



## Soros: The Life and Times of a Messianic Billionaire

By Michael T. Kaufman

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A penniless émigré who made a fortune and became one of the great philanthropists of the twentieth century, George Soros has led a remarkable life. This biography brings forth his story in unprecedented depth, from his childhood as a Jew in occupied Budapest during World War II to his conquests on Wall Street and the establishment of his philanthropic Open Society foundations. **Soros** offers exclusive glimpses at an often misunderstood man, revealing a shy character whose own struggle to escape the Nazis left him with the adamant belief that people of the world are entitled to live without the fear of oppression.

Enigmatic, contradictory, and inspiring, George Soros is one of the most intriguing and globally influential men of our time. In this accomplished biography, written with Soros's cooperation, Michael T. Kaufman fully illuminates the man, his motivations, and his legacy.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

George Soros was once described as "the only private citizen [of the U.S.] who has his own foreign policy." In this penetrating biography, Michael Kaufman explores the multifaceted life of a man who instead describes himself as "a financial, philanthropic, and philosophical speculator."

Like Intel chairman Andrew Grove, whose memoir *Swimming Across* touches on some of the same territory, Soros grew up as the scion of a Hungarian Jewish family, many of whose members did not survive the Holocaust. Inclined toward philosophy (a field in which he sometimes writes even today, though many philosophers wish he would not), Soros escaped to England, and later America, and put his sharp mind to work making a huge fortune. Not content to live a leisurely or unexamined life, Soros put more than \$1 billion to use in bettering the lives of citizens of formerly totalitarian regimes--and even in hastening the end of dictatorships around the world.

Former *New York Times* columnist Kaufman delivers a respectful account, closeted skeletons and all, of Soros's life and work, and his book will interest a wide range of readers. --*Gregory McNamee*

#### From Library Journal

What makes George Soros such a fascinating topic for biographers? The year 1995 saw Robert Slater's *Soros: The Life, Times and Trading Secrets of the World's Greatest Investor* and Soros's own *Soros on Soros*, written with Byron Wien and Krisztina Koenan. Now Kaufman, a former *New York Times* award-winning reporter, foreign correspondent, and editor, documents the life of this successful but controversial figure, drawing on unpublished manuscripts and interviews with Soros, his family, and acquaintances. The result is this wide-ranging and absorbing book. Although the work covers the full spectrum of Soros's activities, the recurring theme is of Soros the person and his never-ending pursuit of universal truths. Despite his achievements as a remarkable money manager and generous philanthropist, Soros's lifelong dream was to become a noted philosopher. Leaving his home in Budapest at 14, he eventually became a Wall Street maverick and made billions so that he could give it away. Soros has used his wealth to create a network of Open Society foundations in Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union to foster democratic institutions. More recently, he has expanded his philanthropic network to the United States, focusing on various social issues. This comprehensive biography is a good selection for business collections. Bellinda Wise, Nassau Community Coll. Lib., Garden City, NY

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#### From Booklist

This biography of one of the world's most famous speculators is by a veteran *New York Times* journalist. George Soros, the famous financier and philanthropist, came from Jewish Hungarian roots. He was born "Schwartz," but his father changed the family name to create a secret identity and escape Hungary during the war. The young Soros had a powerful intellect but was an average student at best. Early on, however, he showed an intuitive genius for arbitrage deals--uncovering hidden values and market inconsistencies and quickly profiting from them. In the U.S., his success with foreign market arbitrage was phenomenal and led to the development of the Quantum fund, which is the model for the hedge fund. He originally disdained charity, but his financial aid and policy initiatives to numerous foreign countries led to his nomination for the Nobel Prize. Soros' Open Society Fund has given humanitarian aid and support for human rights to Hungary, China, Russia, and Afghanistan. Kaufman's account is a nice balance of the personal and professional sides

of Soros. *David Siegfried*  
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