

# The Haldeman Diaries: Inside the Nixon White House

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Never-before-published diaries from Richard Nixon's late Chief of Staff offer a meticulously detailed behind-the-scenes account of his years at the White House that included Agnew's resignation, Cambodian bombings, and Watergate.

Here is a chilling view of the Nixon administration from one who was at its center. H. R. Haldeman kept a diary of events while he served as Chief of Staff, from Nixon's inauguration to his resignation. Robert Foxworth narrates the entries of the first two years. He captures Haldeman's terse, unemotional writing style with his clear, crisp delivery. Haldeman's own voice, which he began to record in December 1970, chronicles his observations from that point. Although background noises, static and volume fluctuations make it difficult to understand what Haldeman is saying, listening to history from one who helped shape it is worthwhile. Foxworth's frequent interjections to clarify events and provide follow-up information are welcome features. A.A.B. (c)AudioFile, Portland, Maine These diaries landed immediately on the best-seller list after their publication (no prepub galley reviews were available for review). Historians, however, won't extract much beyond daily reminders of Nixon's bark-off persona, especially his habit of airing all options, from the ludicrous to the realistic. Chief of Staff Haldeman was the PR guy, the scheduler, the enforcer (the lord high executioner, Nixon once said) who, though totally trustworthy as a sounding board for his boss, was a nonsubstantive decision maker. Haldeman dramatically tells, for example, of the August 1971 demolition of the world financial system without exhibiting much understanding of the economic ramifications. At bottom, Haldeman's diary is another thimbleful poured into the huge vat of Nixonia; however, the book's juicy quotations (such as those Nightline ran) boost interest dramatically. Gilbert Taylor

#### Other Books

The Cold War at Home and Abroad. From President Truman's use of a domestic propaganda agency to Ronald Reagan's handling of the Soviet Union during his 1984 reelection campaign, the American political system has consistently exerted a profound effect on the country's foreign policies. Americans may cling to the belief that "politics stops at the water's edge," but the reality is that parochial political interests often play a critical role in shaping the nation's interactions with the outside world. In *The Cold War at Home and Abroad: Domestic Politics and US Foreign Policy since 1945*, editors Andrew L. Johns and Mitchell B. Lerner bring together eleven essays that reflect the growing methodological diversity that has transformed the field of diplomatic history over the past twenty years. The contributors examine a spectrum of diverse domestic factors ranging from traditional issues like elections and Congressional influence to less frequently studied factors like the role of religion and regionalism, and trace their influence on the history of US foreign relations since 1945. In doing so, they highlight influences and ideas that expand our understanding of the history of American foreign relations, and provide guidance and direction for both contemporary observers and those who shape the United States' role in the world. This expansive volume contains many lessons for politicians, policy makers, and engaged citizens as they struggle to implement a cohesive international strategy in the face of hyper-partisanship at home and uncertainty abroad.

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