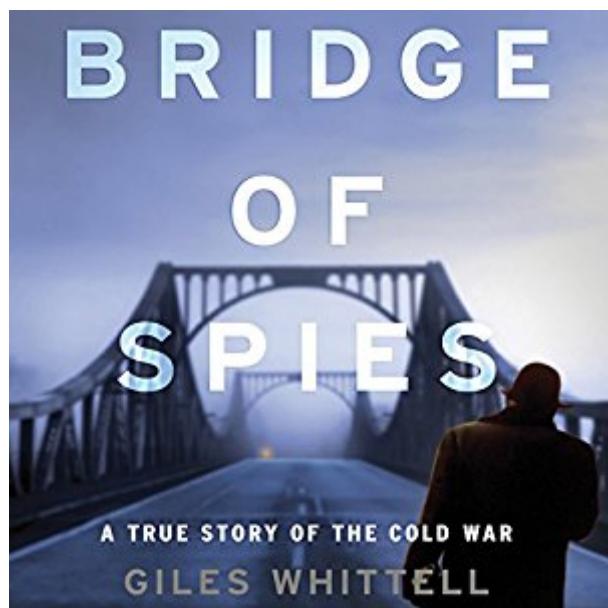


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Bridge Of Spies: A True Story Of The Cold War



Synopsis

Who were the three men the American and Soviet superpowers exchanged at Berlin's Glienicker Bridge and Checkpoint Charlie in the first and most legendary prisoner exchange between East and West? Bridge of Spies vividly traces their paths to that exchange on February 10, 1962, when their fate helped to define the conflicts and lethal undercurrents of the most dangerous years of the Cold War. Bridge of Spies is the true story of three extraordinary characters: William Fisher, alias Rudolf Abel, a British-born KGB agent arrested by the FBI in New York City and jailed as a Soviet superspy for trying to steal America's most precious nuclear secrets; Gary Powers, the American U-2 pilot who was captured when his plane was shot down while flying a reconnaissance mission over the closed cities of central Russia; and Frederic Pryor, a young American graduate student in Berlin mistakenly identified as a spy, arrested, and held without charge by the Stasi, East Germany's secret police.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Interesting and grabs a hold on you. I was 12, when Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union. It was one of the first news story's that I followed closely. I also remembered when he was exchanged for Abel. I saw the movie, but only read about a third of the book, when I saw it.. The movie left out about 90 per cent of the book. It only focused on James Donovan's Abel's lawyer, working on the release. It did even mention the cancelled summit between Eisenhower and Khrushchev, after Powers was shot down. I think the movie was based on the book Mr. Donovan wrote more than this book. This book was the complete story. It starts with William Fisher aka Rudolf

Abel, and tells how the failed spy was caught. It goes into about him and who he was associated with. How messages were sent to the Soviet Union. Then it tells Powers and Frederic Pryor complete stories. There is more to know than what was in the movie.

The cold war is really hard to understand. How do you explain insanity? When my son was 5 he was interested in submarines. I told him that his grandfather drove one. He asked my what was he doing? I explained that he was waiting for the president to send a message to blow up the world. His puzzled look was priceless. This book goes a long way to explain that insanity, and how that insane game was played. Well written. Very, very well researched. Complementary to the movie. Book and movie both highly recommended.

I was amazed by the details in this book. It can get a little confusing as the author is tracking different story lines that converge into one spy exchange. However putting all this information (which has been out there for a while) into one book gives a remarkable vantage point to see how the Cold War developed. I lived through this time period with my own assumptions about what occurred and it is refreshing to get a whole new vantage point on that history. It challenges you on what happened and, ultimately, it also challenges you on what is happening today.

Not only a good read, this is a peek into the background shenanigans that typified the Cold War. With a cast of characters that include Nikita Kruschev, Dwight Eisenhower and of course, Francis Gary Powers and his ill-fated U-2 spy mission, plus a sterling cast of CIA characters, the story that unfolds is a quick and entertaining history lesson. It is well researched and it is one of those historical revelations that sometimes bewilders the reader. Even students who don't like history should find this story intriguing.

I remember going outside with my parents to look at Sputnik as it speed through the night sky. I remember doing duck and cover drills in school. I remember the tension in the air all during my preteen years. This book brought back the feelings and helped me understand what was happening at that time from a current perspective. The structure of the book was a little confusing at times. I felt that the writing was hasty at some points but the story did bring the period to life.

Detailed narrative of the background personalities of the 3 exchanged personalities during the Cold War, but curiously did not delve extensively on the lawyer for Rudolph Abel unlike in the movie

where it was all about Tom Hanks. But it was interesting to know the circumstances, the situation then between the two top heads of the two powerful countries, as it were playing chess guessing each other's next move in the race for superiority in warfare.

First saw the movie and then read the book. The book really flushed out more detail, especially about the U2 flights and the cover-up within the CIA. Also, very interesting facts about the Russian spy, especially that he was not the "super spy" as portrayed by the government during his trial.

This book is an interesting dissertation of the political environment somewhat globally during the Cold War. I wanted to read it to better understand the story told in the movie. The reality is that 90% of the book is telling the story of the times, only 10% of the tale is about the release of the spies. At times it feels like too much political information, I was just surprised at the detail the author went into. If the reader wanted more knowledge of the Cold War, this would be a good book to read.

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