

Special Tasks: The Memoirs of an Unwanted Witness - A Soviet Spymaster

Pavel Sudoplatov, Anatoli Sudoplatov

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Pavel Sudoplatov, Anatoli Sudoplatov : Special Tasks: The Memoirs of an Unwanted Witness - A Soviet Spymaster before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Special Tasks: The Memoirs of an Unwanted Witness - A Soviet Spymaster:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Remarkable Book on a Dangerous IdeologyBy KugA remarkable account of good and evil. The good is the dedication these people had to their cause, as wrong as it was. The book is very well documented and not light reading. It is a peak under the tent of an evil ideology that is alive and well and threatening America today. It is disturbing to read how very intelligent people were lured away to divulge America's atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union. This man led a remarkable life, did many unimaginable things for his country and in the end, paid the same price many of his colleagues did when he was eventually sent to jail during a purge. The activities and initiatives described in this book, the result can often be seen alive and well in America today.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must read for students of modern espionage as practiced by KGB.By Vlad VanekA great book written by a former enemy, yet a professional intelligence KGB ranking general. It gives a convincing proof of a treasonable behavior of scientists (Oppenheimer, Fermi, etc.) on Manhattan project giving the atomic secrets to KGB and many other KGB spies from ~1920 to mid-fifties. It contains transcripts of Russian atomic bomb research scientists (Kurchatov, etc.) in response to KGB collected Manhattan project information going back to 1942!!! It has a very interesting description of Sudoplatov's interactions with his bosses

(Beria, Stalin, Khrushchev, Malenkov, etc.). A must read for students of modern espionage as practiced by KGB.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. As with numerous other works honestly documenting the monumental internal ...By Stephen A ClarkAs with numerous other works honestly documenting the monumental internal terrorism that was, and still is the the Russian history since 1917, Sudoplatov recounts his personal involvement in the crimes against the Russian people in the name of the absolutely corrupt Communist Party concerned with nothing but perpetuating its hold on power regardless of how many thousands or millions of its truly patriotic members had to die in the process.

According to KGB archives, Pavel Sudoplatov directed the secretive Administration for Special Tasks. This department was responsible for kidnapping, assassination, sabotage, and guerrilla warfare during World War II, it also set up illegal networks in the United States and Western Europe, and, most crucially, carried out atomic espionage in the United States, Great Britain, and Canada. Sudoplatov served the KGB for over fifty years, at one point controlling more than twenty thousand guerrillas, moles, and spies. But his involvement with the most nefarious Soviet activities-- and the rulers who ordered them-- made Sudoplatov an unwanted witness, and he was arrested in 1953 after Beria's fall. Despite torture and solitary confinement he refused to "confess", disavowing any criminal actions. He spent fifteen years in prison, then struggled two decades more for rehabilitation. "Special Tasks" is an astonishing memoir and a singular historical document of a man who knew and did too much for the Soviet empire.

From Publishers WeeklySudoplatov, a former intelligence official during the Stalin era, presents an updated version of his controversial memoir. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistThis secret policeman's memoir contains explosive material. The atomic bomb secrets were betrayed not by the Rosenbergs but by none other than Robert Oppenheimer and Enrico Fermi. The motivations of octogenarian Sudoplatov, who managed the Soviet nuclear intelligence effort, in choosing to divulge this information now are less important than the news about the services he performed for Stalin and the damage he inflicted on the West. A skilled operative and admitted murderer-- whose assassination in 1938 of a Ukrainian nationalist was rewarded by Stalin with his personal summons and then his direct order to liquidate Trotsky--Sudoplatov coldly records killing as a method of rule. The Kremlin intrigues he details will inspire major historical revision, damning, particularly, Khrushchev (here fingered on a few homicides) and, yet again, Beria. Sudoplatov's insights into the Kremlin's intrigues of the 1940s and 1950s, combined with the inevitable reappraisal of the Oppenheimer case c{ , }el{Š}ebre (when the physicist was branded a security risk), are astonishing evidence of secret influences in the domestic politics of both the U.S. and the USSR. Espionage buffs and historians mulling recent NKVD/KGB disclosures (e.g., Tsarev and Costello's *Deadly Illusions*) here have their most sensational allegations to date. Gilbert TaylorFrom the Back CoverAccording to KGB archives, Pavel Sudoplatov directed the secretive Administration for Special Tasks. This department was responsible for kidnapping, assassination, sabotage, and guerrilla warfare during World War II, it also set up illegal networks in the United States and Western Europe, and, most crucially, carried out atomic espionage in the United States, Great Britain, and Canada. Sudoplatov served the KGB for over fifty years, at one point controlling more than twenty thousand guerrillas, moles, and spies. But his involvement with the most nefarious Soviet activities-- and the rulers who ordered them-- made Sudoplatov an unwanted witness, and he was arrested in 1953 after Beria's fall. Despite torture and solitary confinement he refused to "confess", disavowing any criminal actions. He spent fifteen years in prison, then struggled two decades more for rehabilitation. "Special Tasks" is an astonishing memoir and a singular historical document of a man who knew and did too much for the Soviet empire.