

Jacinda Ardern

I know this to be true

on kindness,
empathy &
strength



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Interview and photography

Geoff Blackwell


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Nelson Mandela

- i Terrorist shooting attacks at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 15 March 2019, which killed fifty-one, and injured forty-nine, people.
- ii The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill 2019 was passed by the New Zealand Parliament on 7 November 2019 'to provide a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies that contribute to the global effort under the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.'
- iii Signed in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015, the Paris Agreement builds upon the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) with a stated central aim to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century below 2 degrees Celsius, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- iv Housing the office of the prime minister, the 'Beehive' is the common name for the Executive Wing of the New Zealand Parliament Buildings in Wellington, New Zealand, so-called because its shape is reminiscent of a type of beehive.
- v The New Zealand Labour Party (*Rōpū Reipa o Aotearoa*), known as 'Labour', a centre-left political party in New Zealand. Ardern served as deputy leader from March to August 2017, before being elected as leader.
- vi In 1984, New Zealand's then-prime minister, David Lange, barred nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ships from entering or using New Zealand waters, and all the sea, land and airspace of New Zealand became enshrined in legislation as nuclear-free zones.
- vii See Introduction, p. 14, paragraph 2.
- viii New Zealand's electoral system is based on Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMP). A list MP is a member of parliament who is elected from a party list rather than from a geographical constituency.

- 1 Kelly Bertrand, "Jacinda Ardern's country childhood," *New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, 30 June 2014, <https://www.nowtolove.co.nz/celebrity/celeb-news/jacinda-arderns-country-childhood-2894>.
- 2 Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, "Wellbeing a cure for inequality," 25 September 2019, <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/wellbeing-cure-inequality>.
- 3 "Jacinda Ardern: It is 'totally unacceptable' to ask women about baby plans," *The AM Show*, Newshub, 2 August 2017, <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/election/2017/08/jacinda-ardern-it-is-totally-unacceptable-to-ask-women-about-baby-plans.html>.
- 4 From the UNICEF 9th Annual Social Good Summit panel discussion, 24 September 2018, New York, USA.
- 5 Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, ministerial statement, volume 737, p. 10072, 19 March 2019, https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/combined/HansD_20190319_20190319.
- 6 Page 14 from ministerial statement, Rt. Hon Jacinda Ardern, volume 745, 25 March 2020, https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/HansD_20200325_20200325/564992dc967e04053258f009b4644cced4c24a4b.
- 7 "Total confirmed COVID-19 deaths," OurWorldInData.org, 20 May, 2020, <https://www.ourworldindata.org/coronavirus-data-explorer?deathsMetric=true&totalFreq=true&smoothing=0&country=>.
- 8 Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, ministerial statement, volume 738, p. 11031, 21 May 2019, https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/document/HansS_20190521_055125000/ardern-jacinda.

This edition published in the United States of America in 2020 by
Chronicle Books LLC.

Produced and originated by
Blackwell and Ruth Limited
PO Box 37692, Parnell,
Auckland 1151, New Zealand
www.blackwellandruth.com

Publisher: Geoff Blackwell
Editor in Chief & Project Editor: Ruth Hobday
Design Director: Cameron Gibb
Designer & Production Coordinator: Olivia van Velthooven
Publishing Manager: Nikki Addison
Digital Publishing Manager: Elizabeth Blackwell

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Introduction by Nikki Addison

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data available.

ISBN 978-1-7972-0917-3 (epub, mobi)
ISBN 978-1-7972-0726-1 (hardcover)

Chronicle Books LLC
680 Second Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
www.chroniclebooks.com



Truth, wisdom, inspiration and what really matters to the most inspiring leaders of our time.

Politician, feminist and champion for social equality Jacinda Ardern epitomizes the modern leader. In this warm and candid interview, the fortieth prime minister of New Zealand discusses her childhood growing up in rural Aotearoa New Zealand, her journey into politics and the lessons she has learned along the way. From her thoughts on climate change and women's rights to the horrific Christchurch mosque attacks, she reflects on the matters and moments that have impacted her most. With sincerity and insight, she highlights the importance of kindness, compassion and inclusivity, while stressing the need for authenticity in a fast-paced and highly digitized world. At once inspiring and uplifting, her words are a compelling reminder of our responsibility to one another and a call to action to young leaders and activists around the world.



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