



The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War

H. W. Brands

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War

H. W. Brands

The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War H. W. Brands

In the late 1950s, Washington was driven by its fear of communist subversion: it saw the hand of Kremlin behind developments at home and across the globe. The FBI was obsessed with the threat posed by American communist party--yet party membership had sunk so low, writes H.W. Brands, that it could have fit "inside a high-school gymnasium," and it was so heavily infiltrated that J. Edgar Hoover actually contemplated using his informers as a voting bloc to take over the party. Abroad, the preoccupation with communism drove the White House to help overthrow democratically elected governments in Guatemala and Iran, and replace them with dictatorships. But by then the Cold War had long since blinded Americans to the ironies of their battle against communism.

In *The Devil We Knew*, Brands provides a witty, perceptive history of the American experience of the Cold War, from Truman's creation of the CIA to Ronald Reagan's creation of SDI. Brands has written a number of highly regarded works on America in the twentieth century; here he puts his experience to work in a volume of impeccable scholarship and exceptional verve. He turns a critical eye to the strategic conceptions (and misconceptions) that led a once-isolationist nation to pursue the war against communism to the most remote places on Earth. By the time Eisenhower left office, the United States was fighting communism by backing dictators from Iran to South Vietnam, from Latin America to the Middle East--while engaging in covert operations the world over. Brands offers no apologies for communist behavior, but he deftly illustrates the strained thinking that led Washington to commit gravely disproportionate resources (including tens of thousands of lives in Korea and Vietnam) to questionable causes. He keenly analyzes the changing policies of each administration, from Nixon's juggling (SALT talks with Moscow, new relations with Communist China, and bombing North Vietnam) to Carter's confusion to Reagan's laserrattling. Equally important is his incisive, often amusing look at how the anti-Soviet struggle was exploited by politicians, industrialists, and government agencies. He weaves in deft sketches of figures like Barry Goldwater and Henry Jackson (who won a Senate seat with the promise, "Many plants will be converting from peace time to all-out defense production"). We see John F. Kennedy deliver an eloquent speech in 1957 defending the rising forces of nationalism in Algeria and Vietnam; we also see him in the White House a few years later, ordering a massive increase in America's troop commitment to Saigon. The book ranges through the economics and psychology of the Cold War, demonstrating how the confrontation created its own constituencies in private industry and public life.

In the end, Americans claimed victory in the Cold War, but Brands's account gives us reason to tone down the celebrations. "Most perversely," he writes, "the call to arms against communism caused American leaders to subvert the principles that constituted their country's best argument against communism." This far-reaching history makes clear that the Cold War was simultaneously far more, and far less, than we ever imagined at the time.

 [Download The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War H. W. Brands

From reader reviews:

Anne Shibata:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War book is readable through you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer connected with The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War content conveys objective easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the articles but it just different by means of it. So , do you still thinking The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

Laurie Cales:

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of exercise that everyone in the world likes. Do you like reading book consequently. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a book will give you a lot of new info. When you read a reserve you will get new information because book is one of various ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, studying a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially tale fantasy book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the figures do it anything. Third, you are able to share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War, it is possible to tells your family, friends and soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a publication.

Vickie Duke:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended for you is The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War this e-book consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The language styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some investigation when he makes this book. This is why this book suited all of you.

Julie Bailey:

Is it an individual who having spare time and then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War can be the solution, oh how comes? A book you know. You are so out of date, spending your time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

Download and Read Online The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War H. W. Brands #1602HF8NMSK

Read The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands for online ebook

The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands books to read online.

Online The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands ebook PDF download

The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands Doc

The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands Mobipocket

The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands EPub