



Spy Who Saved the World (P)

Jerrold L. Schecter , Peter S. Deriabin

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The gripping true story of the greatest spy of the Cold War.

Spy Who Saved the World (P) Details

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From Reader Review Spy Who Saved the World (P) for online ebook

Rich G says

This is a true account of how a Russian colonel, passed over for promotion in Communist Russia because his father was a "White Russian", became an important asset to the US and UK during the early 1960's and passed on crucial information in the months and weeks leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis. The principal US agent, Joseph Bulik, was an acquaintance of mine in the 1980's and early 1990's and signed my copy of the book, so I have a less than impartial view of this book. However, anyone with an interest in the very real crisis during October 1962 when the world probably came as close as ever to nuclear war, or interest in general espionage will increase their understanding of international intrigue and some of the nuts and bolts of how real agents operate. This particular case had a sad outcome, in part due to difficulties encountered while two different agencies, CIA and MI6, tried to "run" a foreign agent.

Kristina Bulik-hocum says

My dad is in this book so...

John says

A good story if a little thick at times

Ironman Ninetytwo says

An enthralling and amazing story about how one well-connected citizen with access to secrets but whose career aspirations were foiled handed over political and scientific data that allowed Kennedy to defy Khrushchev's dangerous advances in Berlin and Cuba. This book had many pages of transcripts of debriefings with intelligence handlers, that thoroughly discuss the details of the material Penkovsky turned over and also the tradecraft of their interaction. It is particularly interesting how difficult it was for Penkovsky to initiate contact with the West due to the likelihood that any contact was a provocation. It's a "true" story that has inspired many fictional and movie characterizations of espionage. Although my original intent was to read this and clear shelf space, I started to think that I was going to retain this book as an important, primary source.

I'm not going to retain it. All factual books pertaining to intelligence are compromised by a continual, compulsive desire to disinform within the intelligence community. When much of this material was released in the early 1960s (The Penkovsky Papers), it was for propaganda purposes. This book is another layer of the same onion. Why was such deep access to the records of the Penkovsky case given, even in the 1990s? Who benefits and why? What was withheld and what was mischaracterized? To even begin to understand these questions would require years of study and only lead to frustration.
