

Jacques Chirac

President of France

Jacques Chirac was born on Nov. 29, 1932, in Paris. He completed his education at the Institute of Political Studies and the École nationale d'administration in Paris and at Harvard University Summer School.

After a career in public administration, Mr. Chirac ran for office in 1965 and served for two years as municipal councillor for Sainte-Féréole in Corrèze. He was elected general councillor for the municipality of Meymac, and he served as chairman of the Corrèze general council from 1970 to 1979.

Mr. Chirac was elected mayor of Paris in 1977 and was re-elected to that post in 1983 and 1989.

Mr. Chirac was elected to the National Assembly in 1967, the first of eight victories through to 1993. The representative for Corrèze, he held a succession of cabinet posts: Secretary of State for Social Affairs, with responsibility for employment problems; Secretary of State for the Economy and Finance; Minister Delegate attached to the Prime Minister, with responsibility for relations with Parliament; Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development; and Minister of the Interior.

He served twice as Prime Minister, from 1974 to 1976 and from 1986 to 1988. After his first tour as Prime Minister, Mr. Chirac became the founding president of a national party, the Rassemblement pour la République.

He was elected President of France on May 7, 1995.

Mr. Chirac is married and has two daughters.