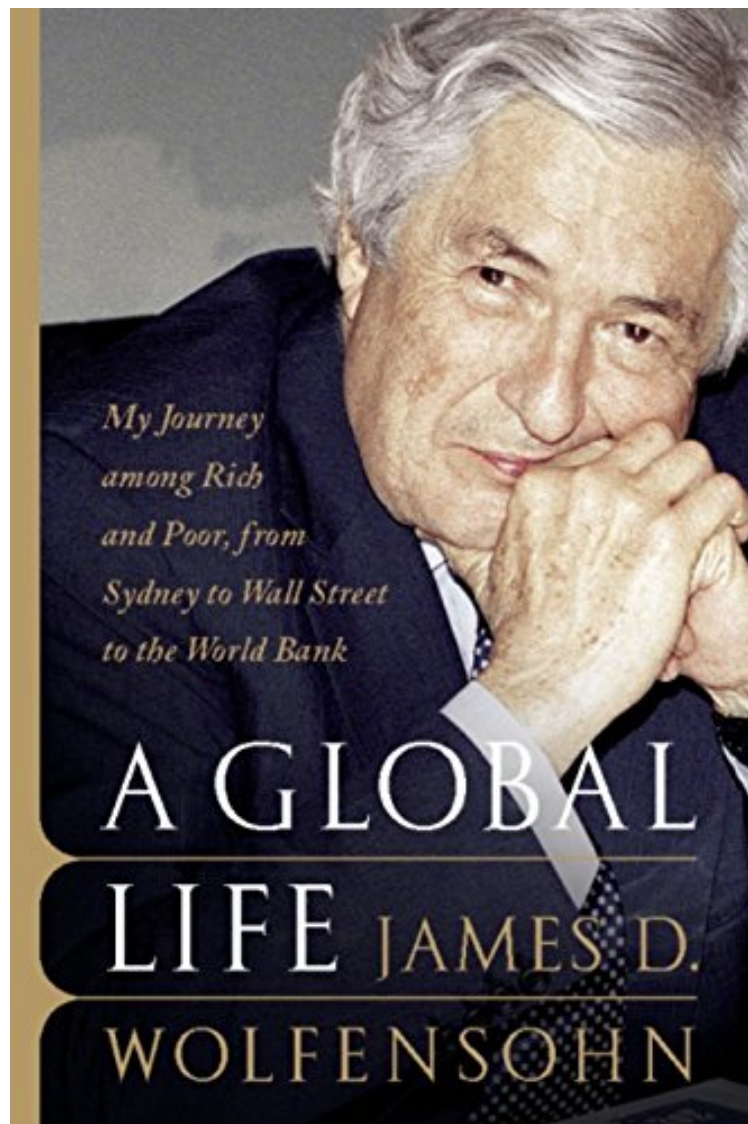


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## A Global Life: My Journey Among Rich and Poor, from Sydney to Wall Street to the World Bank

*James D. Wolfensohn*

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**James D. Wolfensohn : A Global Life: My Journey Among Rich and Poor, from Sydney to Wall Street to the World Bank** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Global Life: My Journey Among Rich and Poor, from Sydney to Wall Street to the World Bank:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Global Life James Wolfensohn By Geodean01A Global Life: My Journey Among Rich and Poor, from Sydney to Wall Street to the World Bank I found this an intriguing volume

especially in the early chapters. My eyes tended to glaze in some of later chapters when references were made to his association with financial corporations and the famous names dropped (some of whom I have also known personally). This may have gender specific appeal although I really enjoyed the personal insights into his relationships with his parents and immediate family later in his career. It was a long read and because I tend to read in sessions had to continually reread the preceding paragraphs to maintain the continuity of my interest. It is a book I shall re-read at a later date - having the Kindle edition makes it an extremely easy "carry-on" when travelling. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Edwin Woodson Good 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Global LIFE By Pedro Perez-Ortiz This book is an autobiographical account of James David Wolfensohn. He was the President of the World Bank in 2008. It narrates brilliantly the experiences of a middle class Australian Jewish male in the hard to crack class conscious English Banking and Financial System in spite of his excellent academic credentials and up the pile social relationships and friendships. It is a success story but realistically and compassionately narrated, especially in terms of his true to his heritage, family and commitment to global corporal responsibility which formed his persona from childhood to his retirement and even after and until now. It should be read not only by global studies students and professionals, but by the diverse ethnic population of youngsters in the United States as well as in the international community wishing to carve their niche in the world of Economics, business, banking and finances in general.

As president of the World Bank for a decade, James Wolfensohn tackled world poverty with a passion and energy that made him a uniquely important figure in a fundamental arena of change. Using a lifetime of experience in the banking sector, he carved a distinct path in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe for the institution that serves as the major lender to the world's poor. In *A Global Life*, Wolfensohn tells his astonishing life story in his own words. A man of surpassing imagination and drive, he became an Olympic fencer and a prominent banker in London and New York. An Australian, he navigated Wall Street with uncommon skill. Chairman of Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center for many years, he is also an amateur cellist. But it was his tenure at the World Bank that made him an international force. While at the helm of this controversial institution, Wolfensohn motivated, schemed, charmed, and bullied all the constituencies at his command to broaden the distribution of the world's wealth. Now he bluntly assesses his successes and failures, reflecting on the causes of continuing poverty. Much more than a business story, this is a deeply reflective account of a fascinating career and personality.

From Publishers Weekly Now 76 years old, Wolfensohn (*Voice of the World's Poor*) has had a rich and varied life as an investment banker, chairman of Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, head of the World Bank, and finally advocate of peace as special envoy to the Middle East. The first third of the book is devoted to a fascinating chronicle of his early life growing up in a close-knit, middle-class Jewish family. His parents, who emigrated from Britain to Australia, faced tough financial times during the Great Depression and over-coddled the young Wolfensohn, expecting him to excel. Though he nearly flunked out of Sidney University, he ultimately earned a law degree and went on to receive an MBA at Harvard and become a U.S. citizen. He writes candidly of the mistakes he made during his long and successful career and the lessons they taught him. Married to his college sweetheart, with three children, he claims that the idea of writing this book, "grew out of a desire to leave... a record of the events that shaped me" for his adult children, and in the hope that younger readers might be encouraged to "follow at least some part of the path he has taken." (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist Wolfensohn, investment banker, diplomat, musician, arts patron, and influential player on the global stage, recounts his boyhood in Australia, his education there and abroad, and his marriage and return to Australia to engage in investments and merchant banking while his young family grew. In 1968 he moved to Schrodgers in London, participating in the Eurodollar revolution, which created the impetus for a new phase of globalization in financial markets, and over time led their New York and London efforts. He joined Salomon Brothers in New York in the early 1980s, where he witnessed the fierce competition and the innovative skills of Wall Street as he built their corporate-finance department and then later formed his own firm. The wide reach of his community interests included chairmanships of Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center in Washington before being named president of the World Bank in 1995. He notes themes that inspired my presidency: fighting poverty, using technology and education to document and spread knowledge, and protecting the environment. --Mary Whaley Kirkus, August 15, 2010 "The author's candor... is refreshing, as is his frank assessment of his own strengths and shortcomings... An often engaging memoir that is especially strong in its insights into global poverty." Kofi A. Annan "A *Global Life* is an eloquent and moving memoir of one man's journey to make a difference in the world. In his typically candid and refreshing style, Jim Wolfensohn describes the milestones in his life which led him to believe that unless we tackle the core issues of development and poverty, we will not create a peaceful world for our children. This is a book that will inspire all those who see the need for change in this world, and wish to make a contribution." Michael Beschloss