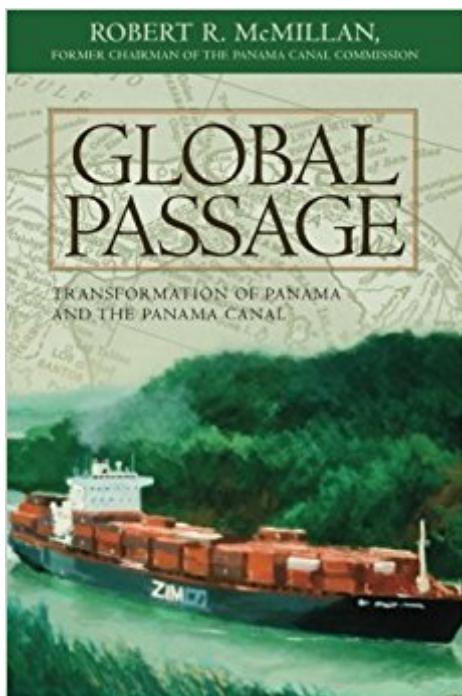


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# Global Passage: Transformation Of Panama And The Panama Canal



## **Synopsis**

Global Passage: Transformation of Panama and the Panama Canal by former Panama Canal Commission Chairman Robert R. McMillan is an insider's brilliantly researched book about the past, present and future of Panama and the Panama Canal. The book fully covers the \$6.9 billion dollar canal expansion, the role of China in Latin America, the evolution of democracy in Panama, and the possibility of a competing canal in Nicaragua. "Bob McMillan makes a significant contribution with his insightful chronology of events and personal experiences surrounding Operation Just Cause, the Canal transition and United States Panama relations. I thoroughly enjoyed it." -- Former Congressman and United States Ambassador to Panama, William J. Hughes

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

McMillan, an American, takes a personal approach to history in this book about the evolution of the Panama Canal, published in concert with the canal's 2014 centennial. As a member of the canal's board in the late 1980s and as the chairman in the 1990s, McMillan developed a thorough understanding of the canal's role in both the Panamanian politics and in global commerce, which he explains in clear, well-developed prose. Readers unfamiliar with Omar Torrijos, Manuel Noriega and other figures who played a significant role in the canal's recent history will find plenty of background information to help them follow the changes in government and the implications for the Panama Canal. Much of the narrative focuses on the 1999 transfer of control from the United States to Panama, and McMillan offers persuasive evidence to assure readers that Panama has demonstrated competence in its management of the canal, despite trepidation expressed by many Americans before the transfer. While political concerns, from the 1989 invasion of the Panama to

the country's first free elections in 25 years, establish the book's historical context, McMillan also devotes chapters to the canal's commercial implications, explaining how the current effort to increase the canal's capacity will have an impact throughout the shipping industry, driving development in both Pacific and Atlantic ports that can accommodate the larger ships that will be able to travel from one ocean to the other. In many cases, statistics provide evidence of the canal's continuing importance in global commerce.

Mr. McMillan was named by President George HW bush to the board of the Panama Canal commission. In October of 1993, Mr. McMillan was elected chairman of the commission's board of Directors -- the first chairman who was not an official of the Department of Defense. He also served as an assistant to Richard M. Nixon, as counsel to U.S. Senator Kenneth b. Keating during the Cuban missiles crisis, and in a wide range of assignments as a corporate officer of Avon Products, Inc. Mr. McMillan was a member of the board of trustees of the American Medical Association for six years, the board's first non-physician. He also was on the board of Directors of WellChoice, Inc. (Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield) from 1994 through 2005. After running for the United States Senate and winning editorial praise from "The new York times," Mr. McMillan co-hosted Face-off, a PBS television show, for over fourteen years. In addition he has provided commentary on MSNBC, CNN, and Fox. Occasionally, he has written columns for "Newsday" and "The New York times." In addition, he has written two books, "Global Passage" and "Transformation of Panama and the Panama Canal" and "Columns: Marilyn Monroe to Vietnam and Iraq."

This book is a must-have for anyone interested in or planning to visit the Panama Canal.

The Panama Canal -- One of America's Most Important Accomplishments

Most of the time we give little thought to the Panama Canal, and its vital importance to the United States of America. It's "there," taken for granted, with cargo ships transiting every day, bringing goods to and from our US ports. Cruise ship passengers often pass through the canal and enjoy lectures on board...the best of these sessions are by author Robert McMillan. He's a prominent expert on the canal, who played a key role for the USA as the last American chairman of the Panama Canal Commission, appointed to this important post by the President of the United States (George H.W. Bush). (McMillan served five years on the board.) Chairman McMillan shares the fascinating history of the canal and his personal

perspectives as one of the key US operatives in the turnover to the Republic of Panama. He updates a bit of the interesting content that was contained in the earlier edition of this very readable book. He's now added important updates and if you have not read the book, I suggest you get a copy. In the update, author McMillan shares his perspective on the expansion of this vital link between Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and the Caribbean Basin; the transformation of the host country (Panama) as American interests were reduced (but not our nation's absolute dependence on the amazing infrastructure); the interest of other economic powers (think: China) in the Isthmus and the canal passage; and throughout, you are informed about the importance of the canal to American political, economic, business, military, and other interests. Don't wait for Panama and the Canal to be in the headlines one day for this or that news; get a copy of the updated "Global Passage" for your summer reading (it's a brisk and enjoyable read). And if you are fortunate to be on one of the cruises through the canal when Robert McMillian is a guest lecturer, be sure to attend his presentation!

Excellent history lesson about the US role in the Panama Canal. Well written and easy to read and understand. I highly recommend this book.

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