Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was born on October 29, 1938, in Monrovia, Liberia, making her the first woman to be elected as the president of an African country. She attended college in the United States, earning a degree in accounting from the Madison Business College and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University. Before becoming president, Sirleaf held various government positions, including Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture, and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011, along with Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman, for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work. During her presidency, Sirleaf focused on rebuilding Liberia's economy, improving the country's infrastructure, and promoting reconciliation and national unity. Sirleaf faced criticism for her handling of the Ebola epidemic in Liberia, but she also received praise for her efforts to contain the outbreak and mobilize international support. She is known for her advocacy for women's rights and gender equality, and she has been a prominent voice for women's empowerment in Africa and around the world. Sirleaf has received numerous awards and honors for her leadership and advocacy, including the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. After leaving office, she has continued to be involved in global initiatives and organizations focused on promoting good governance, economic development, and the empowerment of women and youth. Sirleaf's life and career have been the subject of several books, documentaries, and articles, and she remains a highly respected and influential figure in African and global politics.