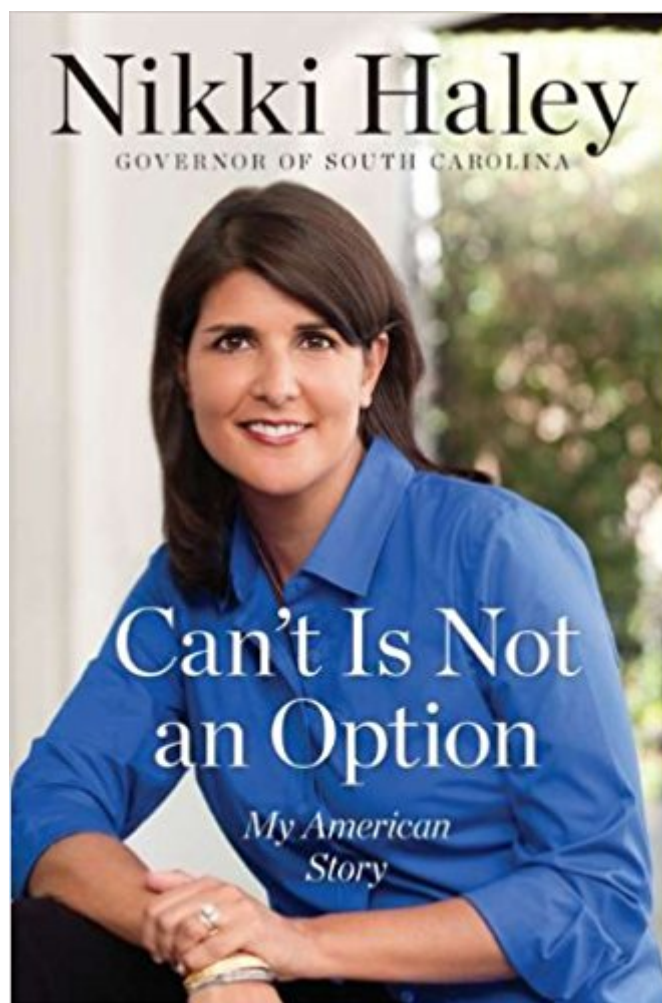


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# Can't Is Not An Option: My American Story



## Synopsis

A rising star in the Republican Party shares her inspirational memoir of family, hope, and the power of the American Dream. Decades before their daughter surprised the nation by becoming governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley's parents had a dream. Ajit and Raj Randhawa were well-educated, well-off Sikhs in the Punjab region of India. But despite their high social status, the Randhawas wanted more for their family—the opportunities that only America could offer. So they left behind all they had known and settled in Bamberg, South Carolina (population: 2,500). As the first Indian family in a small Southern town in the early 1970s, the Randhawas faced ignorance, prejudice, and sometimes blatant hostility. Nikki remembers stopping at a roadside produce stand with her father, who always wore his traditional Sikh turban. Within minutes, two police cars pulled to make sure they weren't thieves. But the Randhawas taught their children that they should never think of themselves as victims. They stressed that if you work hard and stay true to yourself, you can overcome any obstacle. The key is believing that can't is not an option. The family struggled to make ends meet while starting a clothing business in their living room, eventually growing it into a multimillion-dollar success. At age twelve, Nikki started to do the bookkeeping and taxes after school. After graduating from college and entering the business world, she watched business owners like her parents battle government bureaucracy and overregulation. Her frustration inspired her to get into politics and run for the state legislature. That first campaign, against an entrenched incumbent, led to racial and religious slurs and threats—but Haley, like her parents, refused to back down. She won on a promise to fight for reform, lean budgets, and government accountability, which is exactly what she did—much to the dismay of South Carolina's old guard politicians. Soon she had a reputation as a conservative leader who could get things done. In the same state where her family was once ridiculed, she inspired a diverse grassroots following. In November 2010 she was elected South Carolina's first female governor and first nonwhite governor, and only the second Indian American governor in the country. Haley's story, as told firsthand in this inspiring memoir, is a testament to the power of determination, faith, and family. And it's proof that the American Dream is still strong and true in the twenty-first century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nikki Haley was elected to the South Carolina General Assembly in 2004 and reelected in 2006 and 2008. She was elected governor in 2010. She and her husband, Michael, an officer in the South Carolina National Guard, have two young children.

I live in South Carolina, where Nikki Haley is governor. I was not a resident when she ran for office, so I missed her campaign and its finer points. I do know that since I've lived here I've come to appreciate her handling of some big situations - the Mother Emanuel shooting and the thousand year flood to name two. This book gives you the background on Nikki Haley, and how she was shaped to be the person she's become. How many twelve year olds have a knowledge of state tax codes? How many politicians have run for office - successfully - on a shoestring budget because they listened and followed through in their actions? Her upbringing was remarkable in many respects. This was a very interesting and eye-opening book. After I read it I immediately wanted to support her for a higher office - like the Presidency. I highly recommend this book. We need more common sense people like Haley in our government.

I teach at a women's liberal arts university, and I think that if Nikki Haley were a liberal, my colleagues would be building a statue to her on Front Quad! Her is a woman who overcame prejudice and obscurity, who took on the male-dominated political machines in her town and her state, who held her family together while her husband was deployed, and who imprinted her state government with her view of what's right. Haley tells her life story with the proper mix of humility and pride, and provides more detail on her policies and political work that I find in most political autobiographies. She treats her enemies with respect (more than they showed her, certainly), and permits the researcher to easily verify the truth of what she writes. This book would make an

excellent supplemental text for my college course on State and Local Politics.

I highly recommend this book. It was one I couldn't put down. I started it pm Wednesday night and read all night. I was so impressed with Governor's Haley's story. The way she wants government to run is the way I have felt it should be for years but rarely do you see anyone that makes it start to become reality. I moved back to SC about 3years ago and have been so impressed with the way she runs this state. It has really changed especially since Nikki Haley became Governor. Her story restores faith that our wonderful country can be that way again with the right leadership. And her strong faith is the thing that impressed me the most. I know that is the leadership our country needs and is what I have been praying for. Everyone should read this book. Needs to be required reading in high school. Would really be an inspiration. Keep it up Governor Haley. Our country needs you.

I chose the rating I did because of her ideas. I'm not conservative or republican and I'm not a fan of most of her supporters but I do like how she thinks. She thinks like a small business owner and wants smaller government. I don't like Trump. Nikki and Donald have similar ideas but I believe she's the one who could actually fix our country for the better. She did state that running for governor was the last race she'd run.....

I opted to read this book because I needed to read a biography/autobiography on a policymaker for a class I was enrolled in but, boy, am I glad that I did! Nikki paints a vivid picture of her entire life, making it seem almost as if she is sitting next to you, reading the story aloud. She is very candid and does not skimp on the truth when exposing the 'bad' side of politics. I particularly loved how she talked about how she was able to overcome financial disadvantages in her campaign as that is something that people do not typically talk about. Overall, a great read that I highly recommend for anyone who is at all interested in politics or reading about a strong female leader's journey.

This book gives your clear. Understanding of what formed the person Nikie Haley is today. She is candid about her past and where she is in her thinking today. The fact that she is a woman I think gives her a nurturing outlook for her job as Governor and a caring for the people she serves.

I did not know that Governor Haley was from an immigrant family. I have a great respect for her and her service to her country the USA.

Excellent book, enjoyed it very much.

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