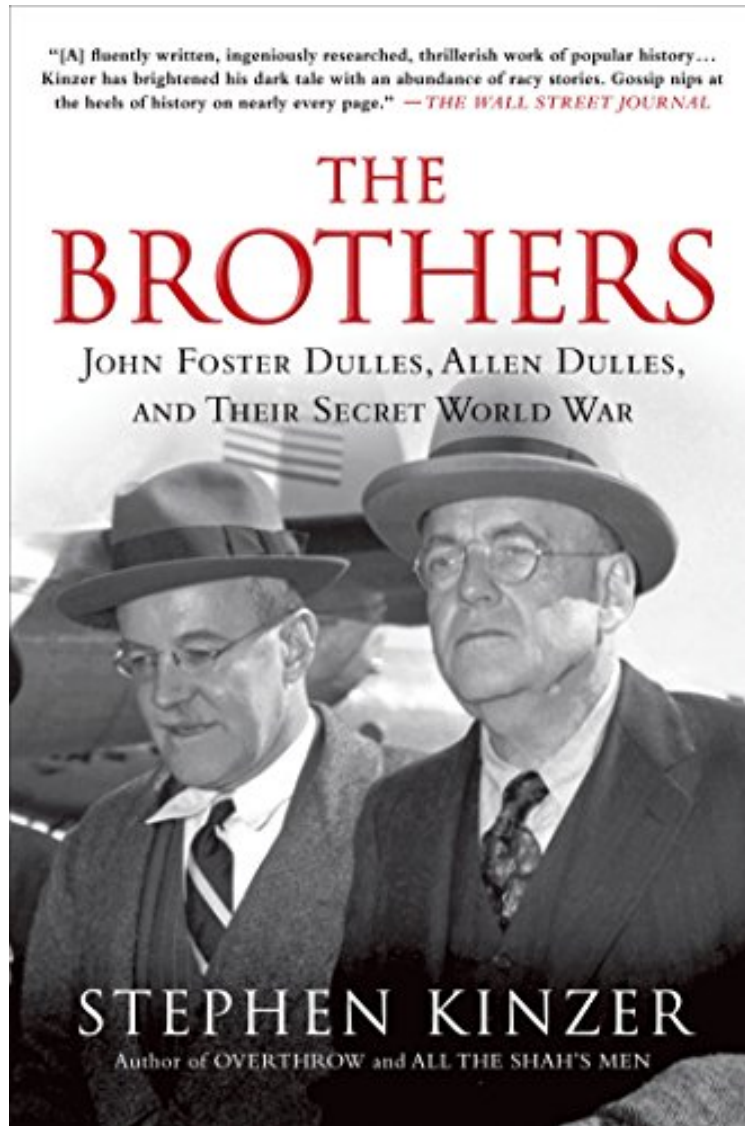


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The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World War

Stephen Kinzer

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#73482 in Books Kinzer Stephen 2014-10-07 2014-10-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.29 x 1.14 x 5.46l, .0 #File Name: 1250053129416 pagesThe Brothers John Foster Dulles Allen Dulles and Their Secret World War | File size: 36.Mb

Stephen Kinzer : The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World War:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A review of THE BROTHERSBy mikepThe Brothers; John Foster

Dullas, Alan Dullas, and their Secret World War, by Stephen Kinzer. These two men, the former, Secretary of State from 1953 to 1958, and his Brother Alan, head of the CIA from 1953 until 1962, performed actions in the international arena which have served to undermine America's prestige up to the present day. Now, I am aware, as a student of history, it is folly to interpret events of the past by the standards of today, however the seeds sown by these two have germinated into many of our present international problems. Both men were members of an important law firm which represented international corporations, and their loyalty to these corporations served to impact many of the decisions they made relative to the role of America in the world arena. For example, one of the firms they represented was the United Fruit Corporation which owned and controlled large swaths of property in Central America (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Guatemala among others. Another client was British Petroleum which owned the rights to Iranian Oil production (a consequence of treaties obtained by bribes and duress). In both of these areas their senses were impacted by the imperialistic belief that Foreign Cultures and People were inherently inferior to that of the U.S and the West in general; this and their use of Anti - Communist sentiment blinded them to the realities of the Nationalistic tendencies in these countries and others as well. In the case of Iran, at the behest of the British oil interests and the British Government -- with the acquiescence of the U. S. Government -- they undertook to overthrow a popularly elected democratic government led by MOHAMMED MOSSADEGH, a man who idealized the American concept of democratic ideals. In overthrowing that government they placed Reza Shah Mohammed a man (whose family had been forced out) as head of the government in MOSSADEGH'S place; thereby setting the stage for the Hostage Crisis of the late 1970's and the current impasse over whether that country should have nuclear weapons. In the case of Guatemala, they likewise undertook to destabilize the democratically elected government of President JACOBO ARBENEZ, at the behest of their client, United Fruit, because the President ARBENEZ undertook land reform, requiring, "... large landowners to sell the uncultivated part of their their holdings to the government, for distribution to peasant families. United Fruit held more than a half million acres of the country's richest land 85 percent of which was uncultivated." And incidentally the two brothers held large blocks of stock in United Fruit and the is action effected their net worth. They branded ARBENEZ a Communist, formented a revolution by bribing military officers, used CARDINAL SPELLMAN, an unabashed anti-Communist to persuade the hierarchy in Guatemala to have letters read to the faithful denouncing the President as a Communist and anti- Christ; and thereby installing a dictatorship in that country. This tactic was used in many countries including the Congo in 1962, as a consequence many developing countries today look askance at America. In addition they established a precedent by which Kissinger, Secretary of State during the Nixon Administration, undertook the destabilization of the ALLENDE Government in Chile and the establishment of the PINOCHET Dictatorship. It is well to remember the causal factors which have impacted America's problems in the present day.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great book on American foreign policy at its worst
By Howie
This book is very disturbing as it shows how the United States has historically attempted, and at times succeeded, in forcing its values on other countries without any valid consideration of the effects these policies would have on those countries. This book shows how the theory of America being "exceptional," within the context of religion and the domino theory, has forced us into very wrong decisions such as placing the Shah in Iran, and getting us involved in Vietnam. Overall, after reading this book, it is clear to see how we got involved in Iraq and have made other major mistakes in our policies based upon the misguided influence of a few select and powerful individuals. The book is well written with a good deal of detail. Highly recommended for anyone interested in American foreign policy.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Essential reading for all
By Ray Stefanski
This is the sort of book that should be required reading for every American. Dont ask Why is there widespread world enmity toward America? Read this book and itll become clear. In some sense, WWII didnt end with the surrender of the Axis powers: The U.S. emerged from the war as the worlds dominant power, but challenged by the Soviet Union a competition that quickly gave way to the so-called Cold War. The world had changed: colonialism was near its end, giving birth to new nations with sometimes questionable leadership; and Eastern Europe was dominated by the Soviet Union and closed to the world community by an Iron Curtain. Then the shock of Mao Zedong victory: China would be an ally of the Soviet Union. Or so we thought. The Eisenhower administration established an unusual and disastrous alliance between the State Department and the CIA: never before, and thankfully not since, have these two agencies been so intimately aligned, overseen by siblings with a similar worldview. A world view based on clichs: If its good for business its, good for everyone; as a God-fearing Christian nation, America can do no wrong; and godless Communism is the worlds greatest evil ever. The brothers took aggressive action to stem the spread of Communism, sometimes as a cover for protecting American business interests. Lacking adequate analysis based on fact, and acting according to personal prejudice, and misguided religious belief, the brothers engineered some of our nations biggest mistakes: Viet Nam, the Bay of Pigs, the overthrow of elected governments in Iran, Guatemala, and the Congo. These actions set a precedent for American interference in global affairs that continued throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Arguably, the world views America as a bumbling giant, trudging its way through other peoples backyards leaving behind death and devastation. And it all began with the brothers Dulles in the 1950s. As Americans we are responsible for our government we elect the people that represent us in Washington. In a democracy, an ill-informed populace can be the seed of disaster, as it has been in much of American foreign policy:

can we truly justify our actions in Iraq, or was that aggression motivated by preconceived bias, and a desire to acquire rights to a rich oil resource? This is what our country does and has been doing since 1953. This book by Stephen Kinzer should enlighten many, perhaps enough that change might ultimately be possible. But for now, read it and weep.

A joint biography of John Foster Dulles and Allen Dulles, who led the United States into an unseen war that decisively shaped today's world. During the 1950s, when the Cold War was at its peak, two immensely powerful brothers led the United States into a series of foreign adventures whose effects are still shaking the world. John Foster Dulles was secretary of state while his brother, Allen Dulles, was director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In this book, Stephen Kinzer places their extraordinary lives against the background of American culture and history. He uses the framework of biography to ask: Why does the United States behave as it does in the world? "The Brothers" explores hidden forces that shape the national psyche, from religious piety to Western movies--many of which are about a noble gunman who cleans up a lawless town by killing bad guys. This is how the Dulles brothers saw themselves, and how many Americans still see their country's role in the world. Propelled by a quintessentially American set of fears and delusions, the Dulles brothers launched violent campaigns against foreign leaders they saw as threats to the United States. These campaigns helped push countries from Guatemala to the Congo into long spirals of violence, led the United States into the Vietnam War, and laid the foundation for decades of hostility between the United States and countries from Cuba to Iran. The story of the Dulles brothers is the story of America. It illuminates and helps explain the modern history of the United States and the world. A "Kirkus Reviews" Best Nonfiction Book of 2013

From Booklist An author tending toward criticism of American foreign affairs (*Overthrow*, 2006), Kinzer casts a jaundiced eye on siblings who conducted them in the 1950s. Framing his assessment as a dual biography of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and CIA director Allen Dulles, Kinzer roots their anti-Communist policies in their belief in American exceptionalism and its Wilsonian application to promote democracy in the world. Less abstractly, the Dulles brothers were politically connected Wall Street lawyers, servants of corporate power, according to Kinzer. Their personalities, however, were starkly different. John Foster was serious-minded and maritally faithful. Gregarious Allen was a serial cheater. With such character portraits as backdrop, Kinzer arraigns the Dulles brothers' operations against several countries. Detailing American actions in Iran, Guatemala, Indonesia, and Cuba, Kinzer crafts a negative perspective on the legacy of the Dulles brothers, whom he absolves slightly from blame because their compatriots widely approved of their providential sense of America's role in world affairs. A historical critique sure to spark debate. --Gilbert Taylor

From Bookforum Two exceptionally important stories take up the bulk of Kinzer's book, and both are told with considerable insight and disciplined prose. The first is the tale of the "secret world war" of American violence and political subversion in the early half of the Cold War, and this is the story Kinzer most clearly wishes to tell. The second, closely related, is an institutional saga of the consequences that arose from the shared power of two brothers who simultaneously ran the CIA and the state department--the covert and public faces of American foreign policy. Chris Bray [A] fluently written, ingeniously researched, thrillerish work of popular history Mr. Kinzer has brightened his dark tale with an abundance of racy stories. Gossip nips at the heels of history on nearly every page.

The Wall Street Journal Anyone wanting to know why the United States is hated across much of the world need look no farther than this book... A riveting chronicle. The New York Times Book [The Brothers] is a bracing, disturbing and serious study of the exercise of American global power. Kinzer, a former foreign correspondent for the New York Times, displays a commanding grasp of the vast documentary record, taking the reader deep inside the first decades of the Cold War. He brings a veteran journalist's sense of character, moment and detail. And he writes with a cool and frequently elegant style. The Washington Post [A] fast-paced and often gripping dual biography. The Boston Globe Stephen Kinzer's sparkling new biography... suggests that the story of the Dulles brothers is the story of America.

Washington Monthly Two exceptionally important stories take up the bulk of Kinzer's book, and both are told with considerable insight and disciplined prose. Bookforum The errors of the Dulles brothers are vividly described in this highly entertaining book. A thoroughly informative book. Revista: The Harvard of Latin America A historical critique sure to spark debate. Booklist The culmination of an oeuvre (*All the Shah's Men*, *Overthrow* and others) featuring the Dulles brothers in supporting roles, *The Brothers* draws them from the shadows, provoking a reevaluation of their influence and its effects. Kirkus.com A secret history, enriched and calmly retold; a shocking account of the misuse of American corporate, political and media power; a shaming reflection on the moral manners of post-imperial Europe; and an essential allegory for our own times. John le Carr Kinzer tells the fascinating story of the Dulles brothers, central figures in U.S. foreign policy and intelligence activities for over four decades. He describes U.S. efforts to change governments during this period in Iran, Guatemala, Vietnam, Cuba, and other countries in exciting detail. John Deutch, former director, Central Intelligence Agency As someone who reported from the Communist prison yard of Eastern Europe, I knew that the Cold War really was a struggle between Good and Evil. But Stephen Kinzer, in this compressed, richly-detailed polemic, demonstrates how at least in the 1950s it might have been waged with more subtlety than it was. Robert D. Kaplan, author of *The Revenge of Geography* A disturbing, provocative, important

book. Stephen Kinzer vividly brings the Dulles brothers, once paragons of American Cold War supremacy, to life and makes a strong case against the dangers of American exceptionalism. Evan Thomas, author of *Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Battle to Save the World*The Dulles brothers, one a self-righteous prude, the other a charming libertine, shared a common vision: a world run from Washington by people like themselves. With ruthless determination, they pursued, acquired, and wielded power, heedless of the consequences for others. They left behind a legacy of mischief. Theirs is a whale of a story and Stephen Kinzer tells it with verve, insight, and just the right amount of indignation. Andrew J. Bacevich, author of *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*