



# The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War

*H. W. Brands*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War

H. W. Brands

## **The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War** H. W. Brands

In the late 1950s, Washington was driven by its fear of communist subversion: it saw the hand of Kremlin behind developments at home and across the globe. The FBI was obsessed with the threat posed by American communist party--yet party membership had sunk so low, writes H.W. Brands, that it could have fit "inside a high-school gymnasium," and it was so heavily infiltrated that J. Edgar Hoover actually contemplated using his informers as a voting bloc to take over the party. Abroad, the preoccupation with communism drove the White House to help overthrow democratically elected governments in Guatemala and Iran, and replace them with dictatorships. But by then the Cold War had long since blinded Americans to the ironies of their battle against communism.

In *The Devil We Knew*, Brands provides a witty, perceptive history of the American experience of the Cold War, from Truman's creation of the CIA to Ronald Reagan's creation of SDI. Brands has written a number of highly regarded works on America in the twentieth century; here he puts his experience to work in a volume of impeccable scholarship and exceptional verve. He turns a critical eye to the strategic conceptions (and misconceptions) that led a once-isolationist nation to pursue the war against communism to the most remote places on Earth. By the time Eisenhower left office, the United States was fighting communism by backing dictators from Iran to South Vietnam, from Latin America to the Middle East--while engaging in covert operations the world over. Brands offers no apologies for communist behavior, but he deftly illustrates the strained thinking that led Washington to commit gravely disproportionate resources (including tens of thousands of lives in Korea and Vietnam) to questionable causes. He keenly analyzes the changing policies of each administration, from Nixon's juggling (SALT talks with Moscow, new relations with Communist China, and bombing North Vietnam) to Carter's confusion to Reagan's laserrattling. Equally important is his incisive, often amusing look at how the anti-Soviet struggle was exploited by politicians, industrialists, and government agencies. He weaves in deft sketches of figures like Barry Goldwater and Henry Jackson (who won a Senate seat with the promise, "Many plants will be converting from peace time to all-out defense production"). We see John F. Kennedy deliver an eloquent speech in 1957 defending the rising forces of nationalism in Algeria and Vietnam; we also see him in the White House a few years later, ordering a massive increase in America's troop commitment to Saigon. The book ranges through the economics and psychology of the Cold War, demonstrating how the confrontation created its own constituencies in private industry and public life.

In the end, Americans claimed victory in the Cold War, but Brands's account gives us reason to tone down the celebrations. "Most perversely," he writes, "the call to arms against communism caused American leaders to subvert the principles that constituted their country's best argument against communism." This far-reaching history makes clear that the Cold War was simultaneously far more, and far less, than we ever imagined at the time.

 [Download The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War H. W. Brands**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Maria Tate:**

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time to read a book. These are reading whatever they have because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Consider the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you should have this The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War.

#### **Ralph Smith:**

Throughout other case, little people like to read book The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. So long as we know about how is important a new book The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, since from book you can realize everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you may be known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you could know that. In this era, you can open a book or searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel weary to go to the library. Let's examine.

#### **Michael Clark:**

Do you have something that you like such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to decide on book like comic, short story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not hoping The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War that give your satisfaction preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world much better then how they react toward the world. It can't be explained constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to be success person. So , for all of you who want to start examining as your good habit, you are able to pick The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War become your own starter.

#### **Katie Broadnax:**

Reading a e-book make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is composed or printed or created from each source that filled update of news. In this modern era like at this point, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social such as newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, book and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Ready to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just looking for the The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War when you required it?

**Download and Read Online The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War H. W. Brands #NPZ0MIU469G**

## **Read The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands for online ebook**

The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands books to read online.

### **Online The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands ebook PDF download**

**The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands Doc**

**The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands Mobipocket**

**The Devil We Knew: Americans and the Cold War by H. W. Brands EPub**