

Dag Hammarskjöld

A World Citizen



"You have never done enough, so long as it is still possible that you have something value to contribute"

Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961)

Biography:

Dag Hjalmar Agne Carl Hammarskjöld (July 29, 1905-September 18, 1961)

was the youngest of four sons of Agnes (née Almquist) Hammarskjöld and Hjalmar Hammarskjöld, prime minister of Sweden during World War 1, and Chairman of the Board of the Nobel Foundation. Hammarskjöld was posthumously awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1961.

He had a distinguished academic career, earning degrees in humanities, economics, and law. He attained a second degree at Uppsala in economics, in 1928, a law degree in 1930 and a doctoral degree in economics in 1934. For one year, 1933, Hammarskjöld taught economics at the University of Stockholm.

He also held honorary degrees from Oxford University, England; in the United States from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, Amherst, John Hopkins, the University of California, Uppsala College, and Ohio University; and in Canada from Carleton College and McGill University. He mastered English, French and German.

Dag Hammarskjöld had strong cultural interests and was a member of the Swedish Academy. His posthumously published book of personal reflections, *Markings*, has become a classic as it revealed the inner man as few documents ever have.

As an athletic he was a competent performer in gymnastics, a skier, a mountaineer who served as the president of the Swedish Alpinist club.

Career:

- In 1935 he worked as the secretary of the Bank of Sweden.
- From 1936 to 1945, he was appointed to the post of Permanent Undersecretary in the Ministry of Finance.
- From 1941 to 1948, he was placed at the head of the Bank of Sweden.
- In 1946 he became the financial adviser of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- In 1949 and again from 1951 to 1953 he served as Sweden's permanent delegate to the United Nations.
- In 1951 became deputy foreign minister, with cabinet rank, although he continued to remain aloof from membership in any political party.
- In 1953 Hammarskjöld was elected Secretary-General of the United Nations for a five-year term and reelected in 1957.

UN Years:

He carried out many responsibilities for the United Nations by his efforts a growing tendency to make the Secretary-General the executive for operations for peace were shaped.

- He engaged in negotiations to put an end to the Korean War.
- In the Middle East, he played a major role solve the situation in Palestine and Suez Canal crisis following Nasser's nationalization of the Canal in 1956 , as he and many others in the UN urged Israel, France and Great Britain to cease fire.

- In 1958 he proposed to the UN General Assembly a solution during the crises in Lebanon and Jordan and directed the establishment of the UN Observation Group in Lebanon and the UN Office in Jordan.
- In 1959 he sent a personal envoy to South-East Asia when Cambodia and Thailand severed diplomatic relations, and another to Laos.
- In 1960 he initiated and directed the United Nations' vigorous role in Congo and sent a peace-keeping force to lessen tension.
- In September 1961, he and fifteen others died in a plane crash during a visit to the troubled Congo on a peace mission.

Hammarskjöld has been credited with having coined the term "planned economy". He drafted the legislation which opened the way to the creation of the present, so-called "welfare state."

Bibliotheca Alexandrina's Event:

The Centenary of Former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld.

On the occasion of the centenary of Dag Hammarskjöld, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is organizing, in the Conference Center, a celebration during the period 28th April to 5th May 2005, to honor the renowned leader, in collaboration with the Swedish Institute in Alexandria. The celebration will include lectures, speeches and an exhibition.

Selected Web Resources:

The Nobel Peace Prize 1961 [online]. Stockholm, Sweden: Nobel Foundation, 2000 [cited 10 April 2005]. Available from the worldwide Web: (<http://nobelprize.org/peace/laureates/1961/>)
The official website for the Nobel Prize, which presents the Nobel Prize peace winner in 1961, Dag Hammarskjöld. It contains his biography, speech, documentation and links.

Dag Hammarskjöld Library [online]. New York: United Nations, 2005 [cited 10 April 2005]. Available from the worldwide Web: (<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/>)
This web site is dedicated to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library available in the 6 official languages of the United Nations system. The UNBISNET catalogue which contains documentation indexed by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the UN Library in Geneva, as well as non-UN publications held at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library. A calendar of UN events, subject guides, UN research tools, as well as a link to Dag Hammarskjöld: the UN Years website on the occasion of this event.

Dag Hammarskjöld Library [online]. Uppsala, Sweden: Uppsala University Library, 2005 [cited 10 April 2005]. Available from the worldwide Web: (http://www.ub.uu.se/sam/dh/e_index.cfm)
It is a specialized library covering the following topics: the United Nations, International Relations, Peace and Conflict Research and Political Science; in addition to a depository library for the United Nations, ILO and OSCE containing a vast number of information resources.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation [online]. Uppsala, Sweden: The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 2005 [cited 10 April 2005]. Available from the worldwide Web: (<http://www.dhf.uu.se/>)
A Foundation established in 1962 in memory of the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. It promotes for open discussions and independent policy formulation.

Dag Hammarskjöld Quotes [online]. BrainyMedia.com, 2005 [cited 20 April 2005]. Available from the worldwide Web: (http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/d/dag_hammarskjold.html)
It presents his quotes. A short list of information is presented for each author, other authors quotes are arranged in alphabetical order, searching through the web is available through the Google search engine.

For further information

F2 information Desk
Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Shatby, Alexandria
Tel: (203) 4839999 ext: 1660
Fax : (203) 4830339