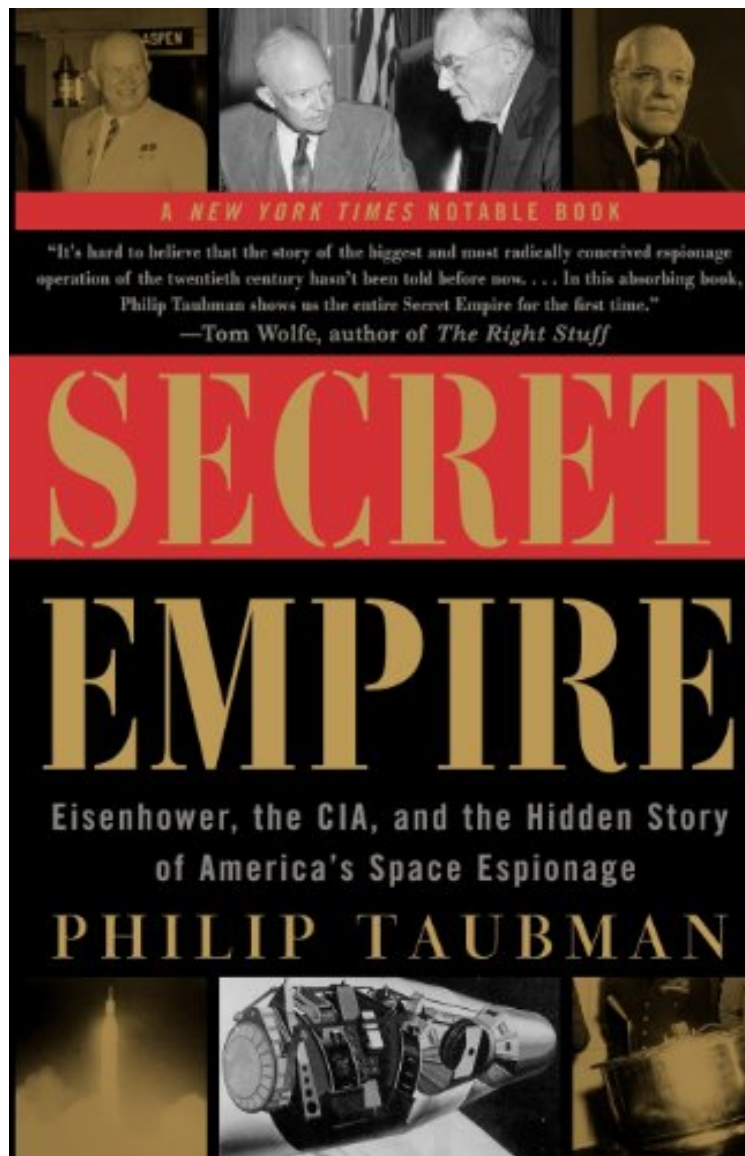


(Download free pdf) Secret Empire: Eisenhower, the CIA, and the Hidden Story of America's Space Espionage

Secret Empire: Eisenhower, the CIA, and the Hidden Story of America's Space Espionage

Philip Taubman

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Philip Taubman : Secret Empire: Eisenhower, the CIA, and the Hidden Story of America's Space Espionage before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secret Empire: Eisenhower, the CIA, and the Hidden Story of America's Space Espionage:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Enter the 5-Star General
By Dr. Victor S. Alpher
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 massing 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!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very complete account of very big secrets, before the ...
By Jay Bittner
Very complete account of very big secrets, before the time of my awareness, but within my lifetime. Fascinating accounts in much detail.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book, couldn't put it down
By M. Tillman
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.

In a brief period of explosive, top-secret innovation during the 1950s, a small group of scientists, engineers, businessmen, and government officials rewrote the book on airplane design and led the nation into outer space. Led by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, they invented the U-2 and SR-71 spy planes and the first reconnaissance satellites that revolutionized spying, proved that the missile gap was a myth, and protected the United States from Soviet surprise nuclear attack. They also made possible the space-based mapping, communications, and targeting systems used in the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Veteran New York Times reporter and editor Philip Taubman interviewed dozens of participants and mined thousands of previously classified documents to tell this hidden, far-reaching story. He reconstructs the crucial meetings, conversations, and decisions that inspired and guided the development of the spy plane and satellite projects during one of the most perilous periods in our history, a time when, as President Eisenhower said, the world seemed to be "racing toward catastrophe." This is the story of these secret heroes, told in full for the first time.

From Publishers Weekly
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. The author, an award-winning New York Times editor who has reported on national security issues for more than two decades, gives an account drawn from previously classified documents, oral history archives and scores of interviews with the men who were there. The new technology was driven by the need for safer ways to spy on the Soviet Union--hundreds of pilots had been killed or lost in aerial reconnaissance missions--and, as Taubman argues, it served as a peacekeeper by eliminating the fear of surprise attack. Through the U2 program, CIA analysts determined that the U.S.S.R. was neither outpacing the U.S. in the manufacture of long-range bombers nor fielding hundreds of intercontinental missiles as feared. This book functions marvelously as a history of science, detailing the research, engineering and policy decisions behind the U2 and Corona, but it's also an excellent social history of the Cold War in the 1950s and early '60s. It's a page-turner as well, notably with Taubman's narratives of the first U2 flight, Sputnik and the downing of Francis Gary Powers's U2 over the Soviet Union and the resulting blow to the Eisenhower administration's credibility. Taubman sheds light on an era when the nation's lawmakers were regularly kept in the dark about CIA and other spy agency activities. In an epilogue, the author addresses some unintended consequences in light of September 11, exploring the neglect of conventional manned spying.
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From Library Journal
Taubman, deputy editorial page editor of the New York Times, investigates the spy satellites that investigated the Soviets. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Booklist
In the frigid 1950s phase of the cold war, the surprise attack assumed a Godzillian stature in war scenarios because Washington was totally ignorant about the size of the Soviet strategic armory. So presidents sent conventional

planes over Red territory, but the steep price paid in terms of lost pilots daunted the continuation of this style of reconnaissance. Numerous minds grappled with the problem of taking intelligence photographs without losing lives, a scientific and bureaucratic history ably assembled in this account of America's pioneering spy satellite program. 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. In his narrative, the air force comes off as the naysaying foil for the more imaginative CIA and its scientific advisors, such as Edwin Land, the inventor who created Polaroid, while Eisenhower's reputation receives more burnishing for hidden-hand leadership. Taubman's course through this corner of the cold war should grab technophiles. Gilbert TaylorCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved