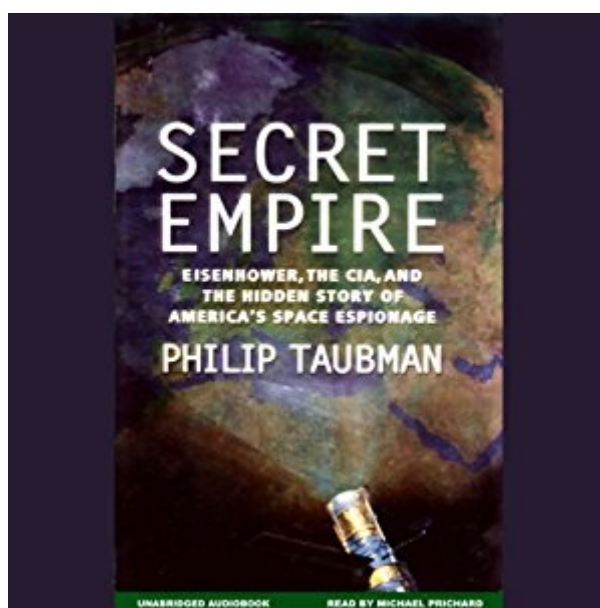


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Secret Empire: Eisenhower, CIA, And The Hidden Story Of America's Space Espionage



Synopsis

"In this exciting, meticulously researched spy story, Taubman takes readers behind the closed doors of the Eisenhower administration to tell about the small group of Cold Warriors whose technological innovations-including the U2 spy plane and Corona, the country's first spy satellite-revolutionized espionage and intelligence gathering." -Publishers Weekly "New York Times editor Taubman exudes admiration for the contrarian thinking and enterprise that brought into being the U-2, the SR-71, and the Corona series of surveillance satellites." -Booklist During the early and most dangerous years of the cold war, a handful of Americans, led by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, revolutionized spying and warfare. In great secrecy and beyond the prying eyes of Congress and the press, they built exotic new machines that opened up the Soviet Union to surveillance and protected the United States from surprise nuclear attack. Secret Empire is the dramatic story of these men and their inventions, told in full for the first time. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours 35 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: February 26, 2004

Language: English

ASIN: B0001O3570

Best Sellers Rank: #14 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Politics & Current Events > Current Events #131 in Books > History > Military > Canada #404 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Aerospace > Astronautics & Space Flight

Customer Reviews

I have been studying secret science research projects during World War II for some time, as well as the development of the OSS and the CIA. This book was an excellent surprise, for it changed and advanced my views in many areas. I was also amazed to find that it was Dwight Eisenhower's respect for Science and Technology that led him to give a green light around 1953 for ramping up espionage, intelligence, and sky and space-borne observation of the Soviet Union, giving a green light (and little accountability) to this work, almost paralleling the Star Wars era of the 1980s!

Perhaps this is what led him to say, eventually, "beware the military-industrial complex". Nonetheless, the results eventually led to the end of the Cold War. The book is also a testament to the reasons why we are now weak in counterintelligence--our 40 year focus on observation (which, for example, gave us advance warning of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and a possible invasion of Poland in 1980--which would have been even more disastrous) made us weak in facing terrorism. What is needed now is a conceptual shift of the order that was undertaken after World War II. After visiting Moscow, Eisenhower remarked that the USA and USSR were really allies for about a second. We clearly have been pumping cash and war materiel to those who were only "enemies of our enemies" in a haphazard fashion for decades--a practice that clearly must stop. Anyone who has military--foreign relations interests will find that this book fills a very important space in the transition from conventional warfare to limited warfare, to warfare against non-uniformed foes world-wide that strike without warning and have reached American shores in the most serious way since the War of 1812. The 50s are often depicted as a quiet, insular and poorly led period in American history. This book demonstrates that 5-star General Eisenhower did much, much more than lead the Allies to victory in World War II--raising his stature among American presidents considerably in my view. A very impressive and recommended book!

Very complete account of very big secrets, before the time of my awareness, but within my lifetime. Fascinating accounts in much detail.

One of the most interesting nonfiction books I have read. It is an amazing confluence of interesting personalities, global politics, and technology. For anyone interested in the 1950s, the US/Soviet dynamic, or the technical aspects of intelligence and overhead espionage, I recommend it highly.

Excellent

First of all, I read and then lost the first book I ordered. Well, I think so much of this book, I ordered another. Why? Let's consider the author, Taubman. He is a New York Jew working for the New York Times. Who would believe he would bring the objectivity he did to a book about a Republican president? I'm a Depression baby who became a student of history before I could read and write. My grandfather and father were my first teachers during WW2. My family was heavily involved in the Democrat party as workers, officials, candidates, and donors all the way back to Wm. Jennings Bryan. I left the Democrat party when I was 24 and focused on simply being an American. To some

up my views about party politics, I believe that political parties, in any country, are the natural homes of aggressive megalomaniacs, sucking up all the power they can get, and chauvinistic suckers who just can't wait to follow some charismatic know nothing into disaster. Having said that, you can understand why I think this is a great, objective history book and one I have recommended to many people.

Taubman has done a masterful job of taking a subject that could easily become a technical snore, and creating a riveting account of Cold War intelligence wars that reads like a novel. The author provides appropriate historical, political, and technical context, without overwhelming the reader with extraneous or abstract information. His account of the key players and their roles in the 1950s defense establishment makes this book tremendously engaging.

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