



**“A dramatic,
deeply
researched
telling of an
immensely
consequential
era.”**

— Jessica T. Mathews,
Foreign Affairs

ASCENT TO POWER

Featuring David L. Roll

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2024 ★ ONSTAGE



TRUMAN
LIBRARY
INSTITUTE



Kinder Institute on
Constitutional Democracy
University of Missouri

HARRY S. TRUMAN
LIBRARY ★ MUSEUM

ASCENT TO POWER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2024
5:30 P.M. PUBLIC RECEPTION | 6:00 P.M. PROGRAM

Prepare for a captivating journey from Franklin Roosevelt's final days to Harry Truman's remarkable transformation, unraveling the riveting tale behind America's most pivotal presidential transition.

Truman's ascent to the presidency was a twist of fate, a result of Roosevelt's ailing health and the sway of big-city Democratic bosses. With a mere 82 days as VP under his belt, Truman was abruptly thrust into the presidency following FDR's passing in April 1945. Ill-prepared, he faced the aftermath of Germany's collapse, a war-torn Europe, the establishment of the United Nations, high-stakes negotiations with Stalin and Churchill, the decision of whether to employ atomic bombs against Japan, and mounting antagonism from the Soviet Union.

Truman's journey, chronicled by **David L. Roll** in *Ascent to Power*, is a testament to his unwavering determination and resilience. From a relatively unknown senator from Missouri to a globally influential figure, Truman's legacy stands strong. His improbable comeback campaign in the autumn of 1948, his steadfast advocacy for civil rights, and his pivotal role in liberating millions from oppressive regimes and harsh occupations all reflect his unwavering commitment to his ideals. Truman's decisions during these critical years reshaped the trajectory of the world, leaving an indelible mark that reverberates into the present day.

Please join us in person for this special event on Tuesday, October 29 at 6 pm. The program, co-presented by the **Truman Library Institute** and the **Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy**, will be hosted by the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum, 500 W. U.S. Highway 24, Independence, MO.



DAVID L. ROLL is the author of *George Marshall* and *The Hopkins Touch*, and the coauthor of *Louis Johnson and the Arming of America* (with Keith McFarland), a biography of Harry Truman's defense secretary. After serving as an Assistant Director in the Bureau of Competition at the FTC, Roll practiced law as a partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP and founded the public interest organization Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation. Roll's profound contributions to literature and law continue to shape our understanding of American history and defense policy.



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