

Three female American Foreign Ministers: Hillary, Condoleezza, Madeleine by Zoltán Márián (Deutsche Zusammenfassung von Heinz-Ulrich Kammeier)

Hillary Rodham Clinton (*1947), First Lady of The United States (1993-2001), Secretary of State of The United States (2009-)

There are three female Secretaries of State in the American History. Among them Hillary Clinton is probably the most famous as she was also the First Lady of her country.

Hillary was born on October 26, 1947 in Chicago. She was the eldest daughter of Hugh Rodham, a fabric store owner, and Dorothy Emma Howell. Hillary had two younger brothers.

As a young woman, Hillary Rodham was active in young Republican groups and campaigned for Republican presidential nominee Barry Goldwater in 1964. She was inspired to work in some form of public service after hearing a speech in Chicago by Martin Luther King and became a Democrat in 1968. Rodham attended Wellesley College, then Yale Law School, where she met Bill Clinton. Hillary worked at various jobs during her summers as a college student. In 1971, she first came to Washington, D.C to work on U.S. Senator Walter Mondale's subcommittee on migrant workers.

Hillary Rodham married Bill Clinton on October 11, 1975. Their daughter, Chelsea, was born February 27, 1980. In 1976, she worked on Jimmy Carter's successful campaign for president while husband Bill was elected Attorney General. Hillary joined the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock and in 1977 was appointed to chairman of the Legal Services Corporation by President Carter.

After Bill Clinton was elected president of the United States in 1992, Hillary's involvement in political issues, both in the United States and in foreign countries, increased. She began to remold the role of the first lady. Hillary Clinton remained an advocate for many of the programs and issues to which she earlier devoted her time and professional skills. Her White House agenda went beyond health care reform and included pushing for children's and women's issues. In November 1996, Bill Clinton was reelected president of the United States. In that same year Hillary Clinton published her first book entitled "It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us." The book became a best-seller.

In 2000 Hillary Clinton announced that she was running for a seat in the U.S. Senate from New York and was later named as the Democratic nominee. On November 7, 2000, Clinton won the election. As a senator, Clinton also continues to work for laws to help children, women, and families. Hillary Clinton was a leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in the 2008 election. In January 2009 she became the U. S. Secretary of State in the administration of President Barack Obama.

Political autograph collectors know well how difficult it is to obtain an original signature from American top politics because normally they use the autopen. As a First Lady and also as a Secretary of State Hillary gave out autopenned autographs. On 30 June in 2011 Hillary Clinton paid a short official visit to Budapest, Hungary. Newspapers wrote she would be staying here just for a couple of hours. Very quickly I organized a meeting with a contact in the Hungarian Foreign Ministry. I gave a letter and photo to my contact asking him to forward it to Hillary while she would be in Budapest. Because of the very short time I did not have much hope, but finally my letter arrived at Mrs. Clinton and she kindly dedicated my photo.

Condoleezza Rice (*1954) Secretary of State of The United States (2005-2009)

Born in Birmingham, Alabama. The only child of a minister and a teacher, Rice grew up surrounded by racism in the segregated South. She earned her degree in political science from the University of Denver in 1974. She joined Stanford University as a political science professor in 1981. In 1993, she was the first woman and first African American to become a Stanford provost, a post she held for six years.



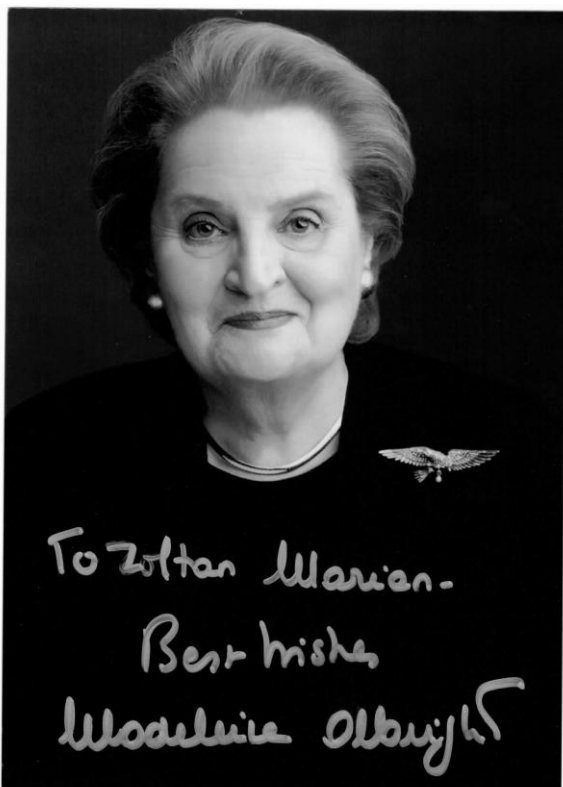
For years Rice dreamed of becoming a concert pianist. At the University of Denver she was originally a music major, but gave up on her dream. She fell in love with political science and Russian history after she took a class taught by Josef Korbel (1909-1977), a refugee from Czechoslovakia. (In the 1990s Korbel's daughter, Madeleine Albright became the first female U.S. Secretary of State.)

Rice began taking Russian-language and history courses, and became fascinated by Cold War politics. During George W. Bush's 2000 presidential election campaign, Rice took a one-year leave of absence from Stanford University to help work as his foreign policy advisor. On December 17, 2000, Rice was named as National Security Advisor and stepped down from her position at Stanford. She was the first woman to occupy the post. Rice earned the nickname of "Warrior Princess," reflecting strong nerve and delicate manners. On November 16, 2004, Bush nominated Rice to be Secretary of State after Colin Powell's resignation.

As Secretary of State, Rice has dedicated her department to "Transformational Diplomacy" with a mission of building and sustaining democratic, well-governed states around the world and the Middle East in particular. To that end, she has relocated American diplomats to such hardship locations as Iraq, Afghanistan and Angola and required them to become fluent in two foreign languages. She also created a high-level position to de-fragment U.S. foreign aid. Rice's policy as Secretary of State also viewed counter-terrorism as a matter of being preventative. Rice has never married, and has no children.

I wanted an original signature of her, but from Washington I only received an autopenned one. In March 2007 a large exhibition was organized in Palace Stefánia, Budapest, Hungary where I displayed about half of (800 items) my autograph collection. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Hungary and foreign Ambassadors also attended the opening ceremony. The American Embassy in Budapest was also represented. I had a talk with the Gentleman from the Embassy who promised me to help in obtaining Condoleezza Rice' personal signature. I gave a photo and a letter to him, and several months later my photo came back with personal dedication of the Secretary of State.

Madeleine Albright (*1937), Secretary of State of The United States (1997-2001)



Marie Jana Korbel was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia. She is the daughter of a Czech diplomat. After the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia in 1939, her family fled to England. Although she spent most of her life believing that they had fled for political reasons, she learned in 1997 that her family was Jewish and that three of her grandparents had died in German concentration camps. The family returned to Czechoslovakia after World War II, but the Soviet-sponsored communist coup made them refugees again, and by 1948 they had settled in the United States.

After becoming a U.S. citizen, Albright pursued an academic career. She studied political science at Wellesley College and graduated in 1959. Albright then went on to earn advanced degrees in international affairs from the Department of Public Law and Government at Columbia University. Albright married Joseph Medill Patterson. She and her husband lived in Chicago, Illinois, and Long Island, New York, before moving to Washington, D.C. She and her husband had three daughters before they divorced.

In 1978 Albright was asked by one of her former professors at Columbia University, Zbigniew Brzezinski (*1928), National Security Adviser under President Jimmy Carter (*1924), to be a legislative liaison for the National Security Council. When Bill Clinton (1946-) sought the presidential nomination

in 1992, Albright supported him. She served as his senior foreign policy advisor. in the White House. Then, Clinton chose Albright to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Albright immediately became a major force at the UN. She was familiar with world politics and she represented the United States, the UN's largest contributor to its activities. In 1996 Bill Clinton nominated Albright for secretary of state and she became the first woman to serve in this position in the United States' history.

As Secretary of State Albright considerably influenced American policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Middle East. She incurred the wrath of a number of Serbs in the former Yugoslavia for her role in participating in the formulation of US policy during the Kosovo War and Bosnian war as well as the rest of the Balkans. She began a peace mission in the Middle East and she also condemned terrorist activities, urged Netanyahu to make some concessions to the Palestinians. She made history with her October 23, 2000, visit to North Korea's leader Kim Jong Il (*1941). She became the first U.S. secretary of state to visit North Korea.

After Albright's term as secretary of state ended in January 2001, she became chairman of the board for the National Democratic Institute. Albright is also a well-known public speaker. This time she serves as Chair of the advisory council for The Hague Institute for Global Justice, which was founded in 2011 in The Hague.

After receiving some autopens from Washington, finally I asked the kind help of Hungarian born Tom Lantos (1928-2008) who was a Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives from 1981 until his death. During his work Tom Lantos had a very good contact with Hungary and he visited the country several times. Being an American-Hungarian he was as kind as to help me and he has been so kind as to obtain a dedicated photograph of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Deutsche Zusammenfassung

Zoltán stellt uns in dieser letzten Ausgabe des Jahres 2011 die bisherigen drei Außenministerinnen der USA vor, von denen sicherlich Hillary Clinton die bekannteste ist, war sie doch in den Neunzigerjahren die First Lady der USA. Zunächst engagierte sie sich für die Republikaner und unterstützte Barry Goldwater 1964 in dessen Wahlkampf gegen den Amtsinhaber Lyndon B. Johnson, bevor sie 1968 zu den Demokraten wechselte. Seit 1973 ist sie mit Bill Clinton verheiratet. 2000 bis 2009 vertrat sie den Staat New York im US-Senat und wurde 2009 von Präsident Obama zur Außenministerin berufen.

Condoleezza Rice wuchs im Süden der USA auf und sah sich mit Ausgrenzung und Diskriminierung konfrontiert. Von 2004 bis 2009 war sie unter Präsident George W. Bush Außenministerin, nachdem sie zuvor Bushs Sicherheitsberaterin gewesen war. – Zoltán erhielt auf dem Postweg lediglich eine Autopensignatur, konnte aber über die US-Botschaft in Budapest eine ihm gewidmete und signierte Fotografie erhalten.

Madeleine Albright schließlich wurde 1937 als Marie Jana Korbel in Prag geboren und verließ 1939 ihre Heimat, nachdem Deutschland das „Reichsprotectorat“ errichtet hatte. 1945 kehrte sie zurück, um sich 1948 abermals ins Exil gezwungen zu sehen, nachdem die Kommunisten in der Tschechoslowakei ihre Macht zementiert hatten. Die Familie ließ sich in den USA nieder und nahm die amerikanische Staatsbürgerschaft an.

In der zweiten Amtszeit von Bill Clinton war sie als erste Frau in der Geschichte der USA Außenministerin und engagierte sich für Frieden und Gerechtigkeit in den Nachfolgestaaten Jugoslawiens. Im Jahre 2000 besuchte sie als erste namhafte US-Politikerin Nordkorea.

Wie bei Rice erhielt Zoltán auch von Albright lediglich eine Unterschrift aus dem Automaten, so dass er einen ungarischstämmigen Amerikaner um Hilfe bat. Auf diesem Wege erhielt er ein originalsigniertes Foto.