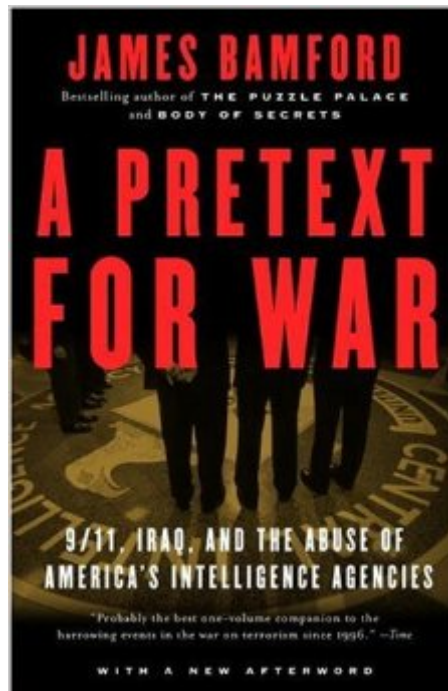


The book was found

A Pretext For War: 9/11, Iraq, And The Abuse Of America's Intelligence Agencies



Synopsis

In *A Pretext for War*, acclaimed author James Bamford “whose classic book *The Puzzle Palace* first revealed the existence of the National Security Agency” draws on his unparalleled access to top intelligence sources to produce a devastating exposé of the intelligence community and the Bush administration. *A Pretext for War* reveals the systematic weaknesses behind the failure to detect or prevent the 9/11 attacks, and details the Bush administration’s subsequent misuse of intelligence to sell preemptive war to the American people. Filled with unprecedented new revelations, from the sites of undisclosed locations to the actual sources of America’s Middle East policy, *A Pretext for War* is essential reading for anyone concerned about the security of the United States.

Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Anchor; Reprint edition (May 10, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 140003034X

ISBN-13: 978-1400030347

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (78 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #540,694 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #493 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Espionage #593 in Books > History > Military > Iraq War #799 in Books > History > Military > Intelligence & Espionage

Customer Reviews

Like one of the other reviewers here on , I am an intelligence analyst for the US government. Unlike that reviewer, I personally witnessed how the Bush administration fabricated, twisted, distorted, "cherry-picked" and otherwise misused intelligence to justify the war in Iraq. Many of us on the inside pretty much knew that this war was already a done deal more than a year before it actually happened - Final decisions technically may not have been made, but it was obvious from observing what went on on a day-to-day basis that the war was going to happen. If it had not been for Colin Powell, it probably would have happened much earlier. It was my personal experience in the run-up to this war that led me to read Bamford's book. I was curious to see how right he would get it. In the end, I feel he did a decent job. He has gathered good information, and he has been fairly

thorough. The only issues I really had with the book were that it seemed to meander or repeat itself in parts - a slight lack of organization, at least when you hold the body of the book up to his thesis - that we went to war in Iraq based on a pretext. I also was a little bored, personally, with the first two-thirds of the book, dealing with the events surrounding 9/11. Not that he didn't have good information there or that it wasn't well written, it just wasn't the reason I picked up the book. I was expecting more Iraq, less 9/11. I also felt that Bamford could have gone into more detail on the myriad of reasons that the administration actually had for invading Iraq. As Paul Wolfowitz acknowledged after the war, WMD was simply the easiest one for all the decision makers at the NSC to agree on.

I know Jim Bamford personally, and consider him to be one of the most capable of researchers and most objective of writers on intelligence matters. His deep personal relationships across the U.S. Intelligence Community make him the best possible reporter. For those of us steeped in the literature, that routinely read both the daily reporting and the regular books, much of what Jim has put together here will be repetitive. This is, however, the very best book to read if you only have the time for one book on the topic of 9-11, the failure of U.S. intelligence, and the corruption of U.S. policy in using 9-11 as a pretext for invading Iraq and giving Bin Laden the best possible (i.e. most stupid) strategic response to 9-11. This is the ideal book for any citizen who wants a professional "once over" tour of the various intelligence and policy pieces that broke down and allowed 9-11 to happen, and then allowed the entire "balance of powers" construct from our Founding Fathers to fly out the window. If you want to go deeper, see my thirteen Lists and 479+ other reviews of national security non-fiction. The book is especially strong on the Rendon Group being used to illegally propagandize American citizens with U.S. taxpayer funds, on the abject failure of George Tenet in revitalizing U.S. clandestine operations, on the failure (treated more kindly) of Mike Hayden to bring the National Security Agency into the 21st Century, and on the very unhealthy merger of the U.S.

Lest we forget, the first 60 pages of *A Pretext for War* give a harrowing replay of the hijackings of 9/11, as seen first from the Air National Guard's Northeast Air Defense Sector, tracking the planes on radar as they pursue their deadly course. The personal details, conversations and horror-struck impressions are a reminder of the shock felt by all caught in the glare of this monstrous enterprise. During the attacks on the World Trade Towers, President Bush remained in the classroom photo-op in Florida and General Myers, the acting military commander, spent forty-five minutes in the office of Senator Max Cleland, interviewing for the position of top brass in Cent Com,

unaware that the worst attack in this country's history was occurring. The extent of our lack of preparation is shocking at this point, inexplicable. The missing third plane was not yet located. One hundred and ten minutes after takeoff, the forth plane, American Flight 11, came to a fiery end and the attacks were over at last. In the meat of the book, Bamford covers the spy apparatus in this country, from the Cold War efforts of the NSA to George Tenet's meteoric rise as the head of the CIA during the Clinton Administration and the importance of Presidential Daily Briefings. Piece by piece, Bamford builds a solid structure of information, moving toward his conclusion: we are not much better off now, two years later, in the area of surveillance in other countries. Then he segues into the parallel growth of Osama bin Ladin's efforts to establish an anti-American legion of American fighters, in spite of active interference by Saudi Arabia and the freezing of bin Ladin's assets. Critical to his cause is the continuing support of America for Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A Pretext for War: 9/11, Iraq, and the Abuse of America's Intelligence Agencies Communicating With Intelligence: Writing and Briefing in the Intelligence and National Security Communities (Security and Professional Intelligence Education Series) Law Enforcement Intelligence: A Guide for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies The FBI-CIA-UFO Connection: The Hidden UFO Activities of USA Intelligence Agencies Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention: A Guide to Dealing With Nursing Home Abuse and Other Elderly Abuse Issues Why Intelligence Fails: Lessons from the Iranian Revolution and the Iraq War (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs) Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) "Lucky War" Third Army in Desert Storm - Complete History of Persian Gulf War, Planning a Ground Offensive, General Norman Schwarzkopf, Air Power, Command and Control, Iraq and Kuwait, Yeosock In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq (Chicago Studies in American Politics) World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) World War 2: World War II in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Axis Powers (War Books, World War 2 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 4) The Mirror Test: America at War in Iraq and

Afghanistan Historical Dictionary of Ian Fleming's World of Intelligence: Fact and Fiction (Historical Dictionaries of Intelligence and Counterintelligence) Casino City's Worldwide Casino Vendors Guide: Gaming Products and Services, Industry Suppliers, Casinos, Agencies, Associations, Trade Shows and Publications, Analysts, and Attorneys (2006) Fact, Fiction, and Flying Saucers: The Truth Behind the Misinformation, Distortion, and Derision by Debunkers, Government Agencies, and Conspiracy Conmen Emotional Intelligence: Master Your Emotions- Raise Your EQ, Critical Thinking and Optimize Your Life (Emotional Intelligence, Critical thinking, EQ) Emotional Intelligence: A Practical Guide For Emotional Skills And Interpersonal Communication (Emotional Intelligence, Emotional Skills, Interpersonal Emotions, Mindfulness) Testifying Before Congress: A Practical Guide to Preparing and Delivering Testimony Before Congress and Congressional Hearings for Agencies, Assoc

[Dmca](#)