

Madeleine Albright

Madeleine Korbelt Albright is the first woman to become United States Secretary of State. She was appointed by President Bill Clinton. She was born in Czechoslovakia in 1937. During World War II, her family was forced into exile. Three of her grandparents and many other relatives perished in the Holocaust.

In 1955, Albright and her family moved to Denver, Colorado. She attended school in Colorado and then went on to Wellesley College in Massachusetts where she studied political science. Later, she studied International Relations and Russian at Johns Hopkins and then studied Political Science at Columbia University where she earned both a Master's degree and a Ph.D.

Albright's first diplomatic post was as Ambassador to the United Nations in 1993. She became the 64th U.S. Secretary of State in 1997. During her time in that position, she greatly influenced American policy in Bosnia, Herzegovina and the Middle East. She also became one of the highest level Western diplomats to ever meet Kim Jong-il, the communist leader of North Korea.