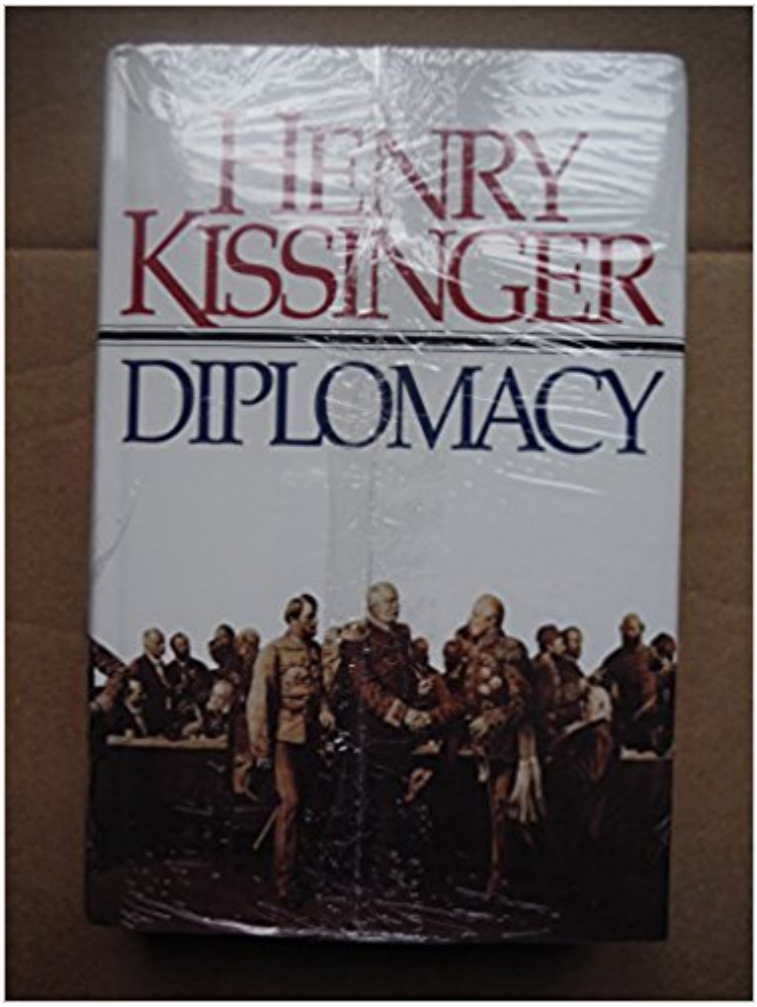
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Diplomacy



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Synopsis

In this brilliant, controversial, and monumental book, former Secretary-of-State Henry Kissinger explains, based on his own experience, what diplomacy is, and why, historically, Americans, from our presidents down to the man in the street, have always distrusted the whole idea. 30 photos. 6 maps. Index.

Book Information

Hardcover: 912 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; First Edition edition (April 18, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 067165991X

ISBN-13: 978-0671659912

Product Dimensions: 1.8 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 195 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #233,714 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #236 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Diplomacy #530 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Political History #556 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > International Relations

Customer Reviews

Kissinger maintains that the United States cannot dominate the emerging new world order but should rely instead on a balance of power built on security pacts and economic alliances. In this magisterial political history, the former National Security Advisor and Secretary of State draws lessons from the statecraft of Richelieu, Napoleon, Bismarck and Metternich, then shrewdly reappraises the foreign policy blunders and the failures of moral nerve and vision that led in our century to the mass carnage of two world wars, genocide, Cold War and a nuclear arms race. He limns striking portraits of Hitler craving war to fulfill his global ambitions, of Stalin, a "supreme realist" in international affairs, and of Franklin D. Roosevelt courageously steering an isolationist people into war. Kissinger defines Nixon’s achievement as a refusal to abdicate America’s global role, and he gives Reagan a large measure of credit for the collapse of the Soviet empire. While urging support for Russian liberalism, he stresses that the U.S. should simultaneously bolster obstacles to Russian expansionism, which neither Bush nor Clinton has done. Photos. BOMC and History Book Club main selections. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

After nearly a dozen books and service as secretary of state for presidents Nixon and Ford, Kissinger has established himself as a major thinker, writer, and actor on the world's diplomatic stage. His newest work is a remarkable survey of the craft of international relations from the early 17th century to the present era. Beginning with the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, Kissinger summarizes three centuries of Western diplomacy, giving special attenton to the influence of Wilsonian idealism on 20th-century American foreign policy. He is not shy about describing his own contributions to Nixon's foreign gambits, nor is he reticient about offering his own advice to the current administration on how to handle Russia, China, or the rest of the world. From Kissinger we learn that there is really little new about the New World Order. This is an important contribution to the theoretical literature on foreign affairs and will also serve quite ably as a one-volume synthesis of modern diplomatic history. All libraries should have this impressive book. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 12/93.- Ed Goedeken, Iowa State Univ. Lib., AmesCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The book itself is a 5 star. The Kindle version, because it leaves out 12 pages of maps, I rate at 2 stars. It is really annoying to buy a book and then find out you've been short changed. The seller should be required to inform the buyer that the Kindle version has been abridged. However, Kissinger's exposition of the history of diplomacy is brilliant, and as the length of the book suggests, exhaustive. Though he seems to be self-serving at points, it detracts little from the whole. I found it particularly interesting how a nation's history and culture serve as guides for their foreign policy. One might even conclude that without a national identity there can be no coherent foreign policy. For example, the new German nation which Bismarck had cobbled together could not formulate a policy to deal with the events leading to WWI. Also, Kissinger's description of Woodrow Wilson's insistence on replacing self-interest as a basis for foreign alliances with collective security and a moral judgement, helps a lot in understanding today's mess.

Kissinger's review of international diplomacy is a deep and abiding analysis of what has happened in the western world since the 17th century and the beginnings of the European balance of power system. Kissinger works toward the modern world of international interactions (his book was published in 1994) and America's role in forming and then surviving (so far) in this system.He explains the complex workings of the international order in fundamental terms. For example, discussing the problems at Versailles, "European style diplomacy presumes that national interests

have a tendency to clash, and views diplomacy as the means for reconciling them. Wilson, on the other hand, considered international discord the result of 'clouded thinking,' not as an expression of a genuine clash of interests." Knowing this fundamental difference in world views it is much easier to understand the difficulties at Versailles. This book is filled with this critical kind of information. It is also filled with the Kissinger style of thinking. First the overview, then an analysis of the detailed problem keeping the overview always in mind.I suggest reading On China after reading Diplomacy. I read them the opposite way and I think I would have enjoyed On China even more if I had read this book first.AD2

Whether you love or hate, agree or disagree with Henry Kissinger and his controversial career as a Cold War era statesman, he is undoubtably a master storyteller and great instructor on diplomacy. His book illuminates where we've been as a nation and gives the occasional glimpse on where we're going. I recommend this book to anyone who wants an insightful view on America's foreign policy written from a mainly neutral prospective.

While i have never supported The Kissinger view of the world and his proscriptions going forward, this book is profoundly important in the current climate. If only the current occupant of the Wite House could read and absorb the lessons and warnings that Kissinger puts forth. we might be able to retain our position in the world america First is at bedt a simplistic phrase but Kissinger lays out in detail the threats that lie head for us and thw world if America withdraws.

Think what you will about Kissinger's activities while in government, but it is unquestioned that he is a historian and political theory scholar of the highest order. This book is a case study of many different leaders and the foreign policy challenges they faced through a domestic and international lens. Kissinger carefully extrapolates the lessons to take from these leaders so that the reader gains a clear understanding that many historical events really could have been influenced if the right ideas and perspectives were in place at the time.

be prepared for a very long and slow read. it is however an amazing overview of european history--and i thought i knew my history. not so much it turns out. kissinger's insights and commentary are included as asides. i find i have to pause to give them the careful thought they deserve. you caneasily see how the u.s. gets itself in trouble internationally...

At the present time I am attending University to get my Master's degree in International Relations. I bought this book so that I could use it for a paper I was writing, but it turned out to be much more than just a source, it became an indispensable part of my educational process. Diplomacy is more detailed and filled with such insight that leaves every one of my textbooks or required readings in the dust. The first half of this book talks about European politics and the evolution though World War II. It is so richly detailed that I know every time I read it after this I will glean more useful information and facts.the second half discusses the United States and it's emergence as a superpower until the end of the cold war and the first Bush administration.Even if you disagree with his conclusions and ideas it is a fascinating read and great insight to American diplomats. Kissinger does not pull many punches in this book. The fault of the French in the 1800's, the fault of the Germans in the first half of the 1900's, the fault of the British and their detachment from Europe, the missteps of American foreign policy and it's times of isolation. It is all in there. I cannot recommend this book high enough. It is truly exceptional.

phenomenal. best real discussion of diplomatic objectives, core national interests, and conditions that set the stage for prolonged peace I have seen.

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