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By Norman A. Graebner, Richard Dean Burns, Joseph M. Siracusa

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Three distinguished diplomatic historians offer an assessment of the Cold War in the realist tradition that focuses on balancing the objectives of foreign policy with the means of accomplishing them.

- A bibliography
- A chronology
- Photos and illustrations

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Editorial Review

Review

"Recommended. All levels/libraries." - **Choice**

"This valuable work for history collections in both public and academic libraries sheds much new light on this recent part of our nation's history. Highly recommended." - **Library Journal**

Review

"Comprehensive, deeply researched, and utterly persuasive, *America and the Cold War 1941-1991: A Realist Interpretation* exposes Washington's persistent inability to see the world as it actually is rather than as Americans fancy it ought to be. The relevance of this book to events in our own day can hardly be overstated." (Andrew J. Bacevich, author of *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*)

"In this comprehensive, compelling work, these three leading realist historians of U.S. foreign relations reveal with clinical and devastating clarity the huge gap that existed between the rhetoric and reality of U.S. policy during the Cold War. Basing their incisive critique on a vast range of contemporary public material and archival documents, the authors vividly trace the course of the Cold War with meticulous and masterly attention to detail. This study reminds us that US foreign policy makers must operate within the limits of what the world is, regardless of what they think it should be. This is as true today as it was during the Cold War." (Dr. Ian J. Bickerton

Visiting Senior Research Fellow
School of History and Philosophy
University of NSW)

"Powerful and penetrating, this critique of U.S. behavior in the Cold War documents how persistent anti-communism dictated imprecise policies ensuring frustration and failure. American leaders, ignoring reality and prioritizing principle over national interests, exaggerated undefined Soviet threats and worse, failed to acknowledge the primacy of nationalism in world affairs. Lacking sufficient means to impose its will on both friends and enemies, the United States consistently pursued elimination of the Soviet Union as the prerequisite for achieving global peace and security." (James I. Matray, California State University, Chico)

"In this deeply researched, clearly written work, based on 'traditional diplomatic and political history' and loaded with telling quotes from top policymakers and informed journalists, three distinguished authors, headed by a dean of diplomatic historians, Norman Graebner, climax their many major contributions by providing both a comprehensive narrative and a challenging realist interpretation of the Cold War--an interpretation that is particularly significant in its evaluations of, among others, FDR, John Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger ('the first secretary of state in three generations to think and act in political rather than judicial terms'), Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and Mikhail Gorbachev, the Russian leader persuasively identified by the authors as the most important figure in bringing the Cold War to a close." (Walter LaFeber, The Andrew and James Tisch University Professor Emeritus, Cornell University, and author of *The American Century: U.S. Foreign Policy at Home and Abroad since 1750*)

About the Author

Norman A. Graebner, PhD, is Randolph P. Compton Professor of History and Public Affairs, emeritus, at the University of Virginia, and an internationally acknowledged authority on U.S. international affairs.

Richard Dean Burns is professor emeritus of history at California State University, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

Joseph M. Siracusa is professor of human security and international diplomacy at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Australia, where he is a specialist in diplomacy and nuclear security.

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