



## *The Life of George Soros*

*Out of suppression came success and a commitment to open societies.*

George Soros came of age in Hungary at a time when it was a battleground in the decades-long conflict between fascism and communism, the two great totalitarian ideologies of the 20th century. A personal experience of this conflict—including the violence, foreign occupation, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance that went with it—as well as a personal fascination with philosophy shaped Soros's thinking in later years and influenced his successful strategies in both finance and philanthropy.

George Soros is founder and chair of Soros Fund Management and the Open Society Foundations. Born in Budapest in 1930, he survived the Nazi occupation during World War II and fled communist-dominated Hungary in 1947 for England, where he graduated from the London School of Economics. He then settled in the United States, where he accumulated a large fortune through the international investment fund he founded and managed.

Soros has been active as a philanthropist since 1979, when he began providing funds to help black students attend Cape Town University in apartheid South Africa. The Open Society Foundations today operate in more than 100 countries, with annual expenditures that reached \$835 million in 2011, working to promote the values of open society, human rights, and transparency.

Soros is the author of over a dozen books, including *The Tragedy of the European Union* (2014). His articles and essays on politics, society, and economics regularly appear in major newspapers and magazines around the world.