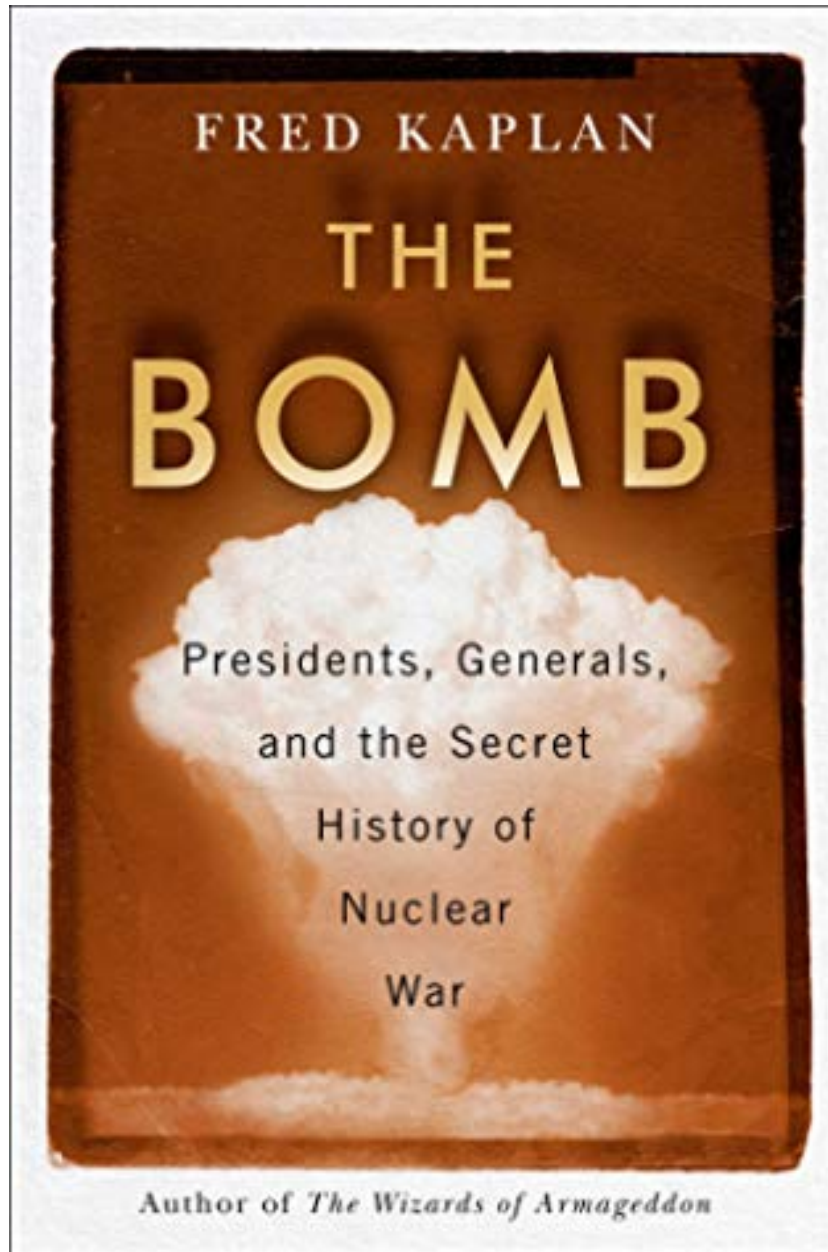


The Bomb: Presidents, Generals, and the Secret History of Nuclear War Book PDF Download



**By:
Fred Kaplan**

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The Bomb: Presidents, Generals, and the Secret History of Nuclear War Book PDF Summary

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What people Say:

Peter (Pete) Mcloughlin

Very well put together history of US nuclear policy and war planning for use of nuclear weapons and the logic of WWII mutual Assured destruction, chains of command, the development of the nuclear triad., Strategic Bombers, ICBMs and MIRVs, Nuclear submarines, proliferations, Test bans, Arms limitations treaties, antiballistic missile treaties, Madman theories of nuclear diplomacy, tactical nuclear weapons, debates between those who believe a power can prevail in a nuclear war, merely a

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Peter Tillman

WSJ review:

(Paywalled. As always, I'm happy to email a copy to non-subscribers)

Excerpt:

"An amazing chapter, tantalizingly called "Pulling Back the Curtain," tells of how, in 1989, a relatively young Defense aide named Franklin Miller persuaded his boss, Dick Cheney, to allow a quiet investigation of the actual targeting details of the military's famous Single Integrated Operational Plan. These sites hitherto had been kept a closed secret at Strategic

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Mr. Kaplan's account of what Mr. Miller and his subordinate, Gil Klinger, discovered has a fantastical "Dr. Strangelove"-like quality to it, partly hilarious, partly outrageous. There was really only one targeting strategy at SAC, it seems, and it was completely at odds with all the all the sophisticated study being done at the time in universities and think tanks, based on such concepts as "calibrated signaling," "stages of escalation" or "command and control of nuclear weapons."

SAC had, instead, a simple equation: If there were, say, 10,000 nuclear warheads at the disposal of the aptly named Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, there simply had to be 10,000 named targets in the Soviet Union destined to receive them "it didn't matter if they were empty Arctic air bases, places that were termed "political-relocation sites," railway bridges (but not the important nearby road bridges). In some instances, a place was set to receive not one large nuclear bomb but many. Moscow and its environs alone would be hit by 689 rockets, each capable of releasing "more than a megaton of explosive power" "a supreme act of nuclear overkill."

David

Kaplan reviews the strategies to wage a nuclear war the US developed and revisited since the first bombs were detonated over Japan. He looks at how each President, starting with Eisenhower and ending with Trump, dealt with the reality of nuclear weapons. Through all of those years the nuclear weapons are a conundrum: they are certainly powerful but are difficult to control. There really is no limited nuclear exchange: once a bomb explodes, the only response seems to be a full exchange. This is

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Dale Dewitt

A deep dive into America's nuclear policy it is a well researched and thoughtful narrative of how policy makers deal with the most destructive force mankind has ever created. I found myself both surprised and saddened in how easily war plans are created based solely on megatons delivered and percentages of destruction while leaders seek to limit but not outright ban nuclear weapons

Paul

Well crafted and comprehensive. Kaplan moves from the archival past of the 1940s and 1950s to the present day smoothly and effectively. He overturns many myths about the US nuclear posture and shows that presidents have rarely controlled the strategic arsenal as well as they thought.