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***Madeleine Albright, the First Female U. S. Secretary of State***

Madeleine Albright – the 64th United States Secretary of State.

Madeleine Albright (Marie Jana Korbelovà) was born May 15, 1937 in Prague, Czechoslovakia in a Jewish family of Czech diplomat Joseph Korbel. She was their first child. Later a sister Katherine (a schoolteacher) and a brother John (an economist) were born in the family. Her father was a supporter of Czech democrats. In March 1938 the family had to move to England. Before exile her parents converted from Judaism to Roman Catholicism. Albright spent the war years in England. Albright did not learn until late in life that her parents were Jewish and that many of her Jewish relatives in Czechoslovakia perished in the Holocaust, including three of her grandparents. After the defeat of the [Nazis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazism) the family came back to Prague. Korbel (her father) was named Czechoslovak Ambassador to Yugoslavia, and the family moved to Belgrade. Joseph Korbel did not want his daughter to catch Marxist ideas in a Yugoslav school, so she was taught by a governess and later sent to Switzerland. There she learned French and changed her Czech nickname Madlenka into Madelein. In 1948 the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia took over the government and her father lost his position. He sent his family to the United States, New York. Korbel applied for political asylum, arguing that as an opponent of Communism, he was under threat in Prague. He got a job at the University of Denver, Colorado.

Albright spent her teen years in Denver and graduated from Kent Denver School where she founded the school’s international relations club and was its first president. Madelein wanted to be a journalist. Then she graduated from Wellesly College in 1959. Two years before in 1957 she became a US citizen, and joined the College Democrats of America.

Working at The Denver Post Madelein met her future husband Joseph Medill Patterson Albright. They got married in Wellesley in 1959. Next several years the couple worked for different newspapers in American cities. In 1961 Madelein gave birth to twin daughters, Alice Patterson Albright and Anne Korbel Albright. But two years later Alice Patterson died. In 1967 another daughter, Katherine Medill Albright was born.

In 1968 Madelein Albright returned to Washington. There she began fund-raising company for her daughters’ school that led to several positions in educational field. Then she was invited to organize a fund-raising dinner for the 1972 presidential campaign of U.S. Senator Ed Muskie of Maine.

In 1975 Albright got Doctor of Philosophy Honour at Columbia University. In 1976 she became a chief legislative assistant. Since that her overwhelming political career started. She worked at the National Security Council, Smithsonian Institution, Georgetown University, directed the University's program on women in global politics. In 1982 her husband left the family. In January 1993, Bill Clinton appointed her to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, her first diplomatic post. That period of her work is characterized Madelein Albright as a hard, ruthless woman. Sharp political situations happened in Rwanda, Cuba, Iraq and Madelein Albright had to make hard actions, though she regretted later. Once she gave an interview to the Newsweek International and said that, in her opinion, Iraq is a serious problem for the USA, worse than Vietnam.

When Albright took office as the 64th U.S. Secretary of State on January 23, 1997, she became the first female U.S. Secretary of State and the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. In her position as Secretary of State, Albright reinforced the U.S.'s alliances; advocated democracy and human rights; promoted American trade and business, labor and environmental standards abroad. In foreign affairs she kept irreconcilable and hard positions. After the end of the Clinton administration on January 20, 2001 Albright left the office of the U. S. Secretary of State.

In 2001, Albright was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The same year, she founded the Albright Group, an international strategy consulting firm based in Washington, D.C.

Madelein Albright was an elegant lady and could speak to her opponents with her brooches.

In September 2009, Albright opened an exhibition of her personal jewelry collection at the Museum of Art and Design in New York City. The collection consisted of many pins she had worn while serving at the United Nations and State Department, including the famous pin showing a snake and an apple she had had after the Iraqi press called her "an unparalleled serpent", and several jeweled insect bugs she wore to meet the Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. It was discovered the Russian secret service had attempted to “bug” the State Department. They say journalists and experts even wait for Albright’s speeches and her brooches. They could predict what thing Albright would speak about. Brooches were symbols of her speaking. She expressed her feelings and emotions with her brooches: she wore a golden angel going to bring back corpses of Americans killed by Al – Kaida in Kenya and Tanzania; for a meeting Nelson Mandela, South – African leader, Albright had a brooch in a shape of a zebra; wearing a honeybee-jewelry Albright showed Yassir Arafat her readiness to a conversation and ability to sting. She tried to hurry up her opponents with the figures of a snail or a crab. She was against the events happened in Chechnya, Russia and came to see Vladimir Putin with an interesting jewelry showing the three monkeys that meant: “Nothing to be seen, nothing to be heard, nothing to be spoken”. So she expressed her opinion about violation of human rights.

Brooches became symbols for Madelein Albright, as Winston Churchill’s cigars, as Margaret Thatcher’s handbags and Hillary Clinton’s pantsuits.

“No doubt, Madelein Albright is a meaningful person in 90-s world policy. Among women very few ones reached such a position in the world. She had to fight for life since her early childhood because of the World War II and political convictions of her father. Being a girl she was sent to study in Switzerland and she had to live far from her family. Of course, she missed her Motherland, parents, a sister and a brother. I think that circumstance helped her gain firmness and hardness she demonstrated during her political career. But I am against that fact 500000 children were killed in Iraq.

Then I like the fact that Madelein Albright had a constant aspiration to learn something new and she speaks English, Czech, French, Russian, Polish and Serbo-Crotian as well.

Finally I was indignant with Albright’s words that such a huge territory as Siberia should not belong to Russia only. Siberia has been a part of Russia for long time. I live in the north-eastern part of Siberia and I can’t imagine Siberia would be divided into small parts. We don’t want it!”

 Chernyak Valeria, 7th form

[http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9E%D0%BB%D0%B1%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B9%D1%82,\_%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD](http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%9E%D0%BB%D0%B1%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B9%D1%82%2C_%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD)

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