

the greatest generation tom brokaw

The Enduring Legacy of The Greatest Generation: Tom Brokaw's Tribute

the greatest generation tom brokaw is a phrase that echoes deeply in American cultural and historical conversations. It refers to the generation that grew up during the Great Depression, came of age during World War II, and shaped much of the mid-20th century with their resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to duty. Tom Brokaw, an esteemed journalist and author, captured this sentiment powerfully in his groundbreaking book, **The Greatest Generation**, which not only chronicles the lives of those who lived through these transformative years but also celebrates their enduring values. Let's dive into the story behind Brokaw's work and explore why this generation's legacy continues to inspire.

Who is Tom Brokaw and Why He Wrote About the Greatest Generation

Tom Brokaw is a renowned American television journalist, best known for his long tenure as the anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News. His career spans decades of covering pivotal moments in history, but it was his work in the late 1990s that brought the stories of the World War II generation into the spotlight.

Brokaw was inspired to write **The Greatest Generation** after noticing a cultural shift: the stories and sacrifices of the men and women who fought in World War II were being overshadowed by contemporary events and newer generations. He felt a profound responsibility to document their experiences before they faded away. Through extensive interviews and research, Brokaw gave voice to the everyday heroes—soldiers, nurses, factory workers, and families back home—whose collective efforts helped shape the modern world.

The Impact of Brokaw's Book

Published in 1998, **The Greatest Generation** quickly became a bestseller and struck a chord with readers nationwide. Brokaw's vivid storytelling and respectful tone helped humanize historical events, presenting the generation not just as wartime warriors, but as people with dreams, fears, and a strong sense of community.

The book also sparked renewed interest in World War II history and led to a broader appreciation for the social and economic challenges faced by this generation. It served as both a tribute and a historical document, preserving personal narratives alongside major historical milestones.

Understanding the Characteristics of the Greatest

Generation

What sets the greatest generation apart? According to Brokaw and many historians, this group is defined by several key traits shaped by the times they lived through.

Resilience in the Face of Hardship

Growing up during the Great Depression meant enduring financial instability, widespread unemployment, and uncertainty. Rather than succumbing to despair, this generation learned resourcefulness, thrift, and patience—qualities that would serve them well during the war and beyond.

Patriotism and Duty

When war broke out, millions answered the call to serve, often putting their lives on the line without question. This sense of duty extended beyond the battlefield: women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers, and civilians supported the war effort through rationing and volunteerism.

Commitment to Family and Community

After the war, the greatest generation contributed to building a prosperous and stable society. They valued hard work, education, and family cohesion, which helped fuel the post-war economic boom and shape modern American culture.

How Tom Brokaw Highlights the Everyday Heroes

One of the most compelling aspects of Brokaw's narrative is his focus on ordinary people doing extraordinary things. He avoids glorifying war itself, instead honoring the courage, humility, and perseverance of individuals.

Stories from the Battlefield

Brokaw shares personal accounts of soldiers from diverse backgrounds, highlighting not only combat bravery but also the bonds forged in adversity. These stories remind readers that history is made up of countless individual experiences.

Civilian Contributions

The book also shines a light on those who kept the home front running—factory workers producing vital supplies, nurses caring for the wounded, and families maintaining morale. Brokaw's inclusion of these voices broadens our understanding of the war's scope.

The Greatest Generation's Influence on Modern Society

The values and achievements of the greatest generation continue to resonate today. Their emphasis on community, sacrifice, and perseverance offers lessons relevant in any era.

Lessons in Leadership and Integrity

Many leaders today cite the greatest generation as a model for ethical leadership. Their example of putting collective good above personal gain is often held up as a standard in politics, business, and civic life.

The Cultural Legacy

From music and film to education and public policy, the impact of the greatest generation is woven into the fabric of contemporary culture. Their stories inspire films, documentaries, and educational programs that keep history alive for younger generations.

Preserving Their History

Thanks in large part to Brokaw's work, there has been a surge in efforts to preserve World War II artifacts, oral histories, and monuments. Museums and veterans' organizations continue to engage the public, ensuring that the lessons of the past remain accessible.

Why Tom Brokaw's Work Still Matters Today

In an age dominated by rapid technological change and shifting social norms, the stories of the greatest generation offer grounding perspectives. Brokaw's work reminds us of the power of resilience, the importance of civic duty, and the enduring strength found in unity.

Whether you're a history buff, a student, or someone seeking inspiration, *The Greatest Generation* provides a heartfelt and insightful look at a defining chapter in American history. It encourages us to honor those who came before and to strive toward the ideals they embodied.

In revisiting the lives and lessons of the greatest generation through Tom Brokaw's lens, we gain not only a deeper understanding of the past but also a meaningful compass for navigating the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Tom Brokaw and what is his connection to the Greatest Generation?

Tom Brokaw is an American journalist and author who popularized the term 'The Greatest Generation' through his 1998 book that honors those who grew up during the Great Depression and fought in World War II.

What is the main theme of Tom Brokaw's book 'The Greatest Generation'?

The main theme of Tom Brokaw's book is to celebrate and recognize the sacrifices, values, and heroism of the generation that lived through the Great Depression and served in World War II, portraying them as embodying courage, duty, and perseverance.

Why does Tom Brokaw consider the Greatest Generation to be 'great'?

Brokaw considers the Greatest Generation 'great' because of their resilience in overcoming the hardships of the Great Depression, their commitment to fight and win World War II, and their contributions to building modern America post-war.

How has Tom Brokaw's concept of the Greatest Generation influenced American culture?

Tom Brokaw's concept has influenced American culture by fostering a renewed appreciation for the sacrifices of World War II veterans, inspiring patriotic values, and encouraging intergenerational respect and historical awareness.

Are there criticisms of Tom Brokaw's portrayal of the Greatest Generation?

Yes, some critics argue that Tom Brokaw's portrayal idealizes the Greatest Generation and overlooks the social and racial inequalities of the era, as well as the contributions of other generations.

What impact did Tom Brokaw's 'The Greatest Generation' have on veterans and their families?

The book brought widespread recognition and honor to World War II veterans, positively impacting their legacy, boosting public respect, and providing families with a deeper understanding of their relatives' sacrifices.

Additional Resources

The Enduring Legacy of The Greatest Generation: Tom Brokaw's Definitive Tribute

the greatest generation tom brokaw is a phrase that resonates deeply within the canon of American historical and cultural discourse. This expression owes much of its contemporary prominence to Tom Brokaw's seminal work, **The Greatest Generation**, a book that not only chronicles but also pays homage to the generation that came of age during the Great Depression and fought heroically in World War II. Brokaw's narrative transcends mere historical recounting; it serves as a profound reflection on values, sacrifice, and the shaping of modern America.

As a respected journalist and former NBC Nightly News anchor, Tom Brokaw brought a distinctive voice and credibility to this tribute, elevating the story of this generation from dry historical facts to a moving collective memoir. His exploration extends beyond the battlefield, delving into the social, economic, and cultural fabric that defined these men and women. In this article, we will analyze **The Greatest Generation** by Tom Brokaw, examining its themes, impact, and relevance in today's society, while naturally integrating related keywords such as World War II veterans, American values, and generational legacy.

Tom Brokaw's Vision of The Greatest Generation

Tom Brokaw's depiction of the generation that endured the hardships of the 1930s and the brutalities of World War II is rooted in admiration for their resilience and civic-mindedness. Through extensive interviews and archival research, Brokaw presents a generation characterized by humility, unity, and a profound sense of duty—not only to their country but to one another.

Unlike typical historical analyses that focus on strategic military movements or political outcomes, Brokaw's approach is deeply humanistic. He highlights personal stories, everyday heroism, and the sacrifices of ordinary citizens who lived through extraordinary times. This narrative framework helps readers connect emotionally and intellectually with a generation often romanticized but not always fully understood.

The Defining Characteristics of The Greatest Generation

Brokaw identifies several key attributes that define this cohort:

- **Self-sacrifice:** Many members willingly risked or gave their lives during World War II, motivated by a commitment to freedom and democracy.
- **Work ethic:** Growing up during the Great Depression instilled a rigorous sense of diligence and perseverance.
- **Community focus:** Rather than seeking individual glory, this generation prioritized collective well-being and social responsibility.
- **Patriotism:** Their loyalty to the country was reflected in both military service and post-war

civic contributions.

These traits not only shaped the outcomes of World War II but also laid the foundation for America's economic boom and social progress in the decades that followed.

Impact and Reception of *The Greatest Generation*

Since its publication in 1998, *The Greatest Generation* has become more than a bestseller—it has served as a cultural touchstone. The book's success lies in its ability to revive a sense of gratitude and respect for a group often overshadowed by subsequent generations' narratives.

Critically, the book sparked renewed interest in World War II veterans, prompting numerous educational initiatives and commemorative efforts. Schools incorporated Brokaw's work into curricula, and veterans' stories gained prominence in media and museums. This resurgence of appreciation underscores Brokaw's impact beyond journalism, influencing how society remembers history.

However, some scholars and critics caution against uncritical hero-worship. They argue that while the generation's achievements are undeniable, it is equally important to recognize the complexities of the era, including social inequalities and the experiences of marginalized groups. Brokaw's work, though comprehensive, primarily centers on mainstream narratives, which can inadvertently marginalize alternative perspectives.

Comparative Perspectives: The Greatest Generation and Subsequent Cohorts

Understanding the significance of the greatest generation requires placing it in context alongside other American generations:

- **Baby Boomers:** Born post-World War II, this group experienced unprecedented economic prosperity but is often critiqued for less cohesive social unity.
- **Generation X:** Known for skepticism and independence, shaped by late Cold War tensions and economic fluctuations.
- **Millennials:** Digital natives facing economic uncertainty and global challenges, with distinct values on work-life balance and social justice.

In comparison, the greatest generation is frequently idealized for its collective sacrifice and clear sense of purpose during a time of national crisis. Brokaw's narrative helps frame this generation as a benchmark against which subsequent generations measure their contributions and challenges.

Exploring the Social and Cultural Dimensions

Beyond the battlefield, **The Greatest Generation** reveals how the era's social dynamics influenced American identity. The shared hardships of the Depression fostered a culture of thrift, mutual aid, and optimism for the future. The post-war period saw a surge in educational attainment, suburban growth, and the establishment of institutions that shape American life to this day.

Brokaw's work also touches on gender roles and family structures, illustrating how women contributed to the war effort through workforce participation and how these experiences began to shift societal expectations. Although the book primarily highlights traditional narratives, it indirectly opens a window into evolving cultural norms.

The Role of Veterans in Preserving the Legacy

Veterans of World War II have played a crucial role in perpetuating the memory of the greatest generation. Through reunions, memoirs, and public speaking, they provide firsthand accounts that enrich our understanding of the era. Brokaw's interviews with these individuals add authenticity and emotional resonance to his narrative.

This ongoing dialogue between veterans and newer generations fosters intergenerational learning. It also underscores the importance of historical preservation amid the inevitable passing of time.

Contemporary Relevance of Tom Brokaw's Work

In an age marked by rapid technological change and shifting social values, the themes encapsulated in **The Greatest Generation** continue to resonate. Tom Brokaw's portrayal serves as a reminder of the power of collective effort, civic responsibility, and resilience in the face of adversity.

Moreover, as political and cultural polarization intensifies, revisiting the values and experiences of the greatest generation can offer insights into bridging divides. The emphasis on community, sacrifice, and shared purpose presented in Brokaw's work provides a lens through which modern society might reflect on its own challenges.

The enduring popularity of the book and its themes is evident in continued media adaptations, documentaries, and scholarly discussions. This sustained interest affirms that the narrative of the greatest generation remains a vital part of America's collective memory.

Tom Brokaw's **The Greatest Generation** stands as a landmark contribution to historical literature and public understanding. By weaving individual stories into a broader cultural tapestry, Brokaw crafts a compelling tribute that honors a generation whose legacy still shapes the United States today. Through balanced examination and heartfelt storytelling, the book invites readers to appreciate the complexities and triumphs of those who lived through some of the most transformative moments of the 20th century.

The Greatest Generation Tom Brokaw

the greatest generation tom brokaw: The Greatest Generation Tom Brokaw, 2000-02-23 The instant classic that changed the way we saw World War II and an entire generation of Americans, from the beloved journalist whose own iconic career has lasted more than fifty years. In this magnificent testament to a nation and her people, Tom Brokaw brings to life the extraordinary stories of a generation that gave new meaning to courage, sacrifice, and honor. From military heroes to community leaders to ordinary citizens, he profiles men and women who served their country with valor, then came home and transformed it: Senator Daniel Inouye, decorated at the front, fighting prejudice at home; Martha Settle Putney, one of the first black women to serve in the newly formed WACs; Charles Van Gorder, a doctor who set up a MASH-like medical facility in the middle of battle, then opened a small clinic in his hometown; Navy pilot and future president George H. W. Bush, assigned to read the mail of the enlisted men under him, who says that in doing so he "learned about life"; and many other laudable Americans. To this generation that gave so much and asked so little, Brokaw offers eloquent tribute in true stories of everyday heroes in extraordinary times. Praise for *The Greatest Generation* "Moving . . . a tribute to the members of the World War II generation to whom we Americans and the world owe so much."—The New York Times Book Review "Full of wonderful, wrenching tales of a generation of heroes. Tom Brokaw reminds us what we are capable of as a people. An inspiring read for those who wish their spirits lifted."—Colin L. Powell "Offers welcome inspiration . . . It is impossible to read even a few of these accounts and not be touched by the book's overarching message: We who followed this generation have lived in the midst of greatness."—The Washington Times "Entirely compelling."—The Wall Street Journal

the greatest generation tom brokaw: The Greatest Generation Speaks Tom Brokaw, 2001-06-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A powerful selection of the letters Tom Brokaw received in response to his towering #1 bestseller *The Greatest Generation*. "When I wrote about the men and women who came out of the Depression, who won great victories and made lasting sacrifices in World War II and then returned home to begin building the world we have today—the people I called the Greatest Generation—it was my way of saying thank you. But I was not prepared for the avalanche of letters and responses touched off by that book. I had written a book about America, and now America was writing back."—Tom Brokaw In the phenomenal bestseller *The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw paid affecting tribute to those who gave the world so much—and who left an enduring legacy of courage and conviction. *The Greatest Generation Speaks* collects the vast outpouring of letters Brokaw received from men and women eager to share their intensely personal stories of a momentous time in America's history. Some letters tell of the front during the war, others recall loved ones in harm's way in distant places. They offer first-hand accounts of battles, poignant reflections on loneliness, exuberant expressions of love, and somber feelings of loss. As Brokaw notes, "If we are to heed the past to prepare for the future, we should listen to these quiet voices of a generation that speaks to us of duty and honor, sacrifice and accomplishment. I hope more of their stories will be preserved and cherished as reminders of all that we owe them and all that we can learn from them."

the greatest generation tom brokaw: The Greatest Generation Tom Brokaw, 1998-12-07 Read Tom Brokaw's *The Greatest Generation* in Large Print. * All Random House Large Print Editions are published in 16-point type In the spring of 1984, I went to the northwest of France, to Normandy, to prepare an NBC documentary on the fortieth anniversary of D-Day, the massive and daring Allied invasion of Europe that marked the beginning of the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. There, I underwent a life-changing experience. As I walked the beaches with the American veterans who had returned for this anniversary, men in their sixties and seventies, and listened to their stories, I was deeply moved and profoundly grateful for all they had done. Ten years later, I returned to Normandy for the fiftieth anniversary of the invasion, and by then I had come to understand what this generation of Americans meant to history. It is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has

ever produced. In this superb book, Tom Brokaw goes out into America, to tell through the stories of individual men and women the story of a generation, America's citizen heroes and heroines who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America. This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values--duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and, above all, responsibility for oneself. In this book, you will meet people whose everyday lives reveal how a generation persevered through war, and were trained by it, and then went on to create interesting and useful lives and the America we have today. At a time in their lives when their days and nights should have been filled with innocent adventure, love, and the lessons of the workaday world, they were fighting in the most primitive conditions possible across the bloodied landscape of France, Belgium, Italy, Austria, and the coral islands of the Pacific. They answered the call to save the world from the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled, instruments of conquest in the hands of fascist maniacs. They faced great odds and a late start, but they did not protest. They succeeded on every front. They won the war; they saved the world. They came home to joyous and short-lived celebrations and immediately began the task of rebuilding their lives and the world they wanted. They married in record numbers and gave birth to another distinctive generation, the Baby Boomers. A grateful nation made it possible for more of them to attend college than any society had ever educated, anywhere. They gave the world new science, literature, art, industry, and economic strength unparalleled in the long curve of history. As they now reach the twilight of their adventurous and productive lives, they remain, for the most part, exceptionally modest. They have so many stories to tell, stories that in many cases they have never told before, because in a deep sense they didn't think that what they were doing was that special, because everyone else was doing it too. This book, I hope, will in some small way pay tribute to those men and women who have given us the lives we have today--an American family portrait album of the greatest generation. In this book you'll meet people like Charles Van Gorder, who set up during D-Day a MASH-like medical facility in the middle of the fighting, and then came home to create a clinic and hospital in his hometown. You'll hear George Bush talk about how, as a Navy Air Corps combat pilot, one of his assignments was to read the mail of the enlisted men under him, to be sure no sensitive military information would be compromised. And so, Bush says, I learned about life. You'll meet Trudy Elion, winner of the Nobel Prize in medicine, one of the many women in this book who found fulfilling careers in the changed society as a result of the war. You'll meet Martha Putney, one of the first black women to serve in the newly formed WACs. And you'll meet the members of the Romeo Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out), friends for life. Through these and other stories in *The Greatest Generation*, you'll relive with ordinary men and women, military heroes, famous people of great achievement, and community leaders how these extraordinary times forged the values and provided the training that made a people and a nation great.

the greatest generation tom brokaw: *The Time of Our Lives* Tom Brokaw, 2011 Wherever I go, I am asked, What has happened to us? Have we lost our way?

the greatest generation tom brokaw: *An Album of Memories* Tom Brokaw, 2001-07-31 A seventeen-year-old who enlisted in the army in 1941 writes to describe the Bataan Death March. Other members of the greatest generation describe their war — in such historic episodes as Guadalcanal, the D-Day invasion, the Battle of the Bulge, and Midway — as well as their life on the home front. In this beautiful American family album of stories, reflections, memorabilia, and photographs, history comes alive and is preserved, in people's own words and through photographs and time lines that commemorate important dates and events. Starting with the Depression and Pearl Harbor, on through the war in Europe and the Pacific, this unusual book preserves a people's rich historical heritage and the legacy of the heroism of a nation.

the greatest generation tom brokaw: *The Greatest Generation* Tom Brokaw, 2004-09-28 In the spring of 1984, I went to the northwest of France, to Normandy, to prepare an NBC documentary on the fortieth anniversary of D-Day, the massive and daring Allied invasion of Europe that marked the beginning of the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. There, I underwent a

life-changing experience. As I walked the beaches with the American veterans who had returned for this anniversary, men in their sixties and seventies, and listened to their stories, I was deeply moved and profoundly grateful for all they had done. Ten years later, I returned to Normandy for the fiftieth anniversary of the invasion, and by then I had come to understand what this generation of Americans meant to history. It is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has ever produced. In this superb book, Tom Brokaw goes out into America, to tell through the stories of individual men and women the story of a generation, America's citizen heroes and heroines who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America. This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values--duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and, above all, responsibility for oneself. In this book, you will meet people whose everyday lives reveal how a generation persevered through war, and were trained by it, and then went on to create interesting and useful lives and the America we have today. At a time in their lives when their days and nights should have been filled with innocent adventure, love, and the lessons of the workaday world, they were fighting in the most primitive conditions possible across the bloodied landscape of France, Belgium, Italy, Austria, and the coral islands of the Pacific. They answered the call to save the world from the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled, instruments of conquest in the hands of fascist maniacs. They faced great odds and a late start, but they did not protest. They succeeded on every front. They won the war; they saved the world. They came home to joyous and short-lived celebrations and immediately began the task of rebuilding their lives and the world they wanted. They married in record numbers and gave birth to another distinctive generation, the Baby Boomers. A grateful nation made it possible for more of them to attend college than any society had ever educated, anywhere. They gave the world new science, literature, art, industry, and economic strength unparalleled in the long curve of history. As they now reach the twilight of their adventurous and productive lives, they remain, for the most part, exceptionally modest. They have so many stories to tell, stories that in many cases they have never told before, because in a deep sense they didn't think that what they were doing was that special, because everyone else was doing it too. This book, I hope, will in some small way pay tribute to those men and women who have given us the lives we have today--an American family portrait album of the greatest generation. In this book you'll meet people like Charles Van Gorder, who set up during D-Day a MASH-like medical facility in the middle of the fighting, and then came home to create a clinic and hospital in his hometown. You'll hear George Bush talk about how, as a Navy Air Corps combat pilot, one of his assignments was to read the mail of the enlisted men under him, to be sure no sensitive military information would be compromised. And so, Bush says, I learned about life. You'll meet Trudy Elion, winner of the Nobel Prize in medicine, one of the many women in this book who found fulfilling careers in the changed society as a result of the war. You'll meet Martha Putney, one of the first black women to serve in the newly formed WACs. And you'll meet the members of the Romeo Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out), friends for life. Through these and other stories in *The Greatest Generation*, you'll relive with ordinary men and women, military heroes, famous people of great achievement, and community leaders how these extraordinary times forged the values and provided the training that made a people and a nation great. From the Hardcover edition.

the greatest generation tom brokaw: *The Greatest Generation Speaks* Tom Brokaw, 2001
Collects letters sent to the author in response to *The Greatest Generation*, his tribute to the generation of Americans who fought in World War II and came home to build a new America during the post war era.

the greatest generation tom brokaw: *Greatest Generation* Tom Brokaw, 2005-10-01
In the spring of 1984, I went to the northwest of France, to Normandy, to prepare an NBC documentary on the fortieth anniversary of D-Day, the massive and daring Allied invasion of Europe that marked the beginning of the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. There, I underwent a life-changing experience. As I walked the beaches with the American veterans who had returned for this anniversary, men in their sixties and seventies, and listened to their stories, I was deeply moved and profoundly grateful

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the greatest generation tom brokaw: Greatest Generation Speaks Letters and Reflections Tom Brokaw, 1999-01

the greatest generation tom brokaw: A Long Way from Home Tom Brokaw, 2002-11-05
Reflections on America and the American experience as he has lived and observed it by the bestselling author of *The Greatest Generation*, whose iconic career in journalism has spanned more than fifty years. From his parents' life in the Thirties, on to his boyhood along the Missouri River and on the prairies of South Dakota in the Forties, into his early journalism career in the Fifties and the tumultuous Sixties, up to the present, this personal story is a reflection on America in our time. Tom Brokaw writes about growing up and coming of age in the heartland, and of the family, the people, the culture and the values that shaped him then and still do today. His father, Red Brokaw, a genius with machines, followed the instincts of Tom's mother Jean, and took the risk of moving his small family from an Army base to Pickstown, South Dakota, where Red got a job as a heavy equipment

operator in the Army Corps of Engineers' project building the Ft. Randall dam along the Missouri River. Tom Brokaw describes how this move became the pivotal decision in their lives, as the Brokaw family, along with others after World War II, began to live out the American Dream: community, relative prosperity, middle class pleasures and good educations for their children. "Along the river and in the surrounding hills, I had a Tom Sawyer boyhood," Brokaw writes; and as he describes his own pilgrimage as it unfolded—from childhood to love, marriage, the early days in broadcast journalism, and beyond—he also reflects on what brought him and so many Americans of his generation to lead lives a long way from home, yet forever affected by it. Praise for *A Long Way from Home* "[A] love letter to the . . . people and places that enriched a 'Tom Sawyer boyhood.' Brokaw . . . has a knack for delivering quirky observations on small-town life. . . . Bottom line: Tom's terrific."—People "Breezy and straightforward . . . much like the assertive TV newsman himself."—Los Angeles Times "Brokaw writes with disarming honesty."—The Atlanta Journal-Constitution "Brokaw evokes a sense of community, a pride of citizenship, and a confidence in American ideals that will impress his readers."—Richmond Times-Dispatch

the greatest generation tom brokaw: *A Long Way from Home* Tom Brokaw, 2003-09-30 Reflections on America and the American experience as he has lived and observed it by the bestselling author of *The Greatest Generation*, whose iconic career in journalism has spanned more than fifty years From his parents' life in the Thirties, on to his boyhood along the Missouri River and on the prairies of South Dakota in the Forties, into his early journalism career in the Fifties and the tumultuous Sixties, up to the present, this personal story is a reflection on America in our time. Tom Brokaw writes about growing up and coming of age in the heartland, and of the family, the people, the culture and the values that shaped him then and still do today. His father, Red Brokaw, a genius with machines, followed the instincts of Tom's mother Jean, and took the risk of moving his small family from an Army base to Pickstown, South Dakota, where Red got a job as a heavy equipment operator in the Army Corps of Engineers' project building the Ft. Randall dam along the Missouri River. Tom Brokaw describes how this move became the pivotal decision in their lives, as the Brokaw family, along with others after World War II, began to live out the American Dream: community, relative prosperity, middle class pleasures and good educations for their children. "Along the river and in the surrounding hills, I had a Tom Sawyer boyhood," Brokaw writes; and as he describes his own pilgrimage as it unfolded—from childhood to love, marriage, the early days in broadcast journalism, and beyond—he also reflects on what brought him and so many Americans of his generation to lead lives a long way from home, yet forever affected by it. Praise for *A Long Way from Home* "[A] love letter to the . . . people and places that enriched a 'Tom Sawyer boyhood.' Brokaw . . . has a knack for delivering quirky observations on small-town life. . . . Bottom line: Tom's terrific."—People "Breezy and straightforward . . . much like the assertive TV newsman himself."—Los Angeles Times "Brokaw writes with disarming honesty."—The Atlanta Journal-Constitution "Brokaw evokes a sense of community, a pride of citizenship, and a confidence in American ideals that will impress his readers."—Richmond Times-Dispatch

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virtual reunion of some members of “the class of ‘68,” offering wise and moving reflections and frank personal remembrances about people’s lives during a time of high ideals and profound social, political, and individual change. What were the gains, what were the losses? Who were the winners, who were the losers? As they look back decades later, what do members of the Sixties generation think really mattered in that tumultuous time, and what will have meaning going forward? Race, war, politics, feminism, popular culture, and music are all explored here, and we learn from a wide range of people about their lives. Tom Brokaw explores how members of this generation have gone on to bring activism and a Sixties mindset into individual entrepreneurship today. We hear stories of how this formative decade has led to a recalibrated perspective—on business, the environment, politics, family, our national existence. Remarkable in its insights, profoundly moving, wonderfully written and reported, this revealing portrait of a generation and of an era, and of the impact of the 1960s on our lives today, lets us be present at this reunion ourselves, and join in these frank conversations about America then, now, and tomorrow.

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the greatest generation tom brokaw: The Hero Reborn Aaron K. Harris, 2006

the greatest generation tom brokaw: A Lucky Life Interrupted Tom Brokaw, 2016-05-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • WITH A NEW PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR • A powerful memoir of a dramatic year spent battling cancer and reflecting on a long, happy, and lucky life—from the bestselling author of *The Greatest Generation*, whose iconic career in journalism has spanned more than fifty years Tom Brokaw has led a fortunate life, with a strong marriage and family, many friends, and a brilliant journalism career culminating in his twenty-two years as anchor of the NBC *Nightly News* and as bestselling author. But in the summer of 2013, when back pain led him to the doctors at the Mayo Clinic, his run of good luck was interrupted. He received shocking news: He had

multiple myeloma, a treatable but incurable blood cancer. Friends had always referred to Brokaw's "lucky star," but as he writes in this inspiring memoir, "Turns out that star has a dimmer switch." Brokaw takes us through all the seasons and stages of this surprising year, the emotions, discoveries, setbacks, and struggles—times of denial, acceptance, turning points, and courage. After his diagnosis, Brokaw began to keep a journal, approaching this new stage of his life in a familiar role: as a journalist, determined to learn as much as he could about his condition, to report the story, and help others facing similar battles. That journal became the basis of this wonderfully written memoir, the story of a man coming to terms with his own mortality, contemplating what means the most to him now, and reflecting on what has meant the most to him throughout his life. Brokaw also pauses to look back on some of the important moments in his career: memories of Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the morning of September 11, 2001, in New York City, and more. Through it all, Brokaw writes in the warm, intimate, natural voice of one of America's most beloved journalists, giving us Brokaw on Brokaw, and bringing us with him as he navigates pain, procedures, drug regimens, and physical rehabilitation. Brokaw also writes about the importance of patients taking an active role in their own treatment, and of the vital role of caretakers and coordinated care. Generous, informative, and deeply human, *A Lucky Life Interrupted* offers a message of understanding and empowerment, resolve and reality, hope for the future and gratitude for a well-lived life. Praise for *A Lucky Life Interrupted* "It's impossible not to be inspired by Brokaw's story, and his willingness to share it."—Los Angeles Times "A powerful memoir of battling cancer and facing mortality . . . Through the prism of his own illness, Brokaw looks at the larger picture of aging in America."—Booklist (starred review) "Moving, informative and deeply personal."—The Daily Beast "The former NBC News anchor has applied the fact-finding skills and straightforward candor that were his stock in trade during his reporting days to *A Lucky Life Interrupted*."—USA Today "Brokaw doesn't paste a smiley face on his story. Again and again, the book returns to stories of loss but also of grace, luck and the beauty of having another swing at bat."—The Washington Post "Engaging . . . [with] the kind of insight that is typical of Mr. Brokaw's approach to life and now to illness."—The Wall Street Journal "Powerful and courageous . . . [Brokaw] looks ahead to the future with hope."—Bookreporter

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2006 A hip, hilarious and raw take on white folks' struggle with all things black - from the wannabe Eminem to the annoying white suburban youths who call their friends 'homies' and ride around in baggy pants. After 400 years of slavery, oppression, murder and watching white students try to dance, it has suddenly become hip to have black friends. And white folk just don't know how to do it. Thankfully, Nick Adams is here to show 'em how.

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