



# Indomitable Will: LBJ in the Presidency

*Mark K. Updegrove*

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## **Indomitable Will: LBJ in the Presidency** Mark K. Updegrove

Nearly fifty years after being sworn in as president of the United States in the wake of John F. Kennedy's assassination, Lyndon Baines Johnson remains a largely misunderstood figure. His force of personality, mastery of power and the political process, and boundless appetite for social reform made him one of the towering figures of his time. But he was one of the most contradictory and paradoxical of presidents as well. Intent on fulfilling the promise of America, Johnson launched a revolution in civil rights, federal aid to education, and health care for the elderly and indigent, and expanded immigration and environmental protection. As president, he was known for getting things done. But at the same time, Johnson's presidency—and the fulfillment of its own promise—was blighted by his escalation of an ill-fated war in Vietnam that tore at the fabric of America and saw the loss of thirty-six thousand US troops by the end of his term.

Presidential historian Mark K. Updegrove offers an intimate portrait of the endlessly fascinating LBJ, his extraordinarily eventful presidency, and the turbulent times in which he served. Through original interviews and personal accounts from White House aides and cabinet members, political allies and foes, and friends and family—from Robert McNamara to Barry Goldwater, Lady Bird Johnson to Jacqueline Kennedy—as well as through Johnson's own candid reflections and historic White House telephone conversations, *Indomitable Will* reveals LBJ as never before.

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