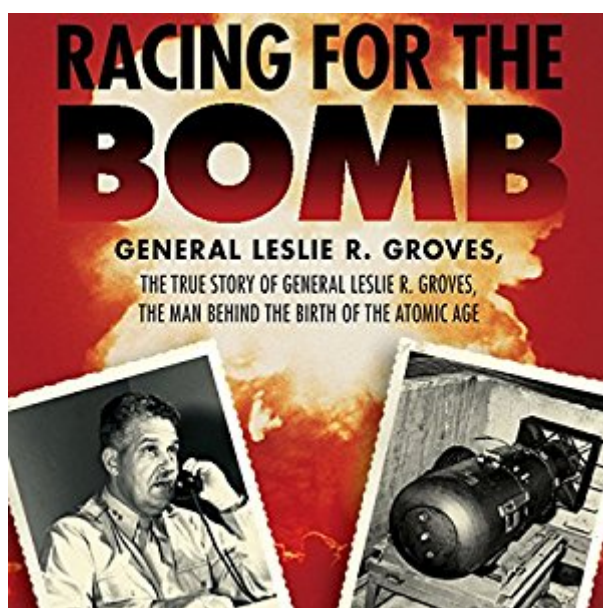


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Racing For The Bomb: The True Story Of General Leslie R. Groves, The Man Behind The Birth Of The Atomic Age



Synopsis

In September 1942, Colonel Leslie R. Groves was given the job of building the atomic bomb. As a career officer in the Army Corps of Engineers, Groves had overseen hundreds of military construction projects, including the Pentagon. Until now, scientists have received the credit for the Manhattan Project's remarkable achievements. And yet, it was Leslie R. Groves who made things happen. It was Groves who drove manufacturers, construction crews, scientists, industrialists, and military and civilian officials to come up with the money, the materials, and the plans to solve thousands of problems and build the bomb in only two years. It was his operation, and in *Racing for the Bomb*, he emerges as a take-charge, can-do figure who succeeds in the face of formidable odds. Revealed for the first time in *Racing for the Bomb*, Groves played a crucial and decisive role in the planning, timing, and targeting of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki missions. Norris offers new insights into the complex and controversial questions surrounding the decision to drop the bomb in Japan and Groves's actions during World War II, which had a lasting imprint on the nuclear age and the Cold War that followed. Groves's extensive influence on key institutions of postwar America has been overlooked for too long. In this full-scale biography, which includes archival material and family letters and documents and features several previously unpublished photographs, Norris places Groves at the center of the amazing Manhattan Project story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Our book club had just completed *The Girls of Atomic City* so I wanted to learn more about the

Manhattan Project and its leader General Leslie R. Groves. For those interested in the type of personality that could manage a project the size and scope of the Manhattan Project and accomplished the objectives in such a short time starting with basically no facilities this is a must read. The question of whether the atomic bombs should or should not have been used is not answered in this book as that was not the purpose of the author. Instead you get an up close look at the man who organized and managed a \$2 Billion effort that many believe ended World War 2 precisely because the bomb was dropped.

Excellent, a very wide breadth of topics. A first rate book

Overall, an excellent and engrossing book. You realize that Gen Leslie Groves ranks with Washington, Grant, and Eisenhower as one of the most powerful and successful military leaders in our history. Although highly readable, but I do think it could have used one more good edit before going to press since there are distracting instances in which it introduces acronyms and individuals without any immediate identification.

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