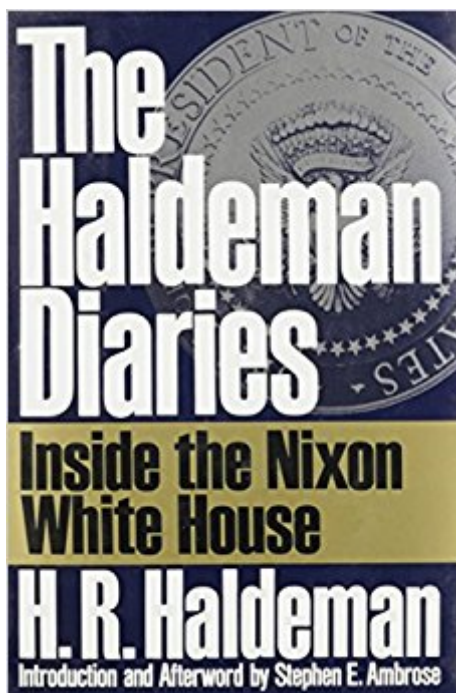


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The Haldeman Diaries: Inside The Nixon White House



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These diaries landed immediately on the best-seller list after their publication (no prepub galleys 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

This is unbelievable stuff for a historian. On the scene notes, taken immediately (Haldeman wrote this daily). For a layman, it is revealing how little press this book has received, given the amazing information inside. Bretton Woods is covered to an extent I have not seen elsewhere, even though

Haldeman himself doesn't seem to appreciate what was happening. Watergate is of course covered in excruciating detail. But what I found most interesting was the mundane day to day activities of Nixon, most of which appeared to be concerned with handling Kissinger. I strongly suspect the book could be extrapolated to most (all?) of his successors. In summary: an invaluable peek into the Twentieth Century Executive branch.

I think it is a very interesting book with an insider feel to it. It is literally a large edited (due to size) diary. A shorthand style of writing was used by Haldeman, and after he started using a dictation recorder the daily entries became larger and more detailed. I purchased this book used for just a few dollars since it has been out of print for more than a decade, I think it is a good buy though it is stated in the acknowledgements or foreword that a CD came with the original book that contained an unedited version.

Haldemann and Dean have written two insightful views of the Nixon years. Pat Buchanan's recent book is all rhetoric, and he even stuffs it with his old cliché-ridden speeches. Haldemann observes the main points, the way that Nixon appears to accept the main thrust of the great society while carefully refusing to follow through on racial equality, school reform, and job creation. In doing so, the Nixon plan was to

Interesting historical perspectives. Are we in time of days of déjà vu?

Somewhat self serving by omitting some important WH involvement in the cover up

The Daily Diary format for this type of book is ideal, it can be a drawback in some books, but as this was such an interesting era in American Politics most of Bob Haldemann's entries have an upside and insight in the way Nixon ran his white House; it gives an insider's view in a Psychological sense, a personal sense and of course the political aspect of President R.M.N. I found it an excellent read; the Diary format allows you to pick up and start with its Chronological designations.

If you think he was boring in real life, just wait until you read his diaries. There are little interesting snippets here and there, but oh, my, the trivia that he recorded! (And this was at the end of long, intense, frustrating days at work. The guy was nuts.)

If you are into research of the Nixon era it is a must read.

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