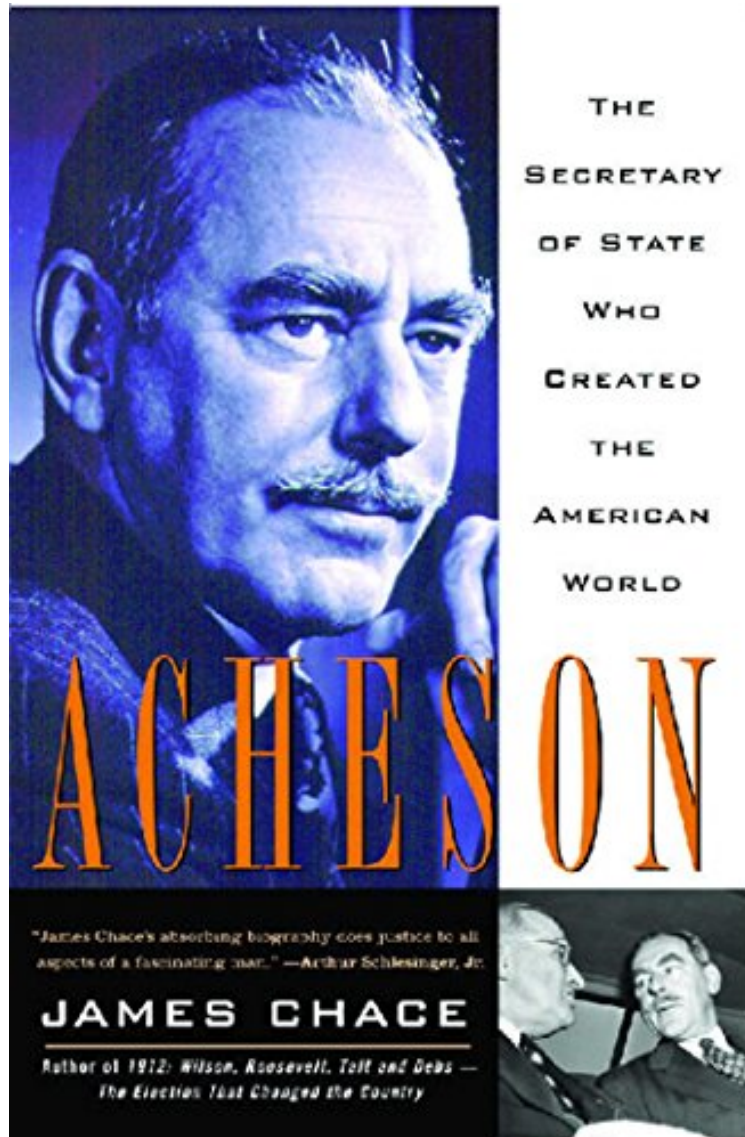


[Download free pdf] Acheson: The Secretary Of State Who Created The American World (English Edition)

Acheson: The Secretary Of State Who Created The American World (English Edition)

Von James Chace

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #1558299 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2008-06-30Erscheinungsdatum: 2008-06-30File Name: B0033DDIO6 | File size: 62.Mb

Von James Chace : Acheson: The Secretary Of State Who Created The American World (English Edition)

before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Acheson: The Secretary Of State Who Created The American World (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Story of an American Diplomatic GiantVon MichaelI recommend this book for anyone aspiring to be America's chief

diplomat and chief foreign policy advisor to presidents. This is the story of Dean Acheson, the American diplomat who helped to create NATO, helped to rebuild Europe after WWII, and later set the stages for the decades-long fight against Communism. This book doesn't reveal anything new about the Cold War that you can't find in Ronald Steel's *Walter Lippmann and the American Century* and Walter LaFeber's *The American Age*. Instead, the author does a good job of bringing the Secretary of State to life by revealing his human side. As an associate in the new law firm of Covington and Burling, Mr. Acheson decides to pursue his own line of argument in court which prompts old man Burling to shove a piece of paper at Mr. Acheson bearing the words "SHUT UP!" In another colorful account, Mr. Acheson tries to punch a nasty US senator from across the table but is restrained by an assistant who says: "Take it easy, boss; take it easy." Wow, who would have thought that history could be so exciting. The book is sometimes inadvertently funny because Mr. Chace tries to place Mr. Acheson at every historic event. What was Mr. Acheson's contribution to the Lend-Lease program to England? Says Mr. Chace: "Acheson thoroughly approved of the lend-lease idea" but "wished he could come up with a brilliant suggestion, but he had none." And Mr. Acheson's contribution to the creation of the IMF? He played a small role but "was prepared to defend it vigorously before congressional committees." You almost expect to read that while Mr. Acheson was picking his teeth or getting a manicure, he heartily approved of this plan or that. Nevertheless, this is an interesting book if you are a fan of American history.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting but oh so long
Von RW Smith
As Mr. Gower noted below, this book will definitely be the comprehensive Dean Acheson biography for years to come. But it packs so much play-by-play of Mr. Acheson's life -- his testimony in Congress, what he was doing when President Roosevelt died, how he responded to this nuclear policy or that, and where he lived during this life -- that the book becomes tedious. Don't get me wrong, this is an interesting book. But I only read halfway through because it became boring. I recommend reading another book that a reviewer below recommended: Walter LaFeber's "The American Century." It gives a bigger picture of the Cold War and doesn't bore the reader as quickly as this door stopper (that book, too, can get boring). But that is the nature of books written with page numbers and not the reader in mind. If Mr. Chace ever decided to become a college professor, his department would grant him tenure on the basis of the length of his book alone (even though no one would probably read his book).

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Finally! A Dean Acheson biography, but there's nothing new
Von Katherine
After reading countless books about Cold War history, I noticed that there weren't any objective and comprehensive biographies of the former Secretary of State. So it was with much anticipation that I read Mr. Chace's book. Did I learn anything new about Mr. Acheson and did Mr. Chace's biography reveal any discoveries? Yes and no. This book is simply a long compilation of facts published into a book. But the book does give piercing insight into how people of prestige and high social class are constantly given benefits that they did not earn or deserve. Mr. Acheson somehow attended the prestigious Groton school, then Yale, and then Harvard Law School despite the "gentlemen's C's" throughout his educational career (as described by Mr. Chace). Of course, anyone else would have been labelled "lazy" or not "getting with the program." I am glad to see that, in his day, a double-standard was set for Mr. Acheson.

Kurzbeschreibung Acheson is the first complete biography of the most important and controversial secretary of state of the twentieth century. More than any other of the renowned "Wise Men" who together proposed our vision of the world in the aftermath of World War II, Dean Acheson was the quintessential man of action. Drawing on Acheson family diaries and letters as well as recent revelations from Russian and Chinese archives, historian James Chace traces Acheson's remarkable life, from his days as a schoolboy at Groton and his carefree life at Yale to his work for President Franklin Roosevelt on international financial policy and his unique partnership with President Truman. Acheson was a housemate of Cole Porter's at Harvard Law School, a protégé of Supreme Court justice Felix Frankfurter's, a friend of poet Archibald MacLeish's, a key adviser to General George Marshall, and a confidant of Winston Churchill's. Serving as Truman's secretary of state from 1949 to 1953, he was indeed "present at the creation," as he entitled his memoirs. More than any other of Truman's powerful and glamorous advisers, Acheson conceived the shape of the postwar world and mastered the policies that ensured its birth and endurance. He was the driving force behind the Truman Doctrine to contain the Soviet Union's expansionist ambitions; the Marshall Plan to rebuild the shattered economies of Europe; and NATO, the military alliance that would bind Western Europe and the United States and keep the Soviet Union firmly behind the Iron Curtain until it collapsed. Chace corrects many misconceptions about Acheson's role in the Cold War. Acheson was not one of the original Cold Warriors. In 1945, willing to acknowledge Soviet concerns about its security, Acheson worked closely with Secretary of War Henry Stimson on a plan to share America's scientific information about atomic energy with Moscow in order to avert an arms race. It was only when Moscow made threatening demands on Turkey for bases in the Dardanelles that Acheson hardened his views toward the Soviet Union. Acheson's initial approach toward Communist China was similarly nonideological. He had little sympathy for Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists on Taiwan and, until the outbreak of the Korean War, held out hope that the United States would soon recognize Mao Zedong's regime as the legitimate

government of China. Acheson's early pragmatism toward Moscow and Beijing, and his refusal to denounce Alger Hiss, a State Department colleague accused of being a Communist, earned him the enmity of the McCarthyites, who accused Acheson of having "lost" China and of sabotaging General Douglas MacArthur in Korea. Later, Acheson encouraged President Kennedy to stand firm against the Soviets in the Berlin Wall and Cuban missile crises. He headed a group of elder statesmen who advised President Johnson on the Vietnam War. When Acheson turned against the war, Johnson realized that domestic support for his policy had crumbled. Acheson is a masterful biography of a great statesman whose policies won the Cold War. It is also an important and dramatic work of history chronicling the momentous decisions, events, and fascinating personalities of the most critical decades of the American Century.

World Policy Journal editor James Chace has produced a balanced, intricate portrait of Secretary of State Dean Acheson, one of the chief architects of America's foreign policy in the mid-20th century. Starting with Acheson's childhood as a preacher's son in Connecticut, Chace traces his subject's rise through Yale and Harvard Law School (where he shared a house with several classmates, including a pre-Broadway Cole Porter), a two-year stint as Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis's law clerk, and key roles in the Departments of Treasury and State under FDR. But it was Harry Truman who, upon being reelected in 1948, rewarded Acheson with the offer of secretary of state, a position he took with some initial reluctance, protesting that he was not adequate to the requirements of the job at such a critical juncture in history. He proved himself wrong with his decisive role in the shaping of the Truman Doctrine and the NATO alliance, averting war with the Soviet bloc on the European front. But, as Chace shows, Acheson's efforts were not as effective in China and Korea. And there were domestic problems as well; Acheson and his department were a particular target of the anticommunist witch-hunt even before Sen. Joseph McCarthy got in on the act. Chace's richly detailed narrative is particularly effective in placing Acheson's marginal role in the Alger Hiss affair in its proper context while highlighting Acheson's personal integrity in the matter. After 1953, Acheson remained an outspoken commentator on America's foreign policy, frequently criticizing Eisenhower's reliance on nuclear weaponry, and serving in an advisory capacity to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, the latter of whom took Acheson's advice to get out of Vietnam to heart. Acheson even had occasion to advise Richard Nixon, who had accused the secretary in 1952 of heading a "Cowardly College of Communist Containment," although he broke with Nixon after the president ordered the bombing of Cambodia. Chace's account of Acheson's life and career is as lively as it is intelligent, a well-crafted story that provides the reader with much insight into the unintended origins of the cold war. --Ron Hogan

World Policy Journal editor James Chace has produced a balanced, intricate portrait of Secretary of State Dean Acheson, one of the chief architects of America's foreign policy in the mid-20th century. Starting with Acheson's childhood as a preacher's son in Connecticut, Chace traces his subject's rise through Yale and Harvard Law School (where he shared a house with several classmates, including a pre-Broadway Cole Porter), a two-year stint as Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis's law clerk, and key roles in the Departments of Treasury and State under FDR. But it was Harry Truman who, upon being reelected in 1948, rewarded Acheson with the offer of secretary of state, a position he took with some initial reluctance, protesting that he was not adequate to the requirements of the job at such a critical juncture in history. He proved himself wrong with his decisive role in the shaping of the Truman Doctrine and the NATO alliance, averting war with the Soviet bloc on the European front. But, as Chace shows, Acheson's efforts were not as effective in China and Korea. And there were domestic problems as well; Acheson and his department were a particular target of the anticommunist witch-hunt even before Sen. Joseph McCarthy got in on the act. Chace's richly detailed narrative is particularly effective in placing Acheson's marginal role in the Alger Hiss affair in its proper context while highlighting Acheson's personal integrity in the matter. After 1953, Acheson remained an outspoken commentator on America's foreign policy, frequently criticizing Eisenhower's reliance on nuclear weaponry, and serving in an advisory capacity to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, the latter of whom took Acheson's advice to get out of Vietnam to heart. Acheson even had occasion to advise Richard Nixon, who had accused the secretary in 1952 of heading a "Cowardly College of Communist Containment," although he broke with Nixon after the president ordered the bombing of Cambodia. Chace's account of Acheson's life and career is as lively as it is intelligent, a well-crafted story that provides the reader with much insight into the unintended origins of the cold war. --Ron Hogan