

Chapter 1 : Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars: The Covert Life of a Soviet Spy by G. Edward White

alger hiss soviet union looking-glass wars whittaker chambers state department kgb archives hiss was guilt edward white hiss case hiss also hiss looking-glass hiss never innocence hiss evidence american perjury question communist russian defense.

Alle productspecificaties Samenvatting For decades, a great number of Americans saw Alger Hiss as an innocent victim of McCarthyism—a distinguished diplomat railroaded by an ambitious Richard Nixon. And even as the case against Hiss grew over time, his dignified demeanor helped create an aura of innocence that outshone the facts in many minds. Why did this talented lawyer become a Communist and a Soviet spy? Why did he devote so much of his life to an extensive public campaign to deny his espionage? And how, without producing any new evidence, did he convince many people that he was innocent? The story of Alger Hiss is in part a reflection of Cold War America—a time of ideological passions, partisan battles, and secret lives. It is also a story that transcends a particular historical era—a story about individuals who choose to engage in espionage for foreign powers and the secret worlds they choose to conceal. Toon meer Toon minder Recensie s A great read, a real page-turner. This is the first of the books about Alger Hiss fully to accept that he was a Soviet spy. White moves on to ask the fascinating question—if Hiss was guilty of everything he was charged with and more, why did he spend his post-prison decades steadfastly proclaiming his innocence? The answer seems to be that this was how Hiss had dealt with all the major crises of his earlier life. And this book explains what they were in lucid and compelling prose. Edward White provides a nuanced biographical study of how Hiss dealt with various challenges in his life and how his steadfast insistence on his innocence despite all of the damning evidence fits into that pattern. White combines this psychological study with a discerning analysis of the evidence available at the time of the trial as well as that coming to light subsequently along with an insightful review of the literature on the case. Historians, Communism, and Espionage and Venona: Decoding Soviet Espionage in America Should be the final and definitive history of the famous case. White presents an Alger Hiss with some depth and significance, a consummate spy who was able to maintain the facade of innocence for nearly half of his life. It is the achievement of G. White has written the best book ever about Alger Hiss. Ybarra, The Wall Street Journal With its incisive analysis and readability, this is a worthwhile addition to the vast Hiss literature. Edward White has provided a definitive analysis of the Hiss case.

Chapter 2 : Editions of Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars: The Covert Life of a Soviet Spy by G. Edward White

Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars The Covert Life of a Soviet Spy G. Edward White. G. Edward White deftly draws together the countless details of Alger Hiss's life--from his brilliant success at Harvard to his later career as a self-made martyr to McCarthyism--to paint a fascinating portrait of a man whose life was devoted to perpetuating a lie.

News and commentary on organized crime, street crime, white collar crime, cyber crime, sex crime, crime fiction, crime prevention, espionage and terrorism. The Covert Life of a Soviet Spy. Somehow, the Hiss case never goes away. The basic question—whether Alger Hiss was a spy for the Soviet Union during the 1940s and 1950s—was finally settled during the 1990s, as Cold War archives opened and documents proving his guilt became available. But other issues remained uncertain. Unlike many other Soviet spies who confessed their guilt, Hiss went to his grave in claiming to be innocent; he left no record of why he had committed espionage or why he denied it publicly for almost 50 years. Born in 1904, Alger Hiss graduated from Johns Hopkins University and Harvard Law School, worked as a secretary for Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, and, like many educated liberals, migrated toward the radical left during the Depression. Although it is unclear when he was recruited by the Soviets, Hiss may have been working for them as early as 1941. While at the State Department, he routinely passed documents to Whittaker Chambers, an American communist working for Soviet intelligence, who photographed them and delivered the film to the Soviets. At the time, however, the government was more concerned with German and Japanese threats. Although the inquiry did not produce enough evidence to prove that Hiss was a spy, it raised enough questions that Hiss was forced to leave the State Department in 1950. The case became public in August when Chambers, called before the House Un-American Activities Committee, named Hiss as a communist, although he said nothing about his espionage. Hiss denied the charge and challenged Chambers to repeat it in public, without the immunity of testimony; Chambers did so, and Hiss filed a slander suit. Because the statute of limitations covering espionage during the 1940s had expired, Hiss was indicted instead for lying to a grand jury when he had denied his activities. After two dramatic trials—the first ended in a hung jury—the second Hiss was convicted and served 44 months in federal prison. At the same time, he had an altruistic nature and was frustrated by the slow pace of social reform during the New Deal. That he may have, in addition, seen himself as working to alleviate human suffering must have made him an easy recruit for the Soviets. White suggests that Hiss may initially have simply underestimated the strength of the case against him and thought he could lie his way out of trouble—a good bet, given that the State Department investigation had been inconclusive. This strategy failed as the government chipped away at his denials with witnesses and physical evidence, forcing him to keep adjusting his story until he lost his credibility. Once convicted, Hiss was determined to be vindicated. Since he had no new evidence or legal grounds on which to build a case, he sought to shift the focus of the debate from his acts to those of others. While in jail, Hiss took on the persona of a martyr: He appeared to accept the injustice of his fate, was stoic and never complained, and gained the respect of his fellow inmates as a prisoner who never sought favors or turned informer. White details how, after his release, Hiss made these characteristics the foundation of a new public personality and recast his story as a human drama. The Vietnam War, social upheaval, and Watergate discredited many of the institutions of American politics and society, and especially called into question much of what had been believed about the Cold War. White shows how Hiss in this period shifted his narrative, emphasizing his claim to be the victim of a government conspiracy. To many of the disillusioned, distrustful young people in the early 1960s and 1970s, his claim seemed credible. Hiss became a popular speaker on campuses. He also managed to expand his appeal beyond students—White documents that many older, prominent people who once had believed him guilty became unsure of their views. You can read the rest of the piece via the below link:

Chapter 3 : The Alger Hiss Story » Reviews

All of these events set the stage for different "looking-glass wars" Rather than center around Hiss's perjury trial, this history examines how Hiss's image has changed throughout the years. Different generations and events have inspired people to condemn Alger Hiss or perceive him as a misunderstood figure of liberalism.

Oxford University Press, The basic question—whether Alger Hiss was a spy for the Soviet Union during the s and —was finally settled during the s, as Cold War archives opened and documents proving his guilt became available. But other issues remained uncertain. Unlike many other Soviet spies who confessed their guilt, Hiss went to his grave in claiming to be innocent; he left no record of why he had committed espionage or why he denied it publicly for almost 50 years. Born in , Alger Hiss graduated from Johns Hopkins University and Harvard Law School, worked as a secretary for Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, and, like many educated liberals, migrated toward the radical left during the Depression. Although it is unclear when he was recruited by the Soviets, Hiss may have been working for them as early as . While at the State Department, he routinely passed documents to Whittaker Chambers, an American communist working for Soviet intelligence, who photographed them and delivered the film to the Soviets. At the time, however, the government was more concerned with German and Japanese threats. Although the inquiry did not produce enough evidence to prove that Hiss was a spy, it raised enough questions that Hiss was forced to leave the State Department in . The case became public in August when Chambers, called before the House Un-American Activities Committee, named Hiss as a communist, although he said nothing about his espionage. Hiss denied the charge and challenged Chambers to repeat it in public, without the immunity of testimony; Chambers did so, and Hiss filed a slander suit. Because the statute of limitations covering espionage during the s had expired, Hiss was indicted instead for lying to a grand jury when he had denied his activities. After two dramatic trials—the first ended in a hung jury—Hiss was convicted and served 44 months in federal prison. At the same time, he had an altruistic nature and was frustrated by the slow pace of social reform during the New Deal. That he may have, in addition, seen himself as working to alleviate human suffering must have made him an easy recruit for the Soviets. White suggests that Hiss may initially have simply underestimated the strength of the case against him and thought he could lie his way out of trouble—a good bet, given that the State Department investigation had been inconclusive. This strategy failed as the government chipped away at his denials with witnesses and physical evidence, forcing him to keep adjusting his story until he lost his credibility. Once convicted, Hiss was determined to be vindicated. Since he had no new evidence or legal grounds on which to build a case, he sought to shift the focus of the debate from his acts to those of others. While in jail, Hiss took on the persona of a martyr: He appeared to accept the injustice of his fate, was stoic and never complained, and gained the respect of his fellow inmates as a prisoner who never sought favors or turned informer. White details how, after his release, Hiss made these characteristics the foundation of a new public personality and recast his story as a human drama. The Vietnam War, social upheaval, and Watergate discredited many of the institutions of American politics and society, and especially called into question much of what had been believed about the Cold War. White shows how Hiss in this period shifted his narrative, emphasizing his claim to be the victim of a government conspiracy. To many of the disillusioned, distrustful young people in the early and mids, his claim seemed credible. Hiss became a popular speaker on campuses. He also managed to expand his appeal beyond students—White documents that many older, prominent people who once had believed him guilty became unsure of their views. Unused to the personal attacks that Navasky and other Hiss sympathizers unleashed, Weinstein did a poor job of defending himself. As a result, Hiss was able to keep the issue confused while he pressed on with his campaign, petitioning in federal court in the late s to have his conviction voided. Despite all his efforts to change the focus to personalities and allegations of government wrongdoing, however, he still could not produce any new legal evidence and lost his case. Volkogonov did so and wrote a letter to Lowenthal stating that Hiss had not been a Soviet spy. The letter received widespread attention in the United States, and Hiss and his backers celebrated—until, a few weeks later, Volkogonov wrote another letter, stating that his search had not been thorough and that his previous statement should not

have been seen as vindicating Hiss. The releases of archival materials and decrypted intelligence communications from the —particularly the Venona cables, released in —ended any chance that Hiss could be exonerated. A manipulative, secretive, and controlling figure, Hiss can now be seen as an ordinary spy, albeit one who remains more notorious than most. White, to his credit, achieves this with prose that, except for a few spots, is clear and direct, and makes for fascinating reading. Still, one thing is lacking in the literature of the Hiss case. Viking, , This article is unclassified in its entirety. Apr 14, Jun 26,

Chapter 4 : Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars - G Edward White - Häftad () | Bokus

Alger Hiss's Looking Glass Wars does not reveal any new facts or evidence regarding Hiss, but the book still is an important addition to the literature of the case. White's focus on personality "grounded in thorough research" provides a useful and insightful way to look at Hiss.

Search event listings In the last half of the s, America was worried about communists. The accuser was a man who claimed to have been a Soviet courier in the s. Other government officials were accused and acted in a way that seemed guilty. A former White House adviser fled to Colombia. A State Department official fled to Hungary. Many stayed but refused to testify. In contrast, Hiss acted like an innocent man. He went right to the committee and declared his innocence. And when the accusation got really serious " that he had been a spy " he continued to act like an innocent man. Always there was an aura of ambiguity around him. In the s, researchers found documents in which Russian operatives refer to Hiss as their agent, sometimes under the code name "Ales" and sometimes under the name Hiss. Edward White, law professor at the University of Virginia. Experts said the copies had been made on the Hiss family typewriter. For 50 years, Hiss spun a story that the government had reverse-engineered a typewriter in order to frame him. Hiss merely had to wait for a generation that had never heard the case against him. They saw him as a victim of Nixon. They liked his politics so they accepted his innocence. Besides, he acted innocent. In came "Perjury," a book that should have pulled down the Hiss tent. The author, Allen Weinstein, had begun his research by expecting to side with Hiss but changed his mind. Weinstein proclaimed Hiss guilty, reviewing the old evidence, and some new evidence, in a solid case. White shows how Weinstein, an academic unaccustomed to partisan combat, undercut himself by being drawn into a fight with the very partisan editor of The Nation, and became labeled as a partisan himself. Weinstein also made a mistake on a footnote, got sued for libel and had to pay. These missteps allowed people to dismiss him. The ambiguity around Hiss remained. Deliberately ambiguous, the teleplay left open the possibility that Hiss had been framed. Hiss died in , maintaining his innocence to the end. But the evidence was overwhelming that he was not. The strength of this book is its reinterpretation of 50 years of politics and public psychology. That is the problem of writing a book about a man who presented a false front to the world. You can write about the front and its falseness but never quite see behind the front. In that sense only, the ambiguity remains. Bruce Ramsey is a Seattle Times editorial writer.

Chapter 5 : Priscilla Hiss - Wikipedia

Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars: The Covert Life of a Soviet Spy For decades, a great number of Americans saw Alger Hiss as an innocent victim of McCarthyism—a distinguished diplomat railroaded by an ambitious Richard Nixon.

In , she graduated cum laude from Bryn Mawr College. There were two principle areas of interest in her testimony. First, had she typed documents found in the "Baltimore Documents" scores of typewritten documents plus several documents handwritten by Hiss and Harry Dexter White? She denied both allegations. I warned both Alger and Priscilla that if there were any skeletons in the closet of either one of them, they would certainly be discovered if suit were filed, and they both assured me there was no cause for worry on that count. However, I found my interview with Priscilla somewhat mystifying. I had asked to see her alone after Alger had left for the office, and we talked for nearly an hour. I got the impression that she felt that in some way she was responsible for the troubles which had come to Alger. Miscarriage of Justice To the Editor: For more than a quarter of a century, I have kept silence amid the clamor concerning the conviction of Alger Hiss. Recently, statements have appeared in print to the effect that I have made remarks indicating that Alger Hiss was guilty. I fear that if I do not now speak out, my silence will be Interpreted as confirming these statements. I have never spoken a word to the contrary. To me the conviction of Alger Hiss represents a cruel miscarriage of justice. I do not intend to make any further statements concerning this painful subject. In , they had one son, Timothy Hobson. In , they divorced; her alumni records show here "divorced" in Priscilla in the same year married Alger Hiss , [10]: On August 5, , they had one son, Tony Hiss. In , they separated but did not divorce. Alger Hiss remarried after her death and outlived her by 12 years. They had met earlier, in , on an ocean-liner to England. Their nicknames for each other were "Hill" or "Hilly" and "Prossy" important because during proceedings Whittaker Chambers and Esther Shemitz remembered "Hilly" and "Dilly". Presidential election when Norman Thomas was the Socialist candidate. Priscilla snap[ped] back that it might be nice day for people with homes. Fansler, Priscilla Harriet A. Alger Hiss, formerly Mrs. I carried away an impression of a rather self-assertive woman, who had no intention of letting Alger "steal the show" I got the impression that he felt it wiser that his mother and Priscilla should not be too near one another. Charles Hiss was a rather masterful character in her own right, and Priscilla was not exactly the type of a submissive daughter-in-law. Carnegie Corporation, [3] [12] [5] [13] [5].

Chapter 6 : Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars : G. Edward White :

For decades, a great number of Americans saw Alger Hiss as an innocent victim of McCarthyism--a distinguished diplomat railroaded by an ambitious Richard Nixon. And even as the case against Hiss grew over time, his dignified demeanor helped create an aura of innocence that outshone the facts in many minds.

Chapter 7 : Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars — Central Intelligence Agency

Get this from a library! Alger Hiss's looking-glass wars: the covert life of a Soviet spy. [G Edward White; Rogers D. Spotswood Collection.] -- "For decades, a great number of Americans saw Alger Hiss as an innocent victim of McCarthyism - a distinguished diplomat railroaded by an ambitious Richard Nixon.

Chapter 8 : Paul Davis On Crime: Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars: The Covert Life Of A Soviet Spy

I found Alger Hiss's Looking Glass Wars to be a well-informed, and well-thought out analysis of Hiss's motives for spying and, for nearly fifty years, denying his guilt. Despite what some wish to believe, Hiss's guilt was definitively established by the archival releases of the mids.

Chapter 9 : Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars: The Covert Life of a Soviet Spy - G. Edward White - Google

DOWNLOAD PDF ALGER HISS LOOKING-GLASS WARS

Now, in Alger Hiss's Looking-Glass Wars, G. Edward White, a law professor at the University of Virginia and son-in-law of one of Hiss's lawyers, provides a convincing analysis of Hiss's reasons.