, Americans listened and were profoundly affected. These speeches stand today as testaments to this great nation made up of individuals with bold ideas and unshakeable convictions. The American Heritage Book of Great American Speeches for Young People includes over 100 speeches by founding fathers, patriots, Native American and African American leaders, abolitionists, women's suffrage and labor activists, writers, athletes, and others from all walks of life, featuring inspiring and unforgettable speeches by such notable speakers as: Patrick Henry * Thomas Jefferson * Tecumseh * Frederick Douglass * Sojourner Truth * Abraham Lincoln * Susan B. Anthony * Mother Jones * Lou Gehrig * Franklin D. Roosevelt * Albert Einstein * Pearl S. Buck * Langston Hughes * John F. Kennedy * Martin Luther King Jr. These are the voices that shaped our history. They are powerful, moving, and, above all else, uniquely American.

important speeches of the 21st century: Between Hope and History Bill Clinton, 1996 Between Hope and History is President Clinton's credo, a concise statement of the fundamental principles that have guided his administration and its policies since its inception nearly four years

ago. It continues, he writes, the conversation I have had with the American people about our destiny as a nation. In the three main sections of the book - Opportunity, Responsibility, Community - the President explores the most important challenges we face today: making the American Dream available to every citizen willing to work for it; ensuring that individuals, families, businesses, and government shoulder their fair share of responsibility for themselves and one another; and seeking strength through diversity in a community of citizens united in a democracy whose achievements and glory are unrivaled. America, the President observes, stands at a pivotal moment in its history. At the edge of a new century, we must decide between two visions of America. One vision foresees an every man for himself society that seems calculated to divide our people rather than unite us, to weaken rather than strengthen the bonds of community, to pay lip service to the importance of families without assuring the tools by which families can succeed. It is, the President declares, a vision that is bereft of the simple understanding that in America we must go forward together, and we don't have a single person to waste.--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

important speeches of the 21st century: Inaugural Presidential Address Obama Barack, 2016-06-23 Unlike some other reproductions of classic texts (1) We have not used OCR(Optical Character Recognition), as this leads to bad quality books with introduced typos. (2) In books where there are images such as portraits, maps, sketches etc We have endeavoured to keep the quality of these images, so they represent accurately the original artefact. Although occasionally there may be certain imperfections with these old texts, we feel they deserve to be made available for future generations to enjoy.

important speeches of the 21st century: *Age of Ingenuity* International Monetary Fund, 2019-01-04 International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde delivered this address at the Library of Congress as part of the Library's Henry A. Kissinger Lecture Series in Washington, D.C. on December 4, 2018.

important speeches of the 21st century: The New Nationalism Theodore Roosevelt, 2022-10-27 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

important speeches of the 21st century: 50 Speeches That Made the Modern World Chambers, 2016-10-06 Throughout history, great speeches have produced great change. From inciting violence and asserting control to restoring peace and securing freedom, nothing has the raw emotional power of a speech delivered at the right moment, in the right place, with the right content, and the right delivery. 50 Speeches That Made The Modern World is a celebration of the most influential and thought-provoking speeches that have shaped the world we live in. With comprehensive, chronological coverage of speeches from the 20th and 21st centuries, taken from all corners of the globe, it covers Emmeline Pankhurst's patiently reasoned condemnation of men's failure to improve ordinary women's lives in 1908 through speeches by Vladimir Lenin, Mahatma Gandhi, David Ben-Gurion, Albert Einstein, Fidel Castro, Nikita Khrushchev, Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Benazir Bhutto, Osama Bin Laden and Aung San Suu Kyi, right up to the most compelling oratory surrounding the 2016 US Presidential elections. Through the rallying propaganda speeches during World War II to the cautious rhetoric of the Cold War period, through challenging the status quo on issues of race, gender and politics to public addresses to the masses on the issues of AIDS and terrorism, through apologies, complaints, warmongering, scaremongering and passionate pleas, this book delivers the most important speeches of the modern era and why they still remain so significant. Each speech has an introduction explaining its setting, importance and impact as well as marginal notes filling in any

background information.

important speeches of the 21st century: *21 Speeches That Shaped Our World* Chris Abbott, 2010-08-05 In this fascinating book, Chris Abbott, a leading political analyst, takes a close look at 21 key speeches which have shaped the world today. He examines the power of the arguments embedded in these speeches to inspire people to achieve great things, or do great harm. Abbott draws upon his political expertise to explain how our current understanding of the world is rooted in pivotal moments of history. These moments are captured in the words of a range of influential speakers including: Emmeline Pankhurst, Martin Luther King, Jr, Enoch Powell, Napoleon Beazley, Kevin Rudd, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Osama bin Laden, Margaret Beckett, Winston Churchill, Salvador Allende, Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair, Tim Collins, Mohandas Gandhi, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Robin Cook and Barack Obama. The speeches in this book are arranged thematically, linked by concepts such as 'might is right', 'with us or against us' and 'give peace a chance'. Each transcript is accompanied by an insightful commentary that analyses how the words relate to our modern society. Fresh and relevant, this is a book that will make you stop in your tracks and think about what is really happening in the world today.

important speeches of the 21st century: *Washington's Farewell Address* George Washington, 1907

important speeches of the 21st century: *President's Speech* C. Edwin Vilade, 2012-10-16 With vivid insight and rousing examples, *The President's Speech* takes apart America's most important presidential addresses, phrase by phrase, and examines the pivotal, often familiar, and always potent language that presidents past used to mold public opinion. Author and speechwriter Edwin Vilade provides the framework for each speech, both within the context of its era and also as a point on a timeline of our country's long history. Starting at George Washington's Farewell Address and ending with George W. Bush's Axis of Evil State of the Union speech, Vilade reveals the varied and often conflicting points of view that shaped the final famous words. Color facsimiles show actual edits, deletions, additions, and handwritten notes to illustrate how remarkable and forceful language was crafted, sometimes at the last minute, into enduring words made famous by their timing, context, delivery, and power, from the 1823 Monroe Doctrine to Ronald Reagan's "tear down that wall, Mr. Gorbachev" speech at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, revealing political and social currents that frame these words for modern times.

important speeches of the 21st century: *Lend Me Your Ears* William Safire, 1997 William Safire's invaluable and immensely entertaining *Lend Me Your Ears* established itself instantly as a classic treasury of the greatest speeches in human history. Selected with the instincts of a great speechwriter and language maven, arranged by theme and occasion, each deftly introduced and placed in context, the more than two hundred speeches in this compilation demonstrate the enduring power of human eloquence to inspire, to uplift, and to motivate. For this expanded edition Safire has selected more than twenty new speeches by such figures as President Bill Clinton, Senator Robert Dole, General Colin Powell, Microsoft's Bill Gates, the Dalai Lama, Edward R. Murrow, Alistair Cooke, the Buddha, and the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. They prove that even in a digital age the most forceful medium of communication is still the human voice speaking directly to the mind, heart, and soul.

important speeches of the 21st century: *By the Well of Living & Seeing* Charles Reznikoff, 1974 Poems.

important speeches of the 21st century: *Ted Talks* Chris Anderson, 2016-05-03 A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A must-read insider's guide to creating unforgettable speeches and changing people's minds. Done right, a talk can electrify a room and transform an audience's worldview; it can be more powerful than anything in written form. This "invaluable guide" (Publishers Weekly) explains how the miracle of powerful public speaking is achieved, and equips you to give it your best shot. There is no set formula, but there are tools that can empower any speaker. Since taking over TED in 2001, Chris Anderson has worked with all the TED speakers who have inspired us the most, and here he shares insights from such favorites as Sir Ken Robinson,

Salman Khan, Monica Lewinsky, and more— everything from how to craft your talk's content to how you can be most effective on stage.

important speeches of the 21st century: We Are the Change We Seek E.J. Dionne Jr., Joy-Ann Reid, 2017-01-31 A collection of Barack Obama's greatest speeches, now including his farewell address, selected and introduced by columnist E.J. Dionne and MSNBC host Joy-Ann Reid. It is a political partisan's dream to see them [Obama's words] so finely gathered here. - Washington Post We Are the Change We Seek is a collection of Barack Obama's 27 greatest addresses: beginning with his 2002 speech opposing the Iraq War and closing with his emotional farewell address in Chicago in January 2017. As president, Obama's words had the power to move the country, and often the world, as few presidents before him. Whether acting as Commander in Chief or Consoler in Chief, Obama adopted a unique rhetorical style that could simultaneously speak to the national mood and change the course of public events. Obama's eloquence, both written and spoken, propelled him to national prominence and ultimately made it possible for the son of a Kenyan man and a white woman from Kansas to become the first black president of the United States. These speeches span Obama's career—from his time in state government through to the end of his tenure as president—and the issues most important to our time: war, inequality, race relations, gun violence and human rights. The book opens with an essay placing Obama's oratorical contributions within the flow of American history by E.J. Dionne Jr., columnist and author of *Why The Right Went Wrong*, and Joy Reid, the host of *AM Joy* on MSNBC and author of *Fracture*.

important speeches of the 21st century: A Time to Break Silence Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 2013-11-05 The first collection of King's essential writings for high school students and young people *A Time to Break Silence* presents Martin Luther King, Jr.'s most important writings and speeches—carefully selected by teachers across a variety of disciplines—in an accessible and user-friendly volume. Now, for the first time, teachers and students will be able to access Dr. King's writings not only electronically but in stand-alone book form. Arranged thematically in five parts, the collection includes nineteen selections and is introduced by award-winning author Walter Dean Myers. Included are some of Dr. King's most well-known and frequently taught classic works, including "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and "I Have a Dream," as well as lesser-known pieces such as "The Sword that Heals" and "What Is Your Life's Blueprint?" that speak to issues young people face today.

important speeches of the 21st century: What We Owe Each Other Minouche Shafik, 2022-08-23 From one of the leading policy experts of our time, an urgent rethinking of how we can better support each other to thrive Whether we realize it or not, all of us participate in the social contract every day through mutual obligations among our family, community, place of work, and fellow citizens. Caring for others, paying taxes, and benefiting from public services define the social contract that supports and binds us together as a society. Today, however, our social contract has been broken by changing gender roles, technology, new models of work, aging, and the perils of climate change. Minouche Shafik takes us through stages of life we all experience—raising children, getting educated, falling ill, working, growing old—and shows how a reordering of our societies is possible. Drawing on evidence and examples from around the world, she shows how every country can provide citizens with the basics to have a decent life and be able to contribute to society. But we owe each other more than this. A more generous and inclusive society would also share more risks collectively and ask everyone to contribute for as long as they can so that everyone can fulfill their potential. *What We Owe Each Other* identifies the key elements of a better social contract that recognizes our interdependencies, supports and invests more in each other, and expects more of individuals in return. Powerful, hopeful, and thought-provoking, *What We Owe Each Other* provides practical solutions to current challenges and demonstrates how we can build a better society—together.

important speeches of the 21st century: Speaking of Duke Richard H. Brodhead, 2017-03-02 Over the course of his thirteen years as president of Duke University, Richard H. Brodhead spoke at numerous university ceremonies, community forums, and faculty meetings, and

even appeared on The Colbert Report. Speaking of Duke collects dozens of these speeches, in which Brodhead speaks both to the special character and history of Duke University and to the general state of higher education. In these essays, Brodhead shows a university thinking its way forward through challenges all institutes of higher education have faced in the twenty-first century, including an expanding global horizon, an economic downturn that has left a diminished sense of opportunity and a shaken faith in the value of liberal arts education, and pressure to think more deeply about issues of equity and inclusion. His audiences range from newly arrived freshmen and new graduates—both facing uncertainty about how to build their future lives—to seasoned faculty members. On other occasions, he makes the case to the general public for the enduring importance of the humanities. What results is a portrait of Duke University in its modern chapter and the social and political climate that it shapes and is shaped by. While these speeches were given on official occasions, they are not impersonal official pronouncements; they are often quite personal and written with grace, humor, and an unwavering belief in the power of education to shape a changing world for the better. Brodhead notes that it is an underappreciated fact that a great deal of the exercise of power by a university leader is done through speaking: by articulating the aspirations of the school and the reasons for its choices, and by voicing the shared sense of mission that gives a learning community its reality. Speaking of Duke accomplishes each of those and demonstrates Brodhead's conviction that higher education is more valuable now than ever.

important speeches of the 21st century: *Self-Renewal* John W. Gardner, 2018-02-27 “The only stability possible is stability in motion.”—John William Gardner In his classic treatise *Self-Renewal*, John W. Gardner examines why great societies thrive and die. He argues that it is dynamism, not decay, that is dramatically altering the landscape of American society. The twentieth century has brought about change more rapidly than any previous era, and with that came advancements, challenges, and often destruction. Gardner cautions that “a society must court the kinds of change that will enrich and strengthen it, rather than the kind of change that will fragment and destroy it.” A society’s ability to renew itself hinges upon its individuals. Gardner reasons that it is the waning of the heart and spirit—not a lack of material might—that threatens American society. Young countries, businesses, and humans have several key commonalities: they are flexible, eager, open, curious, unafraid, and willing to take risks. These conditions lead to success. However, as time passes, so too comes complacency, apathy, and rigidity, causing motivation to plummet. It is at this junction that great civilizations fall, businesses go bankrupt, and life stagnates. Gardner asserts that the individual’s role in social renewal requires each person to face and look beyond imminent threats. Ultimately, we need a vision that there is something worth saving. Through this vision, Gardner argues, society will begin to renew itself, not permanently, but past its average lifespan, and it will at once become enriched and rejuvenated.

important speeches of the 21st century: *Strategic Theory for the 21st Century: The Little Book on Big Strategy* Harry R. Yarger, 2006

important speeches of the 21st century: *Lincoln's Greatest Speech* Ronald C. White, 2006-11-07 In the tradition of Wills's *Lincoln at Gettysburg*, *Lincoln's Greatest Speech* combines impeccable scholarship and lively, engaging writing to reveal the full meaning of one of the greatest speeches in the nation's history.

important speeches of the 21st century: *Words That Built a Nation* Marilyn Miller, Ellen Scordato, Dan Tucker, 2018-02-13 When originally published in 1999, *Words That Built a Nation* was hailed for bringing together the United States’ most important historical essays, speeches, and documents into one accessible collection for kids. Now, this history lovers’ must-have is back, and it’s been revised, revamped, and expanded for the 21st century. From the Constitution and the Gettysburg Address to the 2015 Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage, the updated collection preserves the documents of the first edition and introduces the landmark statements that are impacting our nation today. With all new illustrations, a refreshed design, and complementary background information behind each of the documents, *Words That Built a Nation* is the ultimate tour of United States history, created to engage, inspire, and equip kids with the knowledge they

need to change and shape their world. "This book is attractive and the presentation engaging."—School Library Journal

important speeches of the 21st century: *The Next 100 Years* George Friedman, 2009-01-27
"Conventional analysis suffers from a profound failure of imagination. It imagines passing clouds to be permanent and is blind to powerful, long-term shifts taking place in full view of the world."
—George Friedman In his long-awaited and provocative new book, George Friedman turns his eye on the future—offering a lucid, highly readable forecast of the changes we can expect around the world during the twenty-first century. He explains where and why future wars will erupt (and how they will be fought), which nations will gain and lose economic and political power, and how new technologies and cultural trends will alter the way we live in the new century. *The Next 100 Years* draws on a fascinating exploration of history and geopolitical patterns dating back hundreds of years. Friedman shows that we are now, for the first time in half a millennium, at the dawn of a new era—with changes in store, including: • The U.S.-Jihadist war will conclude—replaced by a second full-blown cold war with Russia. • China will undergo a major extended internal crisis, and Mexico will emerge as an important world power. • A new global war will unfold toward the middle of the century between the United States and an unexpected coalition from Eastern Europe, Eurasia, and the Far East; but armies will be much smaller and wars will be less deadly. • Technology will focus on space—both for major military uses and for a dramatic new energy resource that will have radical environmental implications. • The United States will experience a Golden Age in the second half of the century. Written with the keen insight and thoughtful analysis that has made George Friedman a renowned expert in geopolitics and forecasting, *The Next 100 Years* presents a fascinating picture of what lies ahead. For continual, updated analysis and supplemental material, go to www.geopoliticalfutures.com.

important speeches of the 21st century: *Great Speeches Of Our Time* Hywel Williams, 2014-08-12 Let each know that for each the body, the mind and the soul have been freed to fulfill themselves. These powerful words, spoken by Nelson Mandela in his inaugural address as the new president of South Africa, are taken from just one of the forty important and thought-provoking speeches in this collection. Ranging from 1945 to the present day, they provide an important insight into the modern world. Inspirational speeches by Winston Churchill, Mikhail Gorbachev, Martin Luther King, Barack Obama and many others are supplemented with biographies of each speaker, as well an exploration of their words' significance and an historical account of the consequences of their oratory. This is a history of the recent and contemporary world told through the speeches that shaped it.

important speeches of the 21st century: *In Our Own Words* Senator Robert Torricelli, Andrew Carroll, 2000-10 Presents a collection of oratory including sermons, speeches, courtroom arguments, radio broadcasts, eulogies, and commencement addresses.

important speeches of the 21st century: *World Protests* Isabel Ortiz, Sara Burke, Mohamed Berrada, Hernán Saenz Cortés, 2021-11-03 This is an open access book. The start of the 21st century has seen the world shaken by protests, from the Arab Spring to the Yellow Vests, from the Occupy movement to the social uprisings in Latin America. There are periods in history when large numbers of people have rebelled against the way things are, demanding change, such as in 1848, 1917, and 1968. Today we are living in another time of outrage and discontent, a time that has already produced some of the largest protests in world history. This book analyzes almost three thousand protests that occurred between 2006 and 2020 in 101 countries covering over 93 per cent of the world population. The study focuses on the major demands driving world protests, such as those for real democracy, jobs, public services, social protection, civil rights, global justice, and those against austerity and corruption. It also analyzes who was demonstrating in each protest; what protest methods they used; who the protestors opposed; what was achieved; whether protests were repressed; and trends such as inequality and the rise of women's and radical right protests. The book concludes that the demands of protestors in most of the protests surveyed are in full accordance with human rights and internationally agreed-upon UN development goals. The book

calls for policy-makers to listen and act on these demands.

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