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## *Profiles in Courage*, JFK's Book for Boys

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Political memoirs written during campaigns are meant to establish the candidate's fitness for office by presenting him or her as the right person for the times. *Profiles in Courage*, published in 1956, tells us a good deal about the political temper of the years when John F. Kennedy was establishing his credentials to run for president. It engages the triumphalist national

narrative that so many Americans accepted after World War II and presents a model of selflessly heroic nationalism that Kennedy suggested had saved the US in the past and could do so again in the future. *Profiles in Courage* resonated with the tensions and uncertainties of the Cold War, retelling American history in a way that addressed anxieties about manly courage and national union in a moment of terrifying global challenges....

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