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**David Rockefeller**

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| --- |
| **David Rockefeller** |
| Rockefeller in 1953 |
|  |
| **Chairman of the** [**Council on Foreign Relations**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_on_Foreign_Relations) |
| **In office**1970–1985 |
| **Preceded by** | [John J. McCloy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_J._McCloy) |
| **Succeeded by** | [Peter George Peterson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_George_Peterson) |
| **Chairman and CEO of** [**Chase Manhattan Bank**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chase_Bank) |
| **In office**1969–1981 |
| **Preceded by** | George Champion |
| **Succeeded by** | [Willard C. Butcher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willard_C._Butcher) |
| **Personal details** |
| **Born** | June 12, 1915[New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City), [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_%28state%29), U.S. |
| **Died** | March 20, 2017 (aged 101)[Pocantico Hills, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocantico_Hills%2C_New_York), U.S. |
| **Political party** | [Republican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_%28United_States%29) |
| **Spouse(s)** | Margaret McGrath​​(m. 1940; died 1996)​ |
| **Children** | 6, including [Abigail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abby_Rockefeller_%28ecologist%29), [Neva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neva_Goodwin), [Margaret](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peggy_Dulany), [Richard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Rockefeller), and [Eileen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eileen_Rockefeller_Growald) |
| **Parents** | [John D. Rockefeller Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Rockefeller_Jr.)[Abigail Greene Aldrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abby_Aldrich_Rockefeller) |
| **Relatives** | *See* [*Rockefeller family*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_family) |
| **Education** | [Harvard University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_University) ([BA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Arts))[London School of Economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_School_of_Economics)[University of Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Chicago) ([MA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_of_Arts), [PhD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_of_Philosophy)) |
| **Net worth** | US$3.3 billion (March 2017 estimate)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Forbes-1) |
| **Military service** |
| **Allegiance** |  [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) |
| **Branch/service** |  [United States Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army) |
| **Years of service** | 1942–1945 |
| **Rank** | Captain |
| **Battles/wars** | [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) |

**David Rockefeller** (June 12, 1915 – March 20, 2017) was an American banker who served as chairman and chief executive of [Chase Manhattan Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chase_%28bank%29). He was the oldest living member of the third generation of the [Rockefeller family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_family), and family patriarch from August 2004 until his death in March 2017.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-James-2) Rockefeller was the youngest child of [John D. Rockefeller Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Rockefeller_Jr.) and [Abby Aldrich Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abby_Aldrich_Rockefeller), and a grandson of [John D. Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Rockefeller) and [Laura Spelman Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laura_Spelman_Rockefeller).

He was noted for his wide-ranging political connections and foreign travel, in which he met with many foreign leaders. His fortune was estimated at $3.3 billion at the time of his death in March 2017.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Forbes-1)



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**Early life**

See also: [Rockefeller family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_family)

Rockefeller was born in [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City), [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_%28state%29). He grew up in an eight-story house at 10 West [54th Street](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/54th_Street), the tallest private residence ever built in the city.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-3) Rockefeller was the youngest of six children born to financier [John Davison Rockefeller Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Rockefeller_Jr.) and socialite [Abigail Greene "Abby" Aldrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abby_Aldrich_Rockefeller). John Jr. was the only son of [Standard Oil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Oil) co-founder [John Davison Rockefeller Sr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Rockefeller) and schoolteacher [Laura Celestia "Cettie" Spelman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laura_Spelman_Rockefeller). Abby was a daughter of [Rhode Island U.S. Senator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Senators_from_Rhode_Island) [Nelson Wilmarth Aldrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson_W._Aldrich) and Abigail Pearce Truman "Abby" Chapman. David's five elder siblings were [Abby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abby_Rockefeller_Mauz%C3%A9), [John III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Rockefeller_III), [Nelson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson_Rockefeller), [Laurance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurance_Rockefeller), and [Winthrop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winthrop_Rockefeller).

Rockefeller attended the experimental [Lincoln School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Lincoln_School#History) at 123rd Street in [Harlem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlem).

**Education**

In 1936, Rockefeller graduated [*cum laude*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cum_laude) from [Harvard University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_University), where he worked as an editor on [*The Harvard Crimson*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Harvard_Crimson).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-4) He also studied economics for a year at Harvard and then a year at the [London School of Economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_School_of_Economics) (LSE). At LSE he first met the future President [John F. Kennedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_F._Kennedy) (although he had earlier been his contemporary at Harvard) and once dated Kennedy's sister [Kathleen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Cavendish%2C_Marchioness_of_Hartington).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-DavidKathleen-5) During his time abroad, Rockefeller briefly worked in the [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) branch of what was to become the [Chase Manhattan Bank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chase_Manhattan_Bank).

After returning to the [U.S](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). to complete his graduate studies, he received a Ph.D. from the [University of Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Chicago) in 1940.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-6)

**Career**

**Government service**

After completing his studies in [Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago), he became secretary to New York Mayor [Fiorello La Guardia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiorello_La_Guardia) for eighteen months in a "dollar a year" public service position. Although the mayor pointed out to the press that Rockefeller was only one of 60 interns in the city government, his working space was, in fact, the vacant office of the deputy mayor.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-7) From 1941 to 1942, Rockefeller was assistant regional director of the United States Office of Defense, Health and Welfare Services.

**Military**

Rockefeller enlisted in the [U.S. Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army) and entered [Officer Candidate School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Officer_Candidate_School_%28United_States_Army%29) in 1943; he was ultimately promoted to [Captain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain_%28United_States_O-3%29) in 1945. During World War II he served in North Africa and France (he spoke fluent French) for [military intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_intelligence) setting up political and economic intelligence units. He served as a "[Ritchie Boy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ritchie_Boys)" secret unit specially trained at [Fort Ritchie, Maryland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Ritchie%2C_Maryland).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-8) For seven months he also served as an assistant military attaché at the [American Embassy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diplomatic_missions_of_the_United_States) in Paris. During this period, he called on family contacts and Standard Oil executives for assistance.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-9)

**Banking**



David Rockefeller and Jawad Hashim from Iraq in 1980.

In 1946, Rockefeller joined the staff of the longtime family-associated Chase National Bank.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10) The chairman at that time was Rockefeller's uncle [Winthrop W. Aldrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winthrop_W._Aldrich).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-The_Scribner_Encyclopedia_of_American_Lives:_M-Z-11) The Chase Bank was primarily a wholesale bank,[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-A_Financial_History_of_the_United_States:_From_Christopher_Columbus_to_the_Robber_Barons_(1492-1900)-12) dealing with other prominent financial institutions and major corporate clients such as [General Electric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Electric) (which had, through its [RCA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RCA) affiliate, leased prominent space and become a crucial first tenant of [Rockefeller Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Center) in 1930). The bank also is closely associated with and has financed the [oil industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_industry), having longstanding connections with its board of directors to the successor companies of Standard Oil, especially [Exxon Mobil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exxon_Mobil). Chase National became the [Chase Manhattan Bank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chase_Manhattan_Bank) in 1955[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10) and shifted significantly into consumer banking. It is now called [JPMorgan Chase](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JPMorgan_Chase).[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-International_Business_Law:_Cases_and_Materials-13)

Rockefeller started as an assistant manager in the foreign department. There he financed international trade in a number of commodities, such as coffee, sugar and metals. This position also maintained relationships with more than 1,000 correspondent banks throughout the world. He served in other positions and became president in 1960. He was both chairman and chief executive of Chase Manhattan from 1969 to 1980 and remained chairman until 1981. He was also, as recently as 1980, the single largest individual shareholder of the bank, holding 1.7% of its shares.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-14)

During his term as CEO, Chase spread internationally and became a central component of the world's financial system due to its global network of correspondent banks, the largest in the world. In 1973, Chase established the first branch of an American bank in Moscow, in the then [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union). That year Rockefeller traveled to China, resulting in his bank becoming the National Bank of China's first correspondent bank in the U.S.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-jpmorganchase-15)

Also during this period, Chase Manhattan expanded its influence over many non-financial corporations. A 1979 study titled "The Significance of Bank Control over Large Corporations"[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-16) provided an estimate for which large U.S.-based financial institutions had the most control over other corporations. The study finds that:

"The Rockefeller-controlled Chase Manhattan Bank tops the list, controlling 16 companies."

He was faulted for spending excessive amounts of time abroad, and during his tenure as CEO the bank had more troubled loans than any other major bank. Chase owned more New York City securities in the mid-1970s, when the city was nearing bankruptcy. A scandal erupted in 1974 when an audit found that losses from bond trading had been understated, and in 1975 the bank was branded a "problem bank" by the [Federal Reserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_System).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10)

From 1974 to 1976, Chase earnings fell 36 percent while those of its biggest rivals rose 12 to 31 percent. The bank's earnings more than doubled between 1976 and 1980, far outpacing its rival [Citibank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citibank) in [return on assets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Return_on_assets). By 1981 the bank's finances were restored to full health.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10)

In November 1979, while chairman of the Chase Bank, Rockefeller became embroiled in an international incident when he and [Henry Kissinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Kissinger), along with [John J. McCloy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_J._McCloy) and Rockefeller aides, persuaded President [Jimmy Carter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Carter) through the [United States Department of State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_State) to admit the Shah of Iran, [Mohammad Reza Pahlavi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Reza_Pahlavi), into the United States for hospital treatment for [lymphoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lymphoma). This action directly precipitated what is known as the [Iran hostage crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_hostage_crisis) and placed Rockefeller under intense media scrutiny (particularly from [*The New York Times*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times)) for the first time in his public life.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-17)

Rockefeller retired from active management of the bank in 1981, succeeded by his protégé [Willard C. Butcher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willard_C._Butcher). Former Chase chairman John J. McCloy said at the time that he believed Rockefeller would not go down in history as a great banker but rather as a "real personality, as a distinguished and loyal member of the community".[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10)

**Political connections**

Rockefeller traveled widely and met with both foreign rulers and U.S. presidents, beginning with [Dwight D. Eisenhower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwight_D._Eisenhower). At times he served as an unofficial emissary on high-level business.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Around_the_world_in_90_years-18) Among the foreign leaders he met were [Saddam Hussein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saddam_Hussein), [Fidel Castro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fidel_Castro), [Nikita Khrushchev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikita_Khrushchev), and [Mikhail Gorbachev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail_Gorbachev).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-19)

In 1968, he declined an offer from his brother [Nelson Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson_Rockefeller), then [governor of New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governor_of_New_York), to appoint him to [Robert F. Kennedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_F._Kennedy)'s Senate seat after Kennedy was assassinated in June 1968, a post Nelson also offered to their nephew [John Davison "Jay" Rockefeller IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_Rockefeller).[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-20) President [Jimmy Carter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Carter) offered him the position of [United States Secretary of the Treasury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_the_Treasury) but he declined.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Paul_Volcker:_The_Making_of_a_Financial_Legend-21)

Rockefeller was criticized for befriending foreign autocrats in order to expand Chase interests in their countries. *The New York Times* columnist [David Brooks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Brooks_%28cultural_commentator%29) wrote in 2002 that Rockefeller "spent his life in the club of the ruling class and was loyal to members of the club, no matter what they did." He noted that Rockefeller had cut profitable deals with "oil-rich dictators", "Soviet party bosses" and "Chinese perpetrators of the Cultural Revolution".[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10)

Rockefeller met [Henry Kissinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Kissinger) in 1954, when Kissinger was appointed a director of a seminal [Council on Foreign Relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_on_Foreign_Relations) study group on nuclear weapons, of which David Rockefeller was a member.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-22)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-23) He named Kissinger to the board of trustees of the [Rockefeller Brothers Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Brothers_Fund), and consulted with him frequently, with the subjects including the Chase Bank's interests in [Chile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile) and the possibility of the [election of Salvador Allende](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1970_Chilean_presidential_election) in 1970.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-24) Rockefeller supported his "opening of China" initiative in 1971 as it afforded banking opportunities for the Chase Bank.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-25)

Though a lifelong [Republican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_%28United_States%29) and party contributor, he was a member of the moderate "Rockefeller Republicans" that arose out of the political ambitions and public policy stance of his brother Nelson. In 2006, he teamed up with former [Goldman Sachs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldman_Sachs) executives and others to form a fund-raising group based in Washington, Republicans Who Care, that supported moderate Republican candidates over more ideological contenders.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-26)

**Central Intelligence Agency ties**

Rockefeller was acquainted with [Central Intelligence Agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Intelligence_Agency) (CIA) director [Allen Dulles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen_Dulles) and his brother, Eisenhower administration Secretary of State [John Foster Dulles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Foster_Dulles)—who was an in-law of the family[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-27)—since his college years.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-28) It was in Rockefeller Center that Allen Dulles had set up his WWII operational center after [Pearl Harbor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pearl_Harbor), liaising closely with [MI6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MI6), which also had their principal U.S. operation in the Center.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-29) He also knew and associated with the former CIA director [Richard Helms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Helms) as well as [Archibald Bulloch Roosevelt Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archibald_Bulloch_Roosevelt_Jr.), a Chase Bank employee and former CIA agent whose first cousin, CIA agent [Kermit Roosevelt Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kermit_Roosevelt_Jr.), was involved in the [Iran coup of 1953](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1953_Iranian_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat).[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-30) Also in 1953, he had befriended [William Bundy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Bundy), a pivotal CIA analyst for nine years in the 1950s, who became the Agency liaison to the [National Security Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Council_%28USA%29), and a subsequent lifelong friend.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-31) Moreover, in Cary Reich's biography of his brother Nelson, a former CIA agent states that David was extensively briefed on covert intelligence operations by himself and other Agency division chiefs, under the direction of David's "friend and confidant", CIA Director Allen Dulles.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-32)

**Policy groups**



David Rockefeller launches the [International Executive Service Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Executive_Service_Corps) in the [White House Rose Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_House_Rose_Garden), 1964.

In 1964, along with other American business figures such as [Sol Linowitz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sol_Linowitz), Rockefeller founded the non-profit [International Executive Service Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Executive_Service_Corps) which encourages developing nations to promote private enterprise.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-33) In 1979, he formed the [Partnership for New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partnership_for_New_York_City), a not-for-profit membership organization of New York businessmen.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-34) In 1992, he was selected as a leading member of the Russian-American Bankers Forum, an advisory group set up by the head of the [Federal Reserve Bank of New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Bank_of_New_York) to advise Russia on the modernization of its banking system, with the full endorsement of President [Boris Yeltsin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boris_Yeltsin).[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-35)

Rockefeller had a lifelong association with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) when he joined as a director in 1949.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-36) In 1965, Rockefeller and other businessmen formed the [Council of the Americas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_the_Americas) to stimulate and support economic integration in the Americas. In 1992, at a Council sponsored forum, Rockefeller proposed a "Western Hemisphere free trade area", which became the [Free Trade Area of the Americas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_Trade_Area_of_the_Americas) in a [Miami](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miami) summit in 1994. His and the Council's chief liaison to President [Bill Clinton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) in order to garner support for this initiative was through Clinton's chief of staff, [Mack McLarty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mack_McLarty), whose consultancy firm [Kissinger McLarty Associates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kissinger_McLarty_Associates) is a corporate member of the Council, while McLarty himself is on the board of directors.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-37) He was also a trustee of the [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnegie_Endowment_for_International_Peace), including 1948, when [Alger Hiss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alger_Hiss) was president.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-38)

Displeased with the refusal of [Bilderberg Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilderberg_Group) meetings to include [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan), Rockefeller helped found the [Trilateral Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trilateral_Commission) in July 1973.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-39)

**Later career**



Plaque honoring David Rockefeller work on behalf of New York City

After the war and alongside his work at Chase, Rockefeller took a more active role in his family's business dealings. Working with his brothers in the two floors of Rockefeller Center known as Room 5600, he reorganized the family's myriad business and philanthropic ventures. The men kept regular "brothers' meetings" where they made decisions on matters of common interest and reported on noteworthy events in each of their lives. Rockefeller served as secretary to the group, making notes of each meeting. The notes are now in the family archive and will be released in the future.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-40) Following the deaths of his brothers, Winthrop (1973), John III (1978), Nelson (1979), and [Laurance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurance_Rockefeller) (2004), David became sole head of the family (with the important involvement of his elder son, David Jr.).

Rockefeller ensured that selected members of the fourth generation, known generically as the *cousins*, became directly involved in the family's institutions. This involved inviting them to be more active in the [Rockefeller Brothers Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Brothers_Fund), the principal foundation established in 1940 by the five brothers and their one sister. The extended family also became involved in their own philanthropic organization, formed in 1967 and primarily established by third-generation members, called the Rockefeller Family Fund.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Notable_American_Philanthropists:_Biographies_of_Giving_and_Volunteering-41)

In the 1980s, Rockefeller became embroiled in controversy over the mortgaging and sale of Rockefeller Center to Japanese interests. In 1985, the Rockefeller family mortgaged the property for $1.3 billion, with $300 million of that going to the family. In 1989, 51 percent of the property, later increased to 80 percent, was sold to [Mitsubishi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitsubishi) Estate Company of Japan. This action was criticized for surrendering a major U.S. landmark to foreign interests.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10)[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-42) In 2000, Rockefeller presided over the final sale of Rockefeller Center to [Tishman Speyer Properties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tishman_Speyer_Properties), along with the Crown family of Chicago, which ended the more than 70 years of direct family financial association with Rockefeller Center.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-43)

In 2005, he gave $100 million to the Museum of Modern Art and $100 million to [Rockefeller University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_University), two of the most prominent family institutions; as well as $10 million to [Harvard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard) and $5 million to [Colonial Williamsburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Williamsburg). In 2006, he pledged $225 million to the [Rockefeller Brothers Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Brothers_Fund) upon his death, the largest gift in the Fund's history. The money will be used to create the *David Rockefeller Global Development Fund*, to support projects that improve access to health care, conduct research on international finance and trade, fight poverty, and support sustainable development, as well as to a program that fosters dialogue between Muslim and Western nations.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-44) Rockefeller donated $100 million to [Harvard University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_University) in 2008.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-45) [*The New York Times*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times) estimated in November 2006 that his total charitable donations amount to $900 million over his lifetime, a figure that was substantiated by a monograph on the family's overall benefactions, entitled *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-46)

He published *Memoirs* in 2002, the only time a member of the Rockefeller family has written an autobiography.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-47)

Rockefeller was a noted [internationalist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internationalism_%28politics%29).[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-48)

Rockefeller's will requires his estate, once assets are liquidated, to donate over $700 million to various non-profits, including Rockefeller University, the Museum of Modern Art and Harvard. The largest donation will be either $250 million or the remaining balance of the estate that will fund the launch of the David Rockefeller Global Development Fund.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-49)

**Personal life**

In 1940, Rockefeller married Margaret "Peggy" McGrath, who died in 1996.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10) They had six children:

1. David Rockefeller Jr. (born July 24, 1941)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10) – vice chairman, Rockefeller Family & Associates (the family office, Room 5600); chairman of Rockefeller Financial Services; Trustee of the [Rockefeller Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Foundation); former chairman of the [Rockefeller Brothers Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Brothers_Fund) and Rockefeller & Co., Inc., among many other family institutions.
2. [Abigail Aldrich "Abby" Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abby_Rockefeller_%28ecologist%29) (born 1943) – economist and feminist. Eldest and most rebellious daughter, she was drawn to [Marxism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism) and was an ardent admirer of [Fidel Castro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fidel_Castro) and a late 1960s/early 1970s [radical feminist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radical_feminism)[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-50) who belonged to the organization Female Liberation, later forming a splinter group called [Cell 16](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cell_16).[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-51) An environmentalist and ecologist, she was an active supporter of the [women's liberation movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_liberation_movement).
3. [Neva Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neva_Goodwin) (born 1944[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10)) – economist and philanthropist. She is director of the [Global Development and Environment Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Development_and_Environment_Institute); trustee and vice chair of the [Rockefeller Brothers Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Brothers_Fund) and Director of the [Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Philanthropy_Advisors).
4. [Margaret Dulany "Peggy" Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peggy_Dulany) (born 1947)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10) – founder of the [Synergos Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synergos_Institute) in 1986; Board member of the Council on Foreign Relations; serves on the Advisory Committee of the [David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller_Center_for_Latin_American_Studies) at [Harvard University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_University).
5. [Richard Gilder Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Rockefeller) (1949–2014)[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-52) – physician and philanthropist; chairman of the United States advisory board of the international aid group [Doctors Without Borders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctors_Without_Borders); trustee and chair of the [Rockefeller Brothers Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Brothers_Fund).
6. [Eileen Rockefeller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eileen_Rockefeller_Growald) (born February 26, 1952)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-nytimes-10) – venture philanthropist; Founding Chair of [Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Philanthropy_Advisors), established in New York City in 2002.

**Death**

Rockefeller died in his sleep from [congestive heart failure](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congestive_heart_failure) on March 20, 2017, at his home in [Pocantico Hills, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocantico_Hills%2C_New_York). He was 101 years old.[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-deathcause-53)[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-54)

**Wealth**

At the time of his death, *Forbes* estimated Rockefeller's net worth was $3.3 billion.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Forbes-1) Initially, most of his wealth had come to him via the family trusts created by his father, which were administered by Room 5600 and the [Chase Bank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chase_Bank). In turn, most of these trusts were held as shares in the successor companies of [Standard Oil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Oil), as well as diverse real estate investment partnerships, such as the expansive [Embarcadero Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embarcadero_Center) in San Francisco, which he later sold for considerable profit, retaining only an indirect stake. In addition, he was or had been a partner in various properties such as [Caneel Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caneel_Bay), a 4,000-acre (16 km2) resort development in the [Virgin Islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virgin_Islands); a cattle ranch in Argentina; and a 15,500-acre (63 km2) sheep ranch in Australia.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-55)

Another major source of asset wealth was his art collection, ranging from [impressionist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impressionist) to [postmodern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmodern), which he developed through the influence upon him of his mother Abby and her establishment, with two associates, of the [Museum of Modern Art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Museum_of_Modern_Art) in New York City in 1929.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-56) The collection, valued at several hundred million dollars, was auctioned in the spring of 2018, with proceeds going to several designated nonprofit organizations, including Rockefeller University, Harvard University, the Museum of Modern Art, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-VF2017-57)

**Residences**

Rockefeller's principal residence was at "Hudson Pines", on the family estate in [Pocantico Hills, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pocantico_Hills%2C_New_York). He also had a Manhattan residence at 146 East 65th Street,[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-58)[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-VF2017-57) as well as a country residence (known as "Four Winds") at a farm in [Livingston, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livingston%2C_New_York) ([Columbia County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_County%2C_New_York)), where his wife raised [Simmenthal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simmental_Cattle) beef cattle.[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-59) He also maintained a summer home, "Ringing Point," at Seal Harbor on [Mount Desert Island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Desert_Island) off the [Maine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine) coast.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-VF2017-57) In May 2015, he donated one thousand acres of land in Seal Harbor to the [Mount Desert Land and Garden Preserve](https://www.gardenpreserve.org/).[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-60) He also owned a large estate on the French island of St. Barth, and along with the [Rothschild family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rothschild_family), was one of the earliest developers and tourists on the island in the 1950s. The home was very modern and was located in the Colombier district, known to many as the most beautiful section of the island. It has changed hands several times over the years, and is the single largest private parcel on the island, encompassing the entire Baie de Colombier. Many years ago, the Rockefeller family donated the land in the initial creation of the Saint-Barth "Zone Verte," or Green Zone, which is an area which cannot be developed. The property also includes a private dock in the port of Gustavia as at the time the estate was developed, there were no roads to the property and the only way to get there was by boat; David Rockefeller would moor his yacht at his private dock in Gustavia before transferring to the Colombier estate in a smaller boat as the bay could not accommodate his yacht. The property was recently listed for over $100 million, but is not currently used as a residence and the main house has fallen into disrepair. There is also a dock in the Baie de Colombier. It is not known what the current owners' intentions are.

The Kykuit section of the Rockefeller family compound is the location of The Pocantico Conference Center of the [Rockefeller Brothers Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rockefeller_Brothers_Fund) – established by David and his four brothers in 1940 – which was created when the Fund leased the area from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1991.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-61)

**Non-governmental leadership positions**

* [Council on Foreign Relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_on_Foreign_Relations) – Honorary Chairman[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-62)
* [Americas Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americas_Society) – Founder and Honorary Chairman[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Re-mapping_the_Americas:_Trends_in_Region-making-63)
* [Trilateral Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trilateral_Commission) – Founder and Honorary North American Chairman[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Re-mapping_the_Americas:_Trends_in_Region-making-63)
* [Bilderberg Meetings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilderberg_Group) – Only member of the Member Advisory Group[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-williamengdahl-64)
* [The New York Young Republican Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Young_Republican_Club) – Board Member[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-65)

**Awards**

* [Presidential Medal of Freedom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_Medal_of_Freedom) (1998);[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-theguardian-66)
* U.S. [Legion of Merit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion_of_Merit) (1945);[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-David_Rockefeller-67)
* French [Legion of Honor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion_of_Honor) (1945);[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-David_Rockefeller-67)
* U.S. Army Commendation Ribbon (1945);[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-David_Rockefeller-67)
* Commander of the Brazilian [Order of the Southern Cross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Southern_Cross) (1956);[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-68)
* Charles Evans Hughes award NCCJ, (1974);[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-The_Celebrity_who's_who-69)
* [George C. Marshall Foundation Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_C._Marshall_Foundation_Award) (1999);[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-prweb-70)
* Andrew Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy (2001);[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Leading_Philanthropists_Get_Carnegie_Medals-71)
* [Synergos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synergos) Bridging Leadership Award (2003);[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-synergos-72)
* The Grand Croix of the [Légion d'honneur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%A9gion_d%27honneur) (2000);[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-The_International_Who's_Who_2004-73)
* C. Walter Nichols Award, [New York University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_University) (1970);[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Who's_Who_in_American_Art-74)
* World Brotherhood Award, [Jewish Theological Seminary of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Theological_Seminary_of_America) (1953);[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-75)
* Award of Merit from the American Institute of Architects (1965);[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-76)
* Medal of Honor for City Planning, [American Institute of Architects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Institute_of_Architects) (1968);[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-The_Celebrity_who's_who-69)
* [World Monuments Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Monuments_Fund)'s Hadrian Award (for preservation of art and architecture) (1994);[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-The_International_Who's_Who_2004-73)
* National Institute of Social Sciences Gold Medal Award (1967 – awarded to all 5 brothers);[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-77)
* [United States Council for International Business](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Council_for_International_Business) (USCIB) International Leadership Award (1983);[[78]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-78)
* The Hundred Year Association of New York's Gold Medal Award (1965).[[79]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#cite_note-Packing_and_Shipping-79)

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  [Grose (1996)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#CITEREFGrose1996)

  [Isaacson (2005)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Rockefeller#CITEREFIsaacson2005), p. 289

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