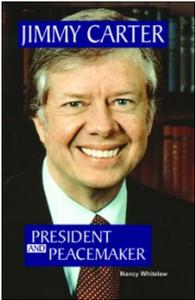


# 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY LEADERS



## VOYA—December 2003

**Twentieth Century Leaders.** Morgan Reynolds, 2003. 128p. PLB \$21.95. index. Photos. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology, Web Sites.

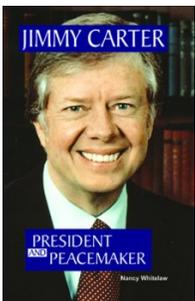
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Whitelaw, Nancy. **Jimmy Carter: President and Peacemaker.** 1-981798-18-4.

Young, Jeff C. **Great Communicator: The Story of Ronald Reagan.** 1-931798-10-9

These clearly written series titles, which accompany volumes on Dwight D. Eisenhower, George W. Bush, Lyndon Baines Johnson, and Richard Nixon as well as national leaders who did not become presidents, are identically formatted no-nonsense biographies that trace the lives of both presidents from their boyhoods through their post-presidential pursuits. The authors deal with the economic and social status of the former presidents' families of origin, noting how each was influenced by his parents' value systems. Schooling, ambitions, and early working careers are considered—broadcasting and then motion pictures for Reagan and the Navy before peanut farming for Carter. Both books touch upon the former presidents' marriages and children and the part played by their spouses in support (or nonsupport) in the case of Reagan's first wife) of their husbands' growing preoccupation with politics. Young describes Reagan's developing far-right stance, noting that, while Reagan served as President of the Screen Actors Guild, he was recruited by the FBI to provide names of movie industry figures that he suspected of being communists. Whitelaw describes how Carter's political interests grew out of his local concerns about schools and farming, gradually broadening to state and national issues. The complexities of both presidencies are intelligently and objectively summarized, but to both authors, their subjects' deepest motivations remain a mystery. These books will be of greatest help to researchers. Young and Whitelaw offer a bird's-eye view of each man's career, from which perspective students will be able to identify areas of interest to pursue in more specialized works.

—Mary E. Heslin.



## Booklist—December 15 2003

Whitelaw, Nancy. **Jimmy Carter: President and Peacemaker.** 2003. 128p. illus. index. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$21.95 (1-931798-18-4). 973.926.

Gr. 7-10. Whitelaw, who previously wrote biographies of presidents Andrew Jackson and Thomas Jefferson, now presents the life and accomplishments of Jimmy Carter. Beginning with his childhood, in rural Georgia, the book traces Carter's story, detailing events during his political career as state senator, governor, and president as well as his lifelong public service in other arenas, both locally and internationally. The necessity of filling in young readers on world events during the Carter presidency makes some passages rather solid with information, but Whitelaw does a good job of presenting political history in

perspective, returning the book's focus to the man, and using quotations to give him a voice within the narrative. Black-and-white photographs illustrate the book. Back matter includes a time line, source notes for quotations, and lists of book and Web sites. A straightforward biography from the Notable Americans series.

—Carolyn Phelan