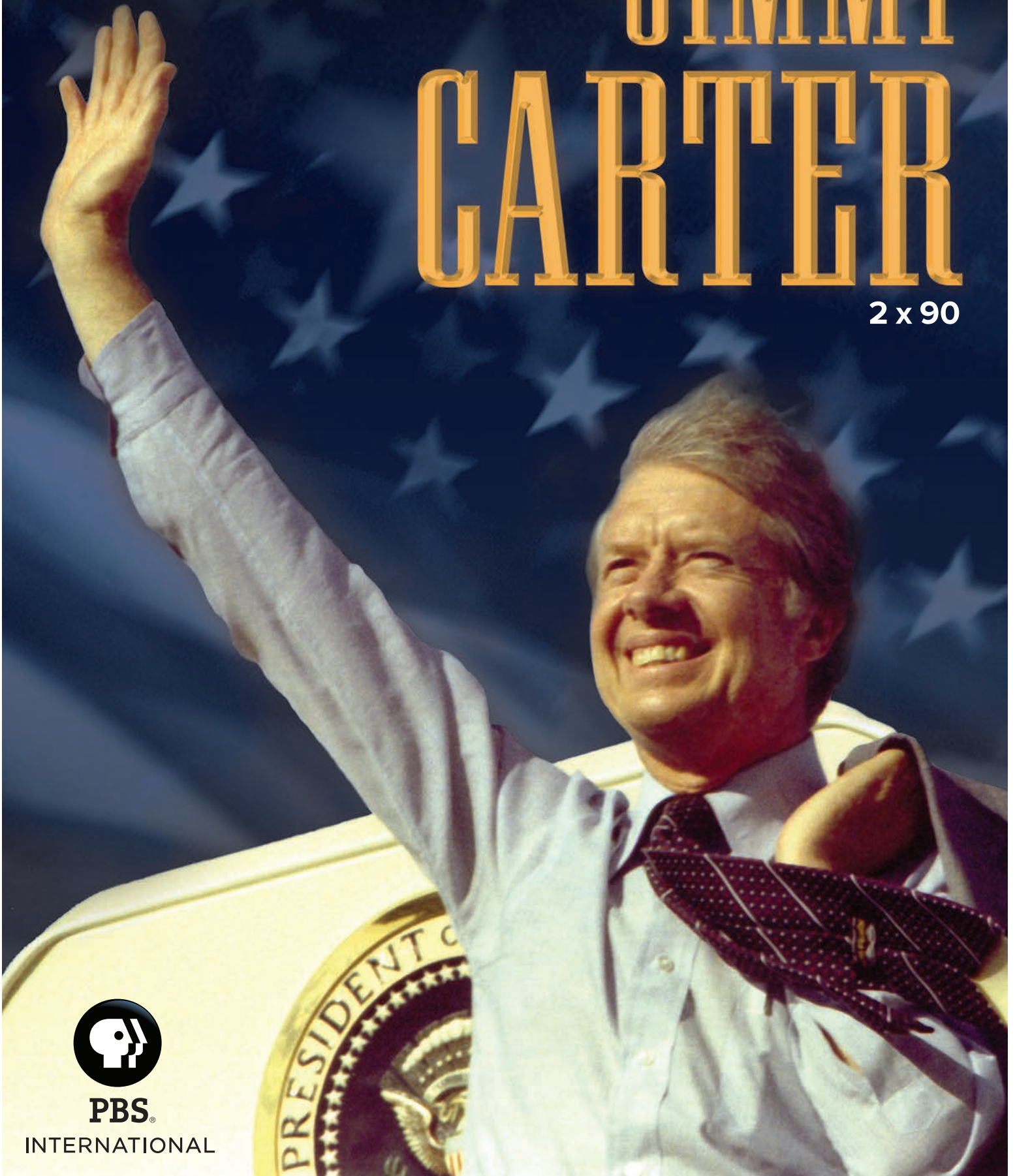


JIMMY CARTER

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JIMMY CARTER

Part One: 1x84 Part Two: 1x89

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The story of Jimmy Carter is one of the greatest dramas in American politics. Today he is among the world's most admired statesmen and humanitarians. Twenty-two years ago he was overwhelmingly rejected by the American people. His rapid ascent in politics, dramatic fall from grace, and remarkable resurrection are the subject of *Jimmy Carter*, a new presidential biography from AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

"Few stories better illustrate the intersection of character and leadership than the story of Jimmy Carter," says producer, writer, and director Adriana Bosch (*Ulysses S. Grant*, *The Rockefellers*, *Reagan*). "The very qualities that got him elected—tenacity, high moral standards, an absolute confidence in his abilities—should have helped him in the White House, but instead made it difficult for him to govern effectively."

Carter's election in 1976 was nothing short of a miracle. "Going from anonymity to being president of the United States in less than twelve months was unprecedented in American history," says Patrick Caddell, political adviser to the Carter administration.

Despite the cries of "Jimmy who?" that met his early candidacy, Carter's message of moral integrity tapped into America's outrage over Watergate and Vietnam. "He offered us a biography we wanted to hear: a farmer, Plains, Main Street values. It was the right message at the right time," says historian Douglas Brinkley.

Carter's inexperience with national government and his determination to challenge establishment politics got him into trouble. "He's a very smart man, and very well intentioned. But feel is very important in politics, and Carter didn't have very much of it," notes journalist Elizabeth Drew.

"What he had was a moral ideology," explains Hendrik Hertzberg, former speech writer for Carter. "The issues where he proved successful—peace in the Middle East, the human rights crusade—those were issues where his moral ideology guided him."

By the end of his term, these accomplishments were overshadowed by his failure to free American hostages held in Iran or to reverse the nation's economic slide. Today, they stand as the lasting legacy of the Carter presidency.

To tell Carter's story, Bosch and co-producer David Condon interviewed the people who know him best. Wife Rosalynn provides a rare glimpse of the inner life of their marriage, his early career, and political struggles. Son Chip speaks with candor about the president who was his father, and the life of this political family. Among the others appearing in the film are vice president Walter F. Mondale, press secretary Jody Powell, budget director Bert Lance, pollster Patrick Caddell, U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, Congressman Dan Rostenkowski, and Carter's most important biographers, including Douglas Brinkley, Peter Bourne and Betty Glad. The documentary also features Carter family home movies as well as a rare film sequence of Carter's final hours in the Oval Office, when he and his advisers waited in vain for the release of 53 Americans who had been held hostage in Tehran for 444 days.

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AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

CREDITS

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Photo: Courtesy Jimmy Carter Library



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