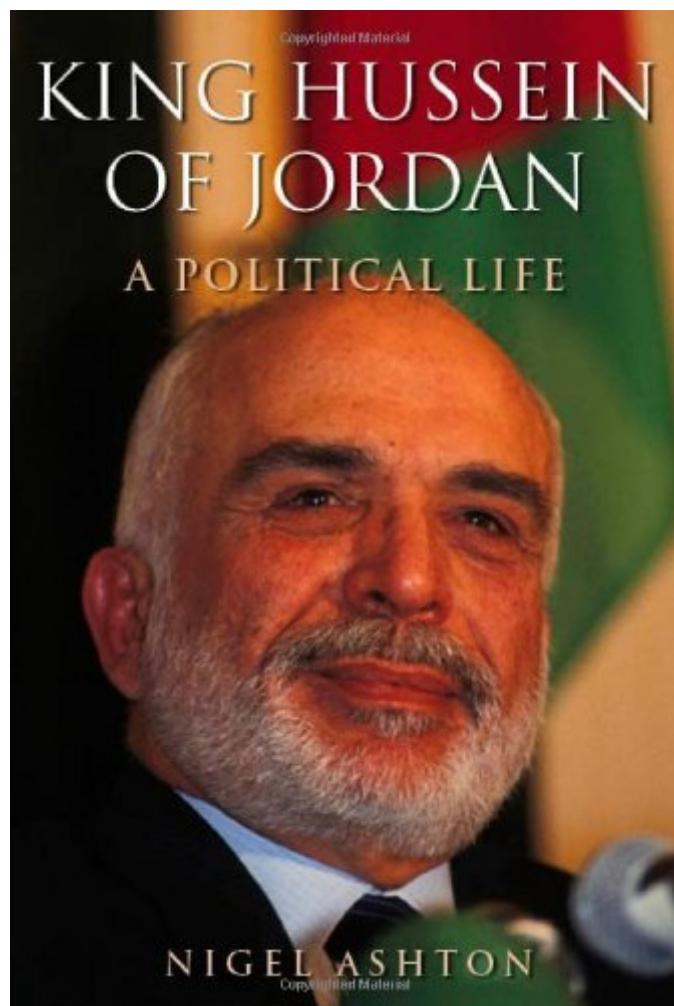


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King Hussein Of Jordan: A Political Life



Synopsis

A towering figure in the history of Jordan, King Hussein reigned for nearly half a century, from his grandfather's assassination in 1953 to his own death in 1999. In this fascinating biography, Nigel Ashton recounts the eventful life of the king who not only survived but flourished amidst crisis after crisis as ruler of a poor desert nation surrounded by powerful and hostile neighbors. Hussein skillfully navigated complicated relationships with the British, his fellow Arab leaders, the new bordering state of Israel, masses of dispossessed Palestinians within his kingdom, every U.S. president from Eisenhower to Clinton, and every British prime minister from Churchill to Blair. This book illuminates the private man, his key relationships, and his achievements and disappointments as a central player in the tough world of Middle Eastern politics. Ashton has had unique access to King Hussein's private papers, including his secret correspondence with U.S., British, and Israeli leaders, and he has also conducted numerous interviews with members of Hussein's circle and immediate family. The resulting book brings new depth to our understanding of the popular and canny king while also providing new information about the wars of 1967 and 1973, President Reagan's role in the Iran-Contra affair, the evolution of the Middle East peace process, and much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am reading almost every book is talking about King Hussein, and I guess this book is one of the best, because it's talking about the whole life of the king with historical background of the Hashimite family. The two books that written by king Hussein himself stopped after the 1970s but this book go beyond this period until the last days of the king. I am very proud that we had a man like him, that kept Jordan safe in difficult times while other failed. The book is long and you don't want to put it. The author did a great job to collect all resources and information and the way of writing is really a joy. As I said it's a must read for all people who is interested to know about the history of father, a fighter, a peace maker and a king.

I just liked very much reading this book. It shows the personal and political sides of the man and the politician always swimming in troubled waters. On one side his friends, the arab countries and on the other his enemy, Israel. His relationship with the western powers and how did he manage to balance it with his neighbours apparently friends but trying to put him down, is remarkable and very well described. The writing is sharp and forward, having done, the author, an evident great task of research on the facts around King Hussein. A very good and recommendable book

Nigel Ashton comes from one of the best schools for politics and economics and he proves it with this work. He has always written great works but this one is by far the best. He gives a great account of King Hussein's life and went to great depths to get these sources. He really finds great sources which must have taken him years to do. The book gives a great balanced story of an important Arab leader after World War II. Side note, the book is about 350 pgs long, notes and bibliography make it 450 so don't be discouraged. Also the book is quite heavy because of the paper material is fantastic

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