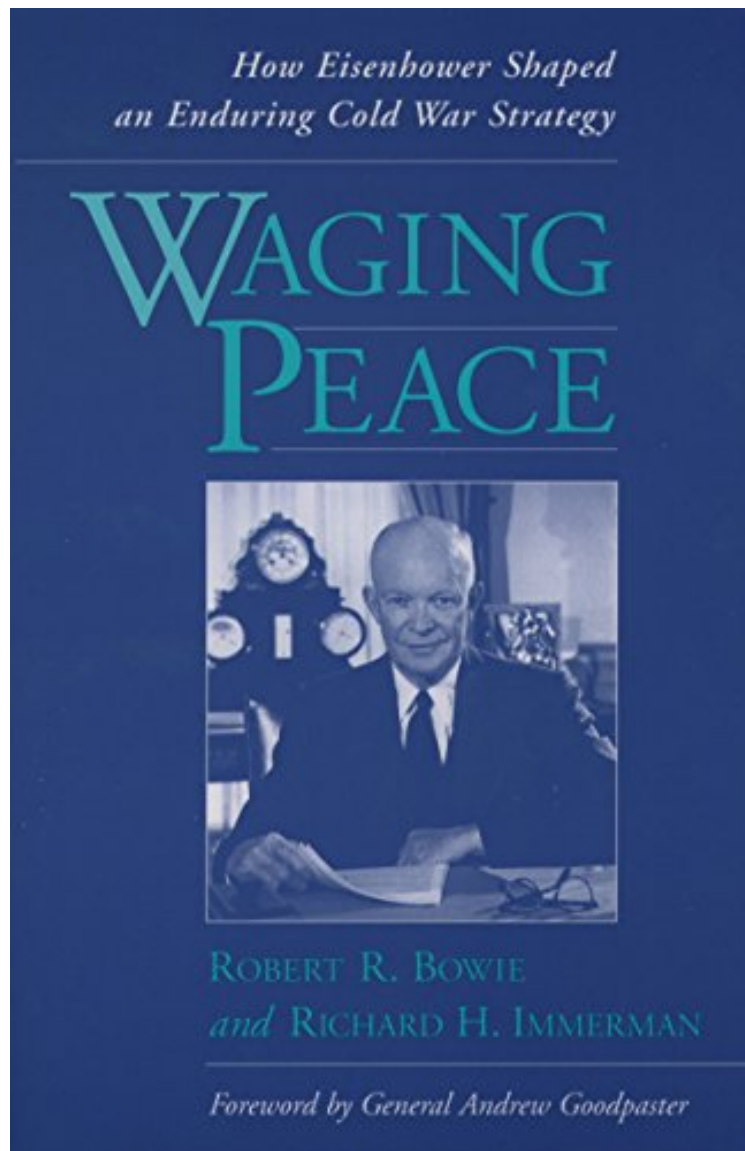


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## Waging Peace: How Eisenhower Shaped an Enduring Cold War Strategy

Von Robert R. Bowie, Richard H. Immerman  
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Von Robert R. Bowie, Richard H. Immerman : Waging Peace: How Eisenhower Shaped an Enduring Cold War Strategy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waging Peace: How Eisenhower Shaped an Enduring Cold War Strategy:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fails to

defend its thesis adequately. Von Tom Mac Tom Bowie and Immerman posit that "credit for shaping ... strategy (of Cold War) belongs to President Dwight D. Eisenhower." By the end of the Truman Administration, the initial confrontational phase of the Cold War was reaching a steady-state. The Truman Administration set up the basic framework for the American side, but due to crises (foreign and domestic) had not had the time to set longer-term goals. Eisenhower, a man used to a more bureaucratic, organized approach, followed Truman and institutionalized much of what the Truman Administration had begun. Bowie and Immerman continually suggest how Eisenhower personally oversaw what (rhetorically) comes across as a kind of revolutionary retooling of America's Cold War response. But their own thorough use of documentation continually shows what took place under Ike was a bureaucratic evolution, one building upon the Truman Administration's somewhat sparse initial outline. The authors' penchant for "Ike cheerleading" (and to a lesser extent, "Truman diminishing") is a continuous distraction, and is a direct outgrowth of the overblown thesis (or maybe its the other way around.) It is unfortunate that Cold War historiography often gets caught up in this sort of "partisan" behavior, particularly concerning Eisenhower. Ike was unjustly considered to be mediocre for so many years that a large number of historians felt it necessary to resurrect his image. The resurrection has succeeded; Ike certainly had a very good grasp on foreign policy issues and deserves to be ranked among the more effective Presidents ever. But there simply isn't the discontinuity between the Truman and Eisenhower Administrations that is suggested here. An example: the authors go to great detail in showing how the Eisenhower Administration reexamined the goals of the Cold War struggle; they are impressed by the thoroughness and awareness of Ike and his people. What is the result? Containment, the same exact guideline devised under Truman and carried forward to the end of the struggle. NSC-68, which did temporarily occupy the Truman Administration, had mostly been abandoned by Truman by the end of his second term, as seen by the downward revisions of projected military budgets. (If Truman actually believed that 1954 would be the "time of maximum danger," would he have been more concerned with budgetary matters than defense?) The authors point out these things, and yet continue to claim extraordinary achievements under Eisenhower. Ike deserves his due as Cold Warrior (mainly for organizing the bureaucracy and pushing foreign aid), but he was not radically different than what came before him. The authors' research suggests this -- its unfortunate that they seemingly didn't realize what their own research suggested.

Kurzbeschreibung Waging Peace offers the first fully comprehensive study of Eisenhower's "New Look" program of national security, which provided the groundwork for the next three decades of America's Cold War strategy. Though the Cold War itself and the idea of containment originated under Truman, it was left to Eisenhower to develop the first coherent and sustainable strategy for addressing the issues unique to the nuclear age. To this end, he designated a decision-making system centered around the National Security Council to take full advantage of the expertise and data from various departments and agencies and of the judgment of his principal advisors. The result was the formation of a "long haul" strategy of preventing war and Soviet expansion and of mitigating Soviet hostility. Only now, in the aftermath of the Cold War, can Eisenhower's achievement be fully appreciated. This book will be of much interest to scholars and students of the Eisenhower era, diplomatic history, the Cold War, and contemporary foreign policy. Pressestimmen "Together, the two authors have thoroughly researched and elegantly analyzed Eisenhower's basic national security strategy....the authors present their points and supporting evidence on the Eisenhower administration so clearly that it is not difficult to draw larger conclusions. This book provides an invaluable contribution to scholarship on Eisenhower, American foreign policy, and presidential decision making, and will be of great interest to faculty and students alike."--Political Science Quarterly "Immerman and Bowie have written a stimulating, indispensable account of the Eisenhower Administration's Cold War strategy."--Melvyn P. Leffler, Stettinius Professor of American History, University of Virginia "A detached history, striving for objectivity but informed by firsthand knowledge of people and events, Waging Peace is an extraordinarily important contribution to our understanding of U.S. foreign policy in the 1950s. It will reshape thinking and writing about both the Truman and Eisenhower administrations."--Ernest R. May, Charles Warren Professor of History, Harvard University "It is a superb contribution to our understanding not only of the ways in which President Eisenhower and his Administration dealt with the challenging security and foreign policy issues of that period but more broadly of the nature and value of responsible leadership in the American presidency. The account the authors have provided is authentic and informative, and will be of lasting value."--Andrew J. Goodpaster, Co-Chair, The Atlantic Council of the United States "Bowie and Immerman have given us the best study of Eisenhower's security policy and the processes by which it was produced. Both carry important lessons for our times and are supported by a wealth of detail and analysis. It changed my understanding of the Eisenhower administration."--Robert Jervis, Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University "Together, the two authors have thoroughly researched and elegantly analyzed Eisenhower's basic national security strategy....the authors present their points and supporting evidence on the Eisenhower administration so clearly that it is not difficult to draw larger conclusions. This book provides an invaluable contribution to scholarship on Eisenhower, American foreign policy, and presidential decision making, and will be of great interest to faculty and

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