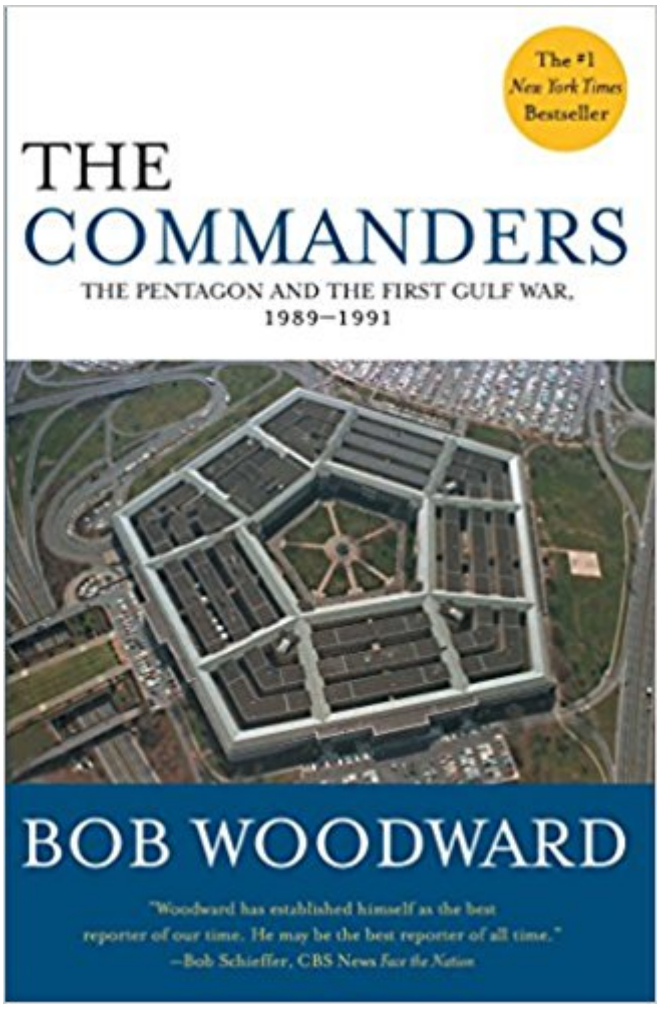
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The Commanders



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Synopsis

It is impossible to examine any part of the war on terrorism in the twenty-first century without seeing the hand of Dick Cheney, Colin Powell or one of their loyalists. The Commanders, an account of the use of the military in the first Bush administration, is in many respects their storyÃ¢â ¬â •the intimate account of the tensions, disagreements and debates on the road to war.It is impossible to examine any part of the war on terrorism in the twenty-first century without seeing the hand of Dick Cheney, Colin Powell or one of their loyalists. The Commanders, an account of the use of the military in the first Bush administration, is in many respects their storyÃ¢â ¬â •the intimate account of the tensions, disagreements and debates on the road to war.

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; First Edition edition (January 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743234758

ISBN-13: 978-0743234757

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #417,576 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 inÃ Â Books > History > Military > United States > Operation Desert Storm #838 inÃ Â Books > History > Military > Strategy #920 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Security

Customer Reviews

Wars make great fiction and even better fact. But best of all is the realm in between. So it is with journalistic histories like Woodward’s latest book. YOU ARE THERE: in the inner sanctums of the Pentagon and the White House. YOU HEAR ALL: the privileged conversations, the promises to Kuwait, the military plans. From Panama to Riyadh, from Noriega to Saddam, Woodward bombards you with unrelentless, highly placed gossip, the brew of 400-plus unnamed tattletalers WHO WERE THERE, or so we are told. Sans footnotes, this book will torture scholars for centuries. Truth or embellishment, the glimpses of the pinnacle of power fascinate. Other more scholarly histories of this period will come, better written and more exegetical. Hopefully we will know the source of their tales. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 4/15/91.- John Yurechko, Georgetown Univ., Washington,

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Tom Weiner Philadelphia Inquirer A great book...no one beats Woodward.Newsweek A telling narrative of leaders in crisis.USA Today Few if any other reporters but Woodward could have gotten this close to the decision makers.The New York Times Authoritative...a lively, behind-the-scenes docudrama...filled with accounts of secret Pentagon meetings, political maneuvers, second guesses, and roads not taken.San Francisco Chronicle Woodward gets inside the minds of [Washington's] players to see how our leaders really think.The Miami Herald As always, world-class reporter Woodward rewards his readers with the thrill of eavesdropping on the power elite.BusinessWeek Riveting...the book moves at the pace of potboiler fiction.

This an overview of the Bush administration's foreign policy decisions from January 1989 to the start of Operation Desert Storm. Boodward provides one of the most precise and complete pictures of Washington during the period and includes many key information on each major player. Under an assertive president, the hawkish Dick Cheney competed with the more circumspect James Baker and Colin Powell on whether to use military force in Panama and Iraq. As the title tells, this book focuses on "the commanders'. While the description of the generals, Cheney, and Powell is insightful, the author does not talk much about the civilian officials. Nevertheless, this is a piece of work to start with.

Understanding the decision cycle of the Presiden Bush during the Gulf War. Fascinating and interesting read. Bob Woodward is an excellent writer and presented the material in an easy to read and understand. Full of in-depth research about the process leading to the decision to go to war. It was if I was in the War Room as it was actually happening.

Woodward starts out early in the Bush Sr. Administration and looks at the events that led to Colin Powell being selected as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Dick Cheney as Secretary of Defense (after the Senate rejected John Tower).Both Cheney and Powell are treated as the main players as two major military events are planned out. The first, which was ultimately called Operation Just Cause, involved the removal of Manuel Noriega from power in Panama. The second was the response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the planning involved in the expulsion of Iraqi forces.Woodward focuses entirely on the planning of these military events. There is virtually no

detail on the actual military events themselves. I found it fascinating to read about the decisions that went on behind the scenes as the plans are drawn up and political implications are considered.

This is my first book by Woodward that I've ever read! I read a lot of political science and historical works. I must admit that I was very pleased with the depth of information given, the amount of details, and his lack of putting in his own personal views! He places the facts at your feet!!I will definitely be a Woodward follower!! I have ordered almost every book he's written!! As one reviewer put so eloquently, "I'd probably evern pay to read his shopping list"!!

I find Bob Woodward's books to be fantastic pieces of non-fiction that read like the most exciting fiction.In this book, Woodward looks at two central characters - Colin Powell and Dick Cheney - at a time in their careers where they were serving George Bush as President from late 1988 to early 1991 when the Gulf War started.We get a fly on the wall look at the events leading up to the invasion of Kuwait until the war started. I found the thought process of the two leaders to be fascinating and the amount of politics that they encountered and dealt with was eye-opening.One of the authors greatest strengths is his ability to tell a story that flows, he mixes some anecdotes in with the fairly heavy material and makes the book fast moving.As always, a five star effort from Bob Woodward.

Tell the story of the first gulf war and all the political background down during the war to achieve success. The many people of the white house during this time frame is covered and the battle that took place and the reasons why to stop the war. Good team that achieved a very fast victory in the first gulf war. Book has pictures and is very well written

This was a great look at the military during the George HW Bush administration. Bob Woodward is great and thorough in the way he puts together a history book. Very readable and compelling.The first half covers the Panamanian invasion.The second half covers the first Gulf War.All the major players are here - President Bush, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Colin Powell, and Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney.I couldn't put it down - I was facsinated by it. Takes you directly inside the rooms where decisions were being made.

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