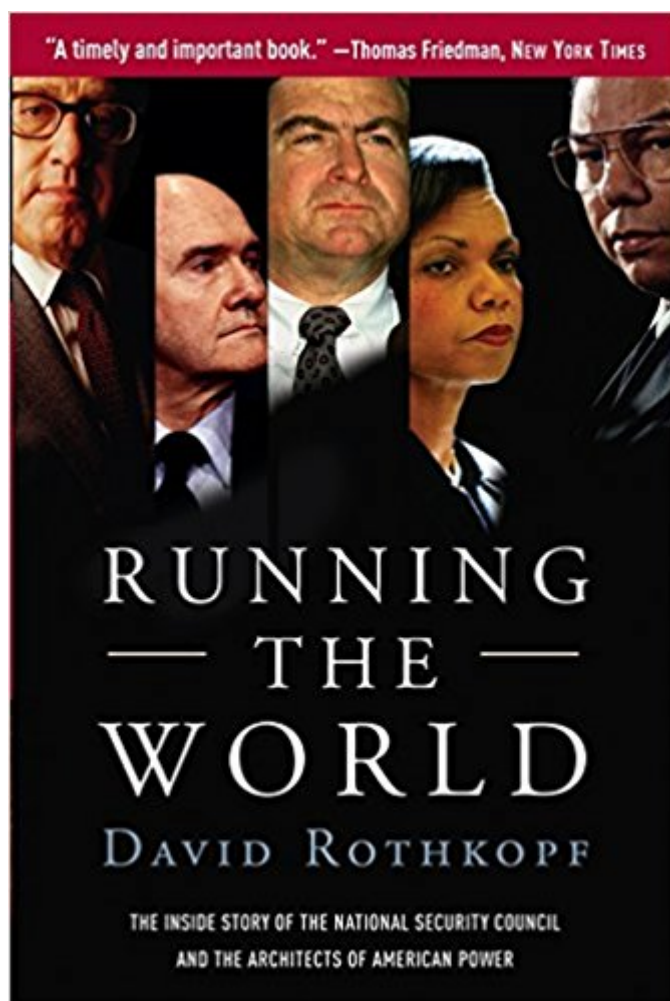


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Running The World: The Inside Story Of The National Security Council And The Architects Of American Power



Synopsis

Never before in the history of mankind have so few people had so much power over so many. The people at the top of the American national security establishment, the President and his principal advisors, the core team at the helm of the National Security Council, are without question the most powerful committee in the history of the world. Yet, in many respects, they are among the least understood. A former senior official in the Clinton Administration himself, David Rothkopf served with and knows personally many of the NSC's key players of the past twenty-five years. In *Running the World* he pulls back the curtain on this shadowy world to explore its inner workings, its people, their relationships, their contributions and the occasions when they have gone wrong. He traces the group's evolution from the final days of the Second World War to the post-Cold War realities of global terrorism; exploring its triumphs, its human dramas and most recently, what many consider to be its breakdown at a time when we needed it most. Drawing on an extraordinary series of insider interviews with policy makers including Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, senior officials of the Bush Administration, and over 130 others, the book offers unprecedented insights into what must change if America is to maintain its unprecedented worldwide leadership in the decades ahead.

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Customer Reviews

The NSC is a semi-defined group – the president, vice president, secretaries of defense and state, national security adviser and staff, and other officials as needed – with the open-ended

mission of helping the president decide and coordinate military and foreign policy. Its institutional vagueness makes it an ill-chosen framework for this engaging but unfocused study of postwar American policy making. Working from interviews with NSC members, Rothkopf, an academic and Clinton administration commerce official, examines the NSC's history from its 1947 inception onward, reviewing its performance in major foreign policy crises and tracing the rising influence of the NSA post. He delves into bureaucratic minutiae, but focuses on such "Shakespearean" human factors as the character and managerial style of the president and the personal "chemistry" and patronage networks among his cabinet and advisers. Rothkopf prefers a centrist, internationalist security policy, with experienced hands restraining ideologues; he therefore gives high marks to the NSC under Nixon, Carter and Bush 41, while castigating the Reagan and Bush 43 administrations. He presents a wealth of information, but the NSC's ad hoc purview, unstable structure and personality-driven dynamics make it hard to discern a coherent outline of American policy among its wranglings. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Anecdotal, garrulous, even gossipy at times. [RUSSING THE WORLD] is just like school--"only with higher stakes." "The NSC's central role in crafting U.S. policy is widely unrecognized by the public, which makes the arrival of Rothkopf's book cheering." "Vividly illustrates how a small group of people around the president has shaped the major events of our time. This is a must-read for anyone interested in international affairs."

Very well written, and from other material I've read, accurate. While it does not offer a favorable accounting of White House performance, it does offer a more realistic perspective than anyone depending on mass media for information can understand. What should be noticed by novice readers is that the context for decisions follows a trend created by earlier decisions, and to a great degree on the personalities of the individuals. Important positions in decision-making depend as much on such personalities as on constitutional precepts. Details seem to be left to the reader to pursue, but for anyone wanting to "look behind the curtain," the book is a must read. I enjoyed reading it.

Very interesting view into recent history (quite recent, actually). Very interesting perspectives into decision making and the way in which political necessities get in the way of enlightened policy design. Fascinating insights into the acceleration of history and how it forces decisions with less

thoughtfulness than one would hope.

Wonderful glimpse into the world of the National Security Council and executive branch decision making process. Easy to read and easy to digest in an anecdotal form.

This is an outstanding history and analysis of the National Security Council and a must read for anyone interested in the topic, including professions and members of a wider public audience. Rothkopf knows the people and the institutions he writes about. His analysis is incisive and revealing.

I loved this book as well as all of Rothkopf's other works. Very informative as well as interesting. Anyone wishing to find out how U.S. foreign policy has developed over the last 60+ years to put current events in their proper context should absolutely read this book.

great

Anything and everything you want to know about the NSC is here! Well written and very well documented.

Great price, exactly what I was looking for, and speedy delivery, who could ask for more!

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