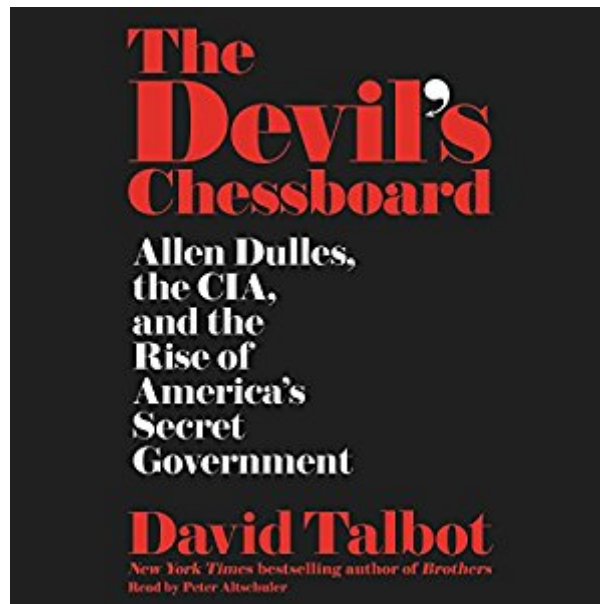


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The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, The CIA, And The Rise Of America's Secret Government



Synopsis

An explosive, headline-making portrait of Allen Dulles, the man who transformed the CIA into the most powerful - and secretive - colossus in Washington, from the founder of Salon.com and author of the New York Times best seller *Brothers*. America's greatest untold story: the United States' rise to world dominance under the guile of Allen Welsh Dulles, the longest-serving director of the CIA. Drawing on revelatory new materials - including newly discovered US government documents, US and European intelligence sources, the personal correspondence and journals of Allen Dulles' wife and mistress, and exclusive interviews with the children of prominent CIA officials - Talbot reveals the underside of one of America's most powerful and influential figures. Dulles' decade as the director of the CIA - which he used to further his public and private agendas - were dark times in American politics. Calling himself "the secretary of state of unfriendly countries", Dulles saw himself as above the elected law, manipulating and subverting American presidents in the pursuit of his personal interests and those of the wealthy elite he counted as his friends and clients - colluding with Nazi-controlled cartels, German war criminals, and Mafiosi in the process. Targeting foreign leaders for assassination and overthrowing nationalist governments not in line with his political aims, Dulles employed those same tactics to further his goals at home, Talbot charges, offering shocking new evidence in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. An exposé of American power that is as disturbing as it is timely, *The Devil's Chessboard* is a provocative and gripping story of the rise of the national security state - and the battle for America's soul.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A tremendous resource of breathtaking depth and clarity. Talbot builds on the now decades-old body of research initiated by investigative reporters Tom Mangold (‘Cold Warrior’) and David Wise (‘Molehunt’), and largely developed by assassination researchers James DiEugenio and Lisa Pease (‘The Assassinations’) and adds groundbreaking new information. Talbot focusses extensively on James Jesus Angleton, the shadowy counterintelligence figure at the heart of the domestic assassinations of the 1960s, and examines the inner-workings of Dulles’ ambitious (and dastardly) plot to consolidate and control global political power. ‘The Devil’s Chessboard’ is a startling and revelatory masterwork. In terms of easy-to-access assassination research, this book is second only to James Douglass’ ‘JFK and the Unspeakable.’ In terms of biographies of Dulles and Angleton, two of history’s most infamous figures, this work is second to none. Note: Be wary of one-star reviews for this book. Some trace back to commissioned-review services, the same services that give five-star reviews to shady/suspicious health and beauty products. Go figure.

I am reviewing this book as I go along. It is a page turner. It’s been awhile since I have read a book where I am using so many highlights to be able to go back to pertinent key words and sentences as the material is so rich. I have put down all other books I am reading for this book. It is bound to be a classic I believe. I have a feeling it will do for this subject matter much as James Douglass’s ‘JFK and the Unspeakable’ did for pure assassination research. I was not aware of HOW deep the Dulles/Nazi connection was. The writing style is crisp and to the point. Thank you Mr. Talbot for this wonderful book.

I came to this book knowing nothing about Allen Dulles. I learned not just about him and his control of what we do and do not know about our country’s dark past, but also new (to me) information about JFK’s murder. I was less interested in the Nazi section than the assassination section, but the whole book is solid reading. Talbot kept firm control of his material and laid it out in inviting prose that prompted me to keep turning the pages. This struck me as a feat not many writers could have pulled off so successfully. The amount of research that went into this book is impressive (an understatement), but it’s the delivery of that research that makes The Devil’s Chessboard so readable. Update: I read the book a second time and changed my mind about being more interested in the JFK section than the Nazi section. This time around, the Nazi section unfolded in my mind like a movie. In fact, I’d like to see a movie based on this entire book. Yet again I am wowed by Talbot’s

research.

Press coverage indicated that this book established that Allen Dulles was the mastermind of the JFK assassination, and that is not true. For one thing, whoever was in charge of offing JFK made sure that any hard evidence was destroyed. What this book does is to lay out some strong circumstantial evidence that he made the events in Dallas happen, even as he was no longer serving as CIA director. And such tidbits as Dulles appearing at a visit at LBJ's ranch on November 10th is just one of the pieces of the puzzle that I didn't know before. Instead what this book is, is a biography. And it is a biography of one of the most vile and despicable men in American history. Besides flooding American intelligence with Nazi war criminals when the CIA was formed, Dulles also was responsible for subjecting his own son (a wounded veteran of the Korean War) to the CIA's worst psychological torture programs. Dulles' mindset lives on today with the hawks residing in the military industrial complex. While Dulles is no longer alive, his descendents (like Dick Cheney) continue to act as drivers of American society. And this is what is really so sad about this book.

BEWARE OF ANY ONE STAR REVIEWS! THIS IS SENSATIONAL! I say again: take with a huge grain of salt any one star reviews, as it is the goal of the "reviewer" to attempt to thwart the sales of this fine book; a common tactic these days. Having said that, I highly recommend this excellent, well-written, and riveting book for both the quality of information on Dulles and the CIA, as well as how brilliantly the author ties together everything into a cogent picture. Very well done, indeed. GET THIS ONE A.S.A.P.! Vince Palamara Author of Survivor's Guilt: The Secret Service and the Failure to Protect President Kennedy

This seems to me to be a very good book. It is well written, deeply researched, and full of insights into people and episodes. To me, there has not been a better book on Allen Dulles and his stewardship of the CIA than this one. And it's a very ugly picture. What Dulles did was essentially make the USA into not The Ugly American, but the psychotic American in the Third World. Dulles did not respond to Crises, he created Crises. He then used these as flimsy excuses to inject American covert action in exotic places, with the results always being terrible for the populace. For my full review, click here: <http://www.ctka.net/2015/TalbotDulles.html> Talbot also makes the most comprehensive case yet for Dulles being a major player in the JFK case. I don't want to go into all the evidence he gathers in this regard, but I will say that some of it is done by the man's own hands, in his own notes. It's kind of ruefully ironic that we had to wait this long for a book like this on Dulles.

But still, we should be glad its finally here.

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