



1948: Harry Truman's Improbable Victory and the Year that Transformed America

David Pietrusza

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Indelibly, we recall the iconic newsphoto: jubilant underdog Harry Truman brandishing his copy of the *Chicago Tribune* proclaiming "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN." But far, far more exists to 1948's election than a single inglorious headline and a stunning upset victory. Award-winning author David Pietrusza goes beyond the headlines to reveal backstage events and to place in context a down-to-the-wire donnybrook fought against the background of an erupting Cold War, the Berlin Airlift, and the birth of Israel, a post-war America facing exploding storms over civil rights, and domestic communism.

It's a war for the soul of the Democratic Party with accidental president Harry Truman pitted against his embittered left-wing predecessor as vice president, Henry Wallace, and stormy young South Carolina segregationist Dixiecrat Strom Thurmond. On the GOP side, it's a four-way battle between cold-as-ice New Yorker Tom Dewey, Minnesota upstart Harold Stassen, the stodgy but brilliant Ohio conservative Robert Taft, and the imperious but aged Douglas MacArthur. But Americans really want "none of the above." They do, however, "like IKE," but Dwight Eisenhower stubbornly resists draft movements in both parties to run--at least, that year.

It's an election year featuring a uniquely stellar supporting cast. Alger Hiss, Whitaker Chambers and Richard Nixon. Civil rights crusader Hubert Humphrey. GOP VP choice Earl Warren. Henry Wallace activists Paul Robeson, Lillian Hellman, and Pete Seeger. A passel of FDR kin--including Eleanor--disgusted with HST. Wisconsin's Joe McCarthy, Clark Clifford, William O. Douglas, George C. Marshall, John Foster Dulles, Adlai Stevenson, Drew Pearson, "Landslide Lyndon" Johnson, H. L. Mencken, Harold Ickes, Clare and Henry Luce, the "Do-Nothing" 80th Congress, Curtis LeMay, Ronald Reagan, and, last, but not least, NBC's forever embarrassed H. V. Kaltenborn.

David Pietrusza achieves for 1948's presidential race what he previously did in *1960: LBJ vs JFK vs Nixon*--of which *Library Journal* (starred review) said "raises the bar with his winning and provocative chronicle. . . . Highly recommended." Pietrusza again brings history to life, spellbinding readers with tales of the highest drama while simultaneously presenting the issues, personalities, and controversies of this pivotal era with laser-like clarity.

With 2012's crucial presidential election approaching, 1948 transforms the way readers see modern American history.

Just a taste of what's inside David Pietrusza's riveting *1948: Harry Truman's Improbable Victory and the Year that Transformed America's Role in the World*--

- Vitriolic Westbrook Pegler's exposé of Henry Wallace's secret "Guru" letters.
- Why the NAACP fired 80-old civil rights pioneer W. E. B. DuBois.
- Why a disgusted Nina Warren voted for HST--and against Tom Dewey and her own husband Earl.
- How A. Philip Randolph's threatened "March on Washington" integrated the army.
- J. Strom Thurmond: Segregationist white knight--with an illegitimate black daughter.
- The ground-breaking Oregon radio debate that settled a presidential nomination.
- How "Bull" Connor arrested Henry Wallace's running mate--and nearly arrested Wallace himself.

- The Case of the Missing President: HST's election night vanishing act.

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