



Condoleezza Rice

Former United States secretary of State

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Who is Condoleezza Rice?

Condoleezza Rice is an only child born November 14, 1954, to John Wesley Rice a school guidance counselor and Minister, and Angelena Rice a schoolteacher. She was born and raised in Birmingham Alabama. In her earlier life, she began piano lessons at the age of 3 and could read by 5, being so brilliant allowed her to skip the first and seventh grades. By the age of 15, she had become a student at the University of Denver. Her dream was not always to be in politics but to create a career as a concert pianist. Until she heard a speech from Josef Korbel the father of former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright while she was a student at the University of Denver which sparked her interest in politics. She received her BA in political science from the University of Denver at age 19 her MA in political science from the University of Notre Dame in 1975 and her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver in 1981.

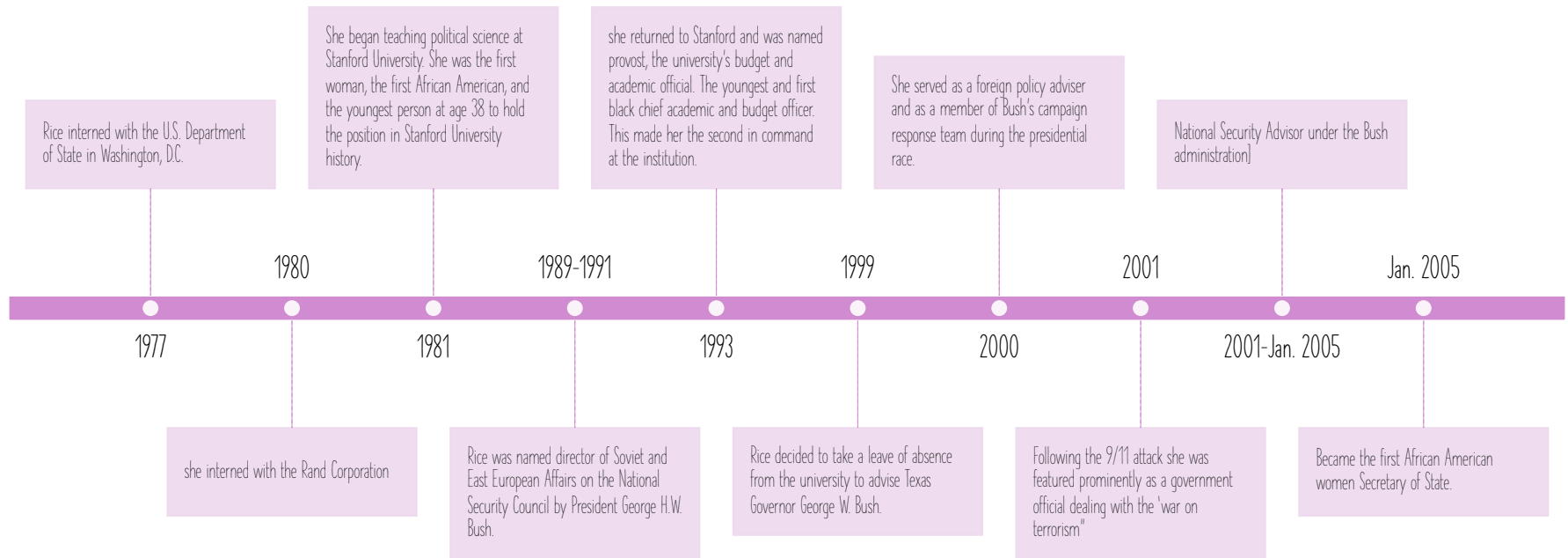


Why did I choose her?

I chose Condoleezza Rice for my project because she is a woman of history who not only defied the odds and became the first in many positions, but she also never allowed her hardships from her childhood to affect who she would become. She is inspirational to not only African American women but to all women. I believe that women like her in these positions are the voices women need to be able to end up in the positions that they deserve. Her being the best at what she does while being unapologetically her is what made me want to do my project on her.



Professional career timeline



Leadership traits / skills

It is said that Condoleezza Rice exhibits a transformational leadership style. She bridges people together while encouraging growth and development, motivating and inspiring her followers, and placing high emphasis on team building and collective decision-making. In an interview (attached below) Rice talks about what qualities she believes make a great leader and ones that make a bad one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BI59UHFa-qY>





Achievements and Failures

Throughout Condoleezza Rice's career, she has had many achievements and became the FIRST in a lot of positions. When working at Stanford University she became the FIRST woman, FIRST African American, and the youngest person to hold the position of teaching political science. When she returned to Stanford after stepping away, she was named provost she became the youngest and FIRST black chief of academic and budget officer.

While working as Secretary of State she successfully helped negotiate several agreements in the Middle East, including Israeli withdrawal from and opening of the Gaza Border, and the August 2006 ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon. She successfully organized the Annapolis Conference in 2007 which focused on finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem. In 2008 her most successful negotiation came to fruition with the signing of the U.S. - India Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy.

As for failures, she takes a lot of fault for the attacks from Osama bin Laden. She also received a lot of criticism from Colin Powell who said that the National Security Council had not functioned well under Rice and many issues were not presented to the president.



Impacts to career

Rice was taught that perseverance was the key to success. Growing up in Birmingham Alabama during such a racially divided time her parents made sure that even with segregation there were no barriers to her advancement. Although she achieved many milestones she was still faced with mountains of controversy. She was faced with untrue accusations that Saddam Hussein stockpiled weapons of mass destruction, the brutal invasion of Iraq, and "enhanced interrogation" techniques that were introduced after 9/11 attack. Although I am sure she faced a lot of discrimination being a female and African American working in the high position she is working in during the research she does not state any that could have impacted her career and the positions she was in. She also explains how she feels she is a well-rounded person who can still do her job but also enjoys playing the piano, watching football, and spending time with family and friends.



Lessons from Condoleezza Rice

What can others learn?

I believe that others can learn a lot from Rice and her achievements and personality. She has paved the way for so many women and black women and showed them that anything is possible. Her story teaches women strength, perseverance, and simply going after their dreams not accepting that anything can stop them will get them places, they want to be.

What have I learned?

From doing my research on Condoleezza Rice I have learned that no matter your circumstances if you believe you have no barriers then the sky is the limit, and you can do anything your heart desires or you put your mind to.



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