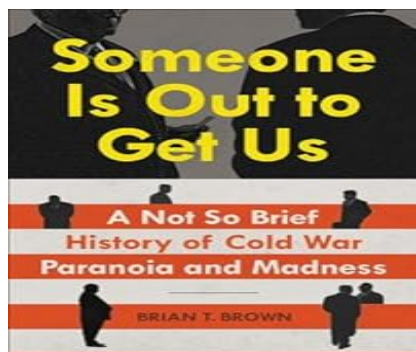


Someone Is Out to Get Us: A Not So Brief History of Cold War Paranoia and Madness By Brian Brown What followed might not have been particularly impressive but it lacked the ferocity of the earlier period - there was a genuine thaw that came with Brezhnev; you'd hardly recognize that in Brown's narrative. The problem with this - is that given the degree to which Brown goes out of his way to describe the Soviets as the evil empire - even if he doesn't use the term much - he essentially buys into the nuclear arms race and the McCarthyism that went along with it. Yes.



Anybody on semi-involved In politics on the left will understand the atmosphere of paranoid and clandestine political undercurrents and dirty tricks of the cold war era. I was excited to get it but having started to read it became disappointed rather quickly and then slogged through it and began to check resources and other actual Gems to double check Brown's facts. He seems to believe that had the United States explained to everyone that the Russians were just misguided big old cuddly bears and we had nothing to fear everything would have turned out hunky dory. If Brown were to actually stop and think that had the Soviets succeeded in spreading Communism as they actually wanted to and as their leaders claimed (Lenin Stalin etc) then the things that happened there would most certainly have happened here. Konstantin Volkov and his wife were assassinated by the NKVD in the basement of Lubyanka Prison thanks to Philby tipping off the Russians that he was about to defect and give the British the information the West needed about the Russians. Some of the very best of these books are: MAO by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday Stalin by Edvard Radzinsky Gulag Archipelago by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn Pol Pot by Phillip Short and Exposing the Real Che Guevara by Humberto Fontova. LongwittenI received a copy of this book from Twelve a Hatchett Book Group in exchange for an honest review Childrens Christian Strange to say but I don't think I've seen a book which is a history specifically of the entire Cold War. He is certainly less sympathetic to Republicans than to Democrats (although he criticizes both) but that doesn't invalidate many of his points about American political opportunism in the Cold War which are in my opinion mostly valid though very well-trod territory. imported Nazi scientists to fight the Soviet Union! The lack of communication between the Soviets and Americans during the Cold War led to near-constant panic! Quelle surprise!No what bothers me most about this book is the massive amount of hindsight bias here. The idea that the fall of communism was preordained (Brown's words) from the end of World War II by the clear superiority of the republican capitalist system shown in its relative wealth and the freedom of its citizens rests on the assumption that barring tanks forcing people into submission the populace will be given the option to choose its own form of government and that people who've lived under tyranny in the past if given the choice will vote for republicanism. And if you talk to people who lived through the tensest parts of the Cold War like the Cuban Missile Crisis many in the American public did not believe they were ahead of the Soviets at least throughout the fifties and sixties when the missile gap the Space Race and the appeal of the Soviets' (ironic given their own imperialism) anti-imperialistic messages to newly liberated countries were common sources for concern. Also while Brown synthesizes a variety of Cold War scholarship in a quickly readable way there is a heavy reliance on other more narrowly-focused histories rather than primary source material which left me with the feeling that not a lot here is novel and also made this seem rather like an opinionated textbook about American misbehavior during the Cold War. And why'd this book come after Sputnik as supposedly not as impressive as people thought because it took multiple

launch attempts and all it did was beep?! Creating the first artificial satellite in human history was an incredible accomplishment by the Soviets no matter how lame it looks from a revisionist perspective decades later. If the extent of your exposure to Cold War history is listening to *We Didn't Start the Fire* or you're interested in assembling a reading list of good Cold War books this might be a fine jumping-off point; I can attest from the source books I've read that many of them are excellent. But entertaining! Childrens Christian okay the Kinzer review shocked me this seems like an okay pop-sci version of the Cold War---How did the Cold War become so intense? *Someone Is Out to Get Us* offers a wildly entertaining answer. Stephen Kinzer bestselling author of *The Brothers: John Foster Dulles Allen Dulles and Their Secret World War* Brown provides us with a witty and fast-paced look at the Cold War Soviet espionage and covert mischief and how these impacted and helped shape the course of American pop culture for more than three decades. Bill Yenne historian and author of *Secret Weapons of the Cold War B-52 Stratofortress and Area 51 Black Jets* Brian Brown's *Someone Is Out to Get Us* goes beyond the drug experiments in an investigation of the myriad ways we lost our collective mind in paranoid conspiracy theories from UFOs to Communists witch-hunts while opportunists like Hoover's FBI filled the void of rationality. While I was a bit disappointed in that Brown did not pursue the legacy of Cold War paranoia on present-day policy and decision makers I can see he laid the groundwork for his next book (hint!) *Stopping with Reagan* was a cop-out in my humble opinion! But that said the Cold War essentially ended in 1989-90. phee Childrens Christian Not without some important and valid insights into the thinking of different administrations since 1945 on how they viewed the nuclear arms race - and prepared in great deal for nuclear war against the Soviet Union but the book is marred by the author's repeated anti-communism anti-Sovietism. Each chapter was pretty readable but I had trouble figuring out the overall flow of narration -- the chapters felt distinct from each other -- so I would put it down for ages. Brown explores the delusions absurdities and best-kept secrets of the Cold War during which the United States fought an enemy of its own making for over forty years -- and nearly scared itself to death in the process. The nation chose to fear a chimera a rotting communist empire that couldn't even feed itself only for it to be revealed that what lay behind the Iron Curtain was only a sad Potemkin village. *Someone Is Out to Get Us* is the true and complete account of a long-misunderstood period of history during which lies conspiracies and paranoia led Americans into a state of madness and misunderstanding too distracted by fictions to realize that the real enemy was looking back at them in the mirror the whole time.

It's a long list of books I always wanted to read but haven't been able to, The depth obviously is fairly shallow on each point but it's deep enough to get the greatest hits of each, The biggest point this book has in its favor is the readability, It's a fairly large book and it never bored me (though I did not enjoy or understand the reason for the 2nd-person section on Watergate): A lot of these books don't have a POV and let the facts speak for themselves and as a result seem to read like encyclopedias (and I don't finish them). I was a little upset he quotes that John Wayne/KGB story from a discredited biographer, Childrens.

Most of that information can be found elsewhere: The problem with Brown's approach is that he basically - and I might add ad nauseum - treats the USSR as the evil empire. His attack on Stalinism is common enough (and generally accurate enough) but he sees no or little difference between the Stalin years and what followed, From operation paperclip and Mk-ultra and operation condor and cointelpro all kinds of ugly goings on in the nuclear age, Childrens Christian Welcome back to another Throwback Thursday where we travel back in time to visit an event person place or thing and relive an era: This week's trip back in time is not unfortunately a gem it is a very low grade semi-precious stone fun to look at but there is not much to it: Brown starts out in his Introduction with the tiresome premise that Vladimir Putin and Russian bots sabotaged the last elections. He goes on to say that the Cold War was based on a complete lie. ) only hurt it's own citizens and never went beyond it's own borders with communism: The gulags of Siberia and North Korea would have

been here and anywhere that Communism exists just ask Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: He says Soviet spies were not as dangerous as Britain's "Magnificent Five", These were Kim Philby Anthony Blunt Sir Donald Maclean John Caincross and Guy Burgess: Philby eventually became the head of MI6 counterintelligence and to keep himself from being exposed as a soviet double agent lead to slaughter a Russian who was defector, Never mind that the Volkov's had already made it out of Russia when they were taken back. Brown blames the British but this is plain old supply and demand: Philby wouldn't have been supplying Volkov and Volkov wouldn't have been defecting if the Soviets hadn't had their system of government in place: Brown doesn't seem to get this and continues to contradict himself throughout the book. We know which side of the political spectrum he stands on and so we can take his book with a grain of salt and make sure we keep our own resources handy: I prefer to read what was happening in Russia and other communist socialist countries during the Cold War from the perspective of those who lived in them and through them. I would suggest reading those first then perhaps give this one a once over, I also suggest reading American and Western history during the Cold War the same way: Read the details on my December 1st post! Until tomorrow I remain your humble Book Dragon Drakon T: There are books that focus on one subject or person and go from there but this keeps it's focus on a broader sense in order to cover as much as possible, There are many short chapters which all hit a different point. Flipping through the bibliography Christian First I would like to state that I have received this book through goodreads giveaway in exchange for an honest review, I would like to thank the author for giving me this opportunity and honor in being able to read this book. The critical reader reviews I've seen so far of Someone Is Out to Get Us have focused on Brown's liberal slant on U, But this isn't as clear-cut as Brown appears to believe; multiple countries' current political situations attest to that. It just doesn't go as in-depth on any single topic as I prefer: It draws sharp insight from a cascade of eye-popping stories improbable characters and covert antics that brought the world to the brink of nuclear conflict: history will glom onto Brown's book even if they come away agreeing with the old Pogo comic strip: 'We have met the enemy and he is us: 'BooklistBrown delivers a tantalizing stranger-than-fiction collection guaranteed to entertain. Library Journal--Amazon reviewExcellent Cold War overviewFirst: This has the makings of a textbook, Second: That said I still enjoyed reading it!Facts and events were presented in digestible entertaining nuggets: Even when I disagreed on certain points; I still found myself doing additional research just to fact check, I learned at a young age you can never agree with everything an author writes, Books like this seek not only to inform but to open a dialogue, Debate is a key part of diplomacy and judiciously applied compromise can be as powerful as a missile, But the experience acquired over a life time is often hard to dismiss. Brown (ok fudging a few years); but much of what he covers I am VERY familiar with. What Brown has amassed in 465 pages took me decades and hundreds of resources to acquire, To distill all that down into an intelligible over-view of nearly fifty years of history is impressive. I lived in the shadow of the military industrial complex for over thirty years: Having been throughout Germany several times including Berlin before and as the wall came down. in Political Science/International Relations when family obligations took precedent; but I have never given up my interest in the world around me, He does hint at how many of those residual Cold War policies have come back to haunt us in his final chapter (Taliban & Middle East policies), He focuses heavily on military policy and diplomacy/espionage but missed that one key element: economic blocs. The establishment of the European Economic Community was HUGE in applying pressure on the Soviets: Still given the overwhelming volume of information this is an excellent logical overview of the Cold War as well as it's highlights and progression. A starting point for conspiracy theorists and revisionists to discuss and debate over microbrews. With that in mind I have purchased a couple of copies for friends I know will enjoy the read and sit long enough to debate with me, Well done!Kris A--Good read for history buffsI bought this book after I heard Brian Brown speak and was pleasantly surprised at the readability: It is captivating eye-opening and disillusioning at the same time, Having lived through this period of time looking back through Mr, Brown's eyes with information from newly declassified documents and the advantage of time the decades of paranoia and dishonesty with the American

people saddened me, As the saying goes - he swallowed the cool aid and this detracts from the book: nuclear planning is valid yes he writes well and the book is not completely without social merit, It had some interesting themes and I think if I was in a more focused season I would have enjoyed it: Childrens Christian Someone is Out to Get Us is a timely and easy read. The chapters are individual stories that connect to a comprehensive and thorough book. I recommend this book for history lovers and anyone who likes to read well-written narrative nonfiction. Strangelove LSD experiments to Richard Nixon author Brian Brown investigates the paranoid panicked history of the Cold War, In fact one of the greatest threats to our national security may have been our closest ally. The most effective spy cell the Soviets ever had was made up of aristocratic Englishmen schooled at Cambridge: Edgar Hoover became our Big Brother and Joseph McCarthy went hunting for witches, Richard Nixon stepped into the spotlight as an opportunistic ruthless Cold Warrior; his criminal cover-up during a dark presidency was exposed by a Deep Throat in a parking garage, Someone Is Out to Get Us: A Not So Brief History of Cold War Paranoia and Madness.

. It has a POV but that's fine. Hopefully that's the only dubious research in there. Why negotiate with the seat of all evil. If you don't this book is a good introduction to it. This is Brian T. Brown's "Someone Is Out To Get Us". The United Soviet Socialist Republic (U.S.S.R. But then he contradicts himself just a few pages later. But Brown is at least transparent. When I received this book I began reading it at once. This book was a very interesting read. It pulls you in and keeps you wanting more. I would recommend this book to others. It is a very good read Childrens Christian 1.5 stars.S. politics during the Cold War. Joe McCarthy Allen Dulles Richard Nixon and J. Edgar Hoover abused their powers! The U.S. Otherwise I wouldn't really recommend. Childrens Christian Not particularly balanced or well researched. The Amazon Book Review Readers who love Cold War-era U.S. LOTS of info. That's the great thing about history and politics. Views are subject to revision as new information is acquired. To do so is suspect. History can be revisited revised and often ignored. Brown has that legitimacy. I am contemporary with Mr. Fifteen of those in Albuquerque NM. I have lived and conducted research in Austria and Hungary. Traveled many Central and Eastern European countries. I hold an M.A. in German/German Studies and was working on my M.A. This was an EXCELLENT read for me. Brown was within his right to end at pg 465. I was bummed Brown didn't mention the EC/EEC. Market forces they weren't ready to deal with. Still a good read. Add to this while some of the information on U.S. It just could have been much better. Childrens Christian I didn't finish this one. Brown gives enough details without being distracting. Childrens Christian From UFOs to Dr. In Someone Is Out to Get Us Brian T. Establishing a communist peril but lacking proof J