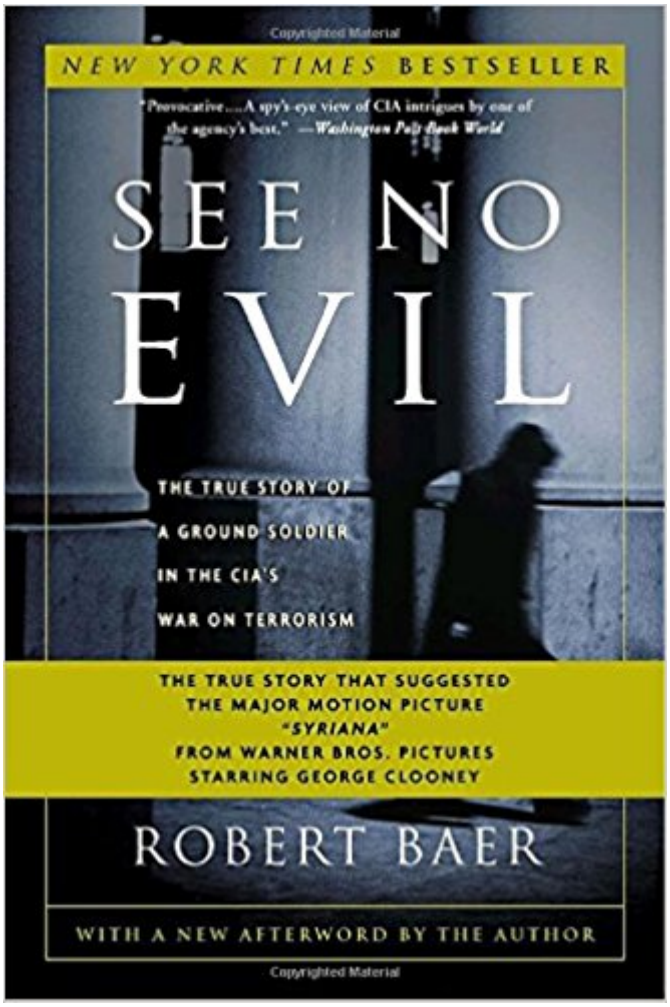
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# See No Evil: The True Story Of A Ground Soldier In The CIA's War On Terrorism




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## Synopsis

In his explosive New York Times bestseller, top CIA operative Robert Baer paints a chilling picture of how terrorism works on the inside and provides startling evidence of how Washington politics sabotaged the CIAÃ¢â ¬â„¢s efforts to root out the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s deadliest terrorists, allowing for the rise of Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda and the continued entrenchment of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.A veteran case officer in the CIAÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Directorate of Operations in the Middle East, Baer witnessed the rise of terrorism first hand and the CIAÃ¢â ¬â„¢s inadequate response to it, leading to the attacks of September 11, 2001. This riveting book is both an indictment of an agency that lost its way and an unprecedented look at the roots of modern terrorism, and includes a new afterword in which Baer speaks out about the American war on terrorism and its profound implications throughout the Middle East.Ã¢â ¬Å“Robert Baer was considered perhaps the best on-the-ground field officer in the Middle East.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œSeymour M. Hersh, The New YorkerFrom The PrefaceThis book is a memoir of one foot soldierÃ¢â ¬â„¢s career in the other cold war, the one against terrorist networks. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a story about places most Americans will never travel to, about people many Americans would prefer to think we donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t need to do business with.This memoir, I hope, will show the reader how spying is supposed to work, where the CIA lost its way, and how we can bring it back again. But I hope this book will accomplish one more purpose as well: I hope it will show why I am angry about what happened to the CIA. And I want to show why every American and everyone who cares about the preservation of this country should be angry and alarmed, too.The CIA was systematically destroyed by political correctness, by petty Beltway wars, by careerism, and much more. At a time when terrorist threats were compounding globally, the agency that should have been monitoring them was being scrubbed clean instead. Americans were making too much money to bother. Life was good. The White House and the National Security Council became cathedrals of commerce where the interests of big business outweighed the interests of protecting American citizens at home and abroad. Defanged and dispirited, the CIA went along for the ride. And then on September 11, 2001, the reckoning for such vast carelessness was presented for all the world to see.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“See No Evil is a compelling account of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s failed efforts to Ã¢â ¬Ëœlisten inÃ¢â ¬â„¢ on the rest of the world, especially the parts of it that intend to do us harm.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â œWall Street JournalÃ¢â ¬Å“Robert Baer was considered perhaps the best on-the-ground field officer in the Middle East.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â œSeymour M. Hersh, The New Yorker

In his explosive New York Times bestseller, top CIA operative Robert Baer paints a chilling picture of how terrorism works on the inside and provides startling evidence of how Washington politics sabotaged the CIA's efforts to root out the world's deadliest terrorists, allowing for the rise of Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda and the continued entrenchment of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. A veteran case officer in the CIA's Directorate of Operations in the Middle East, Baer witnessed the rise of terrorism first hand and the CIA's inadequate response to it, leading to the attacks of September 11, 2001. This riveting book is both an indictment of an agency that lost its way and an unprecedented look at the roots of modern terrorism, and includes a new afterword in which Baer speaks out about the American war on terrorism and its profound implications throughout the Middle East. "Robert Baer was considered perhaps the best on-the-ground field officer in the Middle East."-Seymour M. Hersh, The New Yorker From The PrefaceThis book is a memoir of one foot soldier's career in the other cold war, the one against terrorist networks. It's a story about places most Americans will never travel to, about people many Americans would prefer to think we don't need to do business with. This memoir, I hope, will show the reader how spying is supposed to work, where the CIA lost its way, and how we can bring it back again. But I hope this book will accomplish one more purpose as well: I hope it will show why I am angry about what happened to the CIA. And I want to show why every American and everyone who cares about the preservation of this country should be angry and alarmed, too.The CIA was systematically destroyed by political correctness, by petty Beltway wars,

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Riveting book that is hard to put down. This is by far the best of his or any other I have read. Mr. Baer’s postings remind me of "viper pits" described in many fictional books...only his were real.

The author is easy to connect with and understand at some points of his motivations. A few questions still remain on some issues of interests but overall he did a very good job in explaining events (the best he could). Baer has a bank of knowledge on the Middle East and its actors/groups. It is rare to read similar details on the Middle East outside of the classroom environment (texts). All though I do not personally know Baer, from this book it appears that he may have taken certain issues very personal and doing so, he allowed his emotions to override the brilliance of his character. The grudge seemed to have been presented to show his actions but as you read on, it begins to control him. Granted the events and the loss of friends or associates that you depend on would affect anyone. But by placing yourself within this theater it is bound to happen, you are there for the bigger picture, the identifiers of his personal changes and questionable tactfulness are seen withering away. I am not sure if being made, in the region, only complicated the inner struggle that was already becoming present in his daily actions. He may have wanted another direction within the agency, one which was not possible when he was sent out of the area of his expertise. He did not take on change very well and instead went to the CTC. Later in the details of the CTC being a letdown, he also felt needed due to his language skills which later on appeared to be not that important, as he was placed on the back burner. As if he was losing himself and almost needed others to remind him of whom he is.I have read more than a few books on the changing dynamics of the agency and its people. From field positions and being very good at it, to the paper pusher that slowly destroys the officer. Baer was very good at what he did; when the operation environment changed he did not.

A year ago I bought a book, "Ropes of Sand," by Wilber Eveland. Eveland’s book outlined the

growth and maturation of intelligence gathering in the Middle East post-World War Two through the 1970s. Eveland's book was very detailed, relating the individual story of one man's effort to work in a newly important region within the global environment, and doing so as the U.S. transitions from the OSS to the CIA.Having read Eveland's book first set the stage for Bob Baer's book. Baer's account takes off where Eveland's ends. The books were not meant to be read that way, as Eveland's book was published in 1980. The events, policies, and geography persist, evolve, and adapt over the decades "Ropes of Sand" and "See No Evil" cover, though. Reading them together provides fascinating insight into the realm, politics, concerns, and people.Baer's experiences in Syria, Lebanon, and throughout the Middle East make for a fascinating read. Yes, Bob has taken some flack for sounding somewhat bombastic, or self-congratulatory. When one reads through those few cases, and simply reads the context of the situation, the details of his experiences in the region are film-worthy (and have been adapted for film). His is not a history book, and he doesn't delve into history. For a history, read "Power, Faith, and Fantasy" by Michael Oren. Baer's is a first-hand account as a case worker, recruiting local people for gathering intelligence. If I learned one thing from Eveland and Baer, the CIA does not run spys. The CIA tries to "recruit" indigenous people to gather information. Also, people who conduct legitimate business in the realm are also recruited to keep their eyes and ears open. Simply riveting stories.A good contribution to the ever-increasing quantity of geopolitical treatises on the Middle East.

Interesting stories told fairly well, sometimes at breakneck pace. But to me, it seems this volume is as much intent on burnishing the author's own legend as anything else - in that, it seems much like Churchill's five-volume history of WW II, in which spin matters as much as truth. One wonders how this same history might be told if written with the same journalistic ethic used to produce "The Presidents Club," by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy, who strive to tell all sides of the stories they're presenting.

Brilliant!"See no Evil" is an engaging autobiography of a CIA case officer who spent close to a quarter of a century in the Directorate of Operations. His knowledge about the conflicts and terrorist activities in the Middle East during the 1980's and early 1990's is exceptional and you feel that he deeply cares about his mission to protect the United States of America. The author is not shy in describing his distaste for how the various administrations over time have lost sight of the objective to collect intelligence to protect our nation and replaced it with politics driven by special interests, most prominently big oil.He describes how the CIA over time has completely withdrawn its presence

from many terrorist breeding grounds, believing that intelligence collection can be made through electronic eavesdropping. Robert Baer's plaidoyer to return to putting people back on the ground to listen to the voices is compelling. As powerful as satellite technology is, there are places it can't see and where it can't hear. The painful proof was found on September 11, 2001.

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