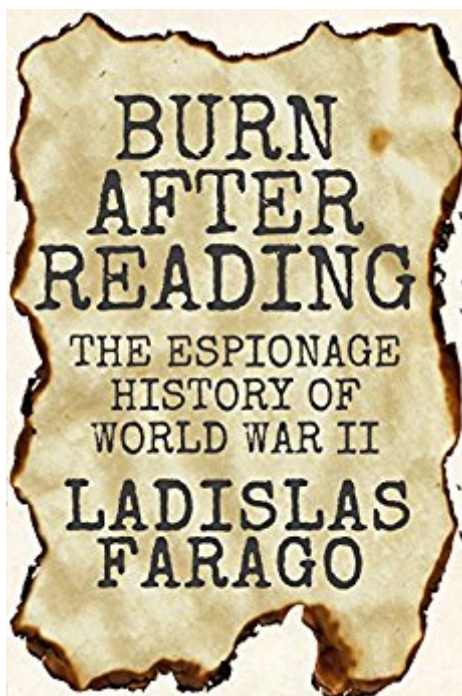


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Burn After Reading: The Espionage History Of World War II



Synopsis

World War Two was not just fought in the forests of the Ardennes and the islands of the Pacific. It was fought in clandestine operations and through the daring acts of spies and saboteurs from both Allied and Axis forces. Ladislav Farago, a former US intelligence chief, uncovers the lengths that the various nations went to in order to win the war. Looking at each nation individually, from Britain with MI.5 to Germany and its division called Abwehr under Wilhelm Canaris, America with the O.S.S. to France's Deuxième Bureau, Farago exposes how sophisticated and successful their intelligence services were. Burn After Reading explains how espionage and counter-intelligence was operated throughout the war, providing details on a number of missions that were undertaken. Farago, through a number of vivid biographical sketches, details how it was not just intelligence services that shaped espionage during World War Two, but also how individuals, military and civilian, made their impact. This fascinating work is essential reading for anyone interested in what Farago described as "a kind of Fourth Estate of war." Ladislav Farago was a chief of research and planning in the U.S. Navy's Special Warfare Branch before becoming an author. He wrote a number of best-selling books on history and espionage and a number of his works were made into films. Burn After Reading was first published in 1961 and he died in 1980.

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Customer Reviews

This is a well-researched history of espionage in WW2, but it is a bit dry. When reading this, please keep in mind the era in which it was written. This is certainly not written in the slap-dash style currently in favor. When this was first published, people spoke, wrote, and read in a more genteel, expansive, and detailed manner. After reading this book, I was left with the impression that none of the governments involved in WW2 respected their intelligence and espionage services; nor did they seem to trust their products until late in the war. Those espionage/intelligence agencies also seemed, for the most part, to be staffed and managed by bumbling bureaucrats. The Japanese were the notable exception to those previous comments. If you have an interest in WW2 history or in the history of intelligence and espionage, I recommend this book.

This stunning account of Japan's peace overtures in the last days of the war in the Pacific has radically changed my perception of Japan's surrender. From the time when I was 9 years old in 1945 until reading this book I had always believed that there were only two possible ways to end the war: a hugely costly land invasion and the atomic bombs. I am now ineffably saddened - and ashamed for my government - to learn that there were viable, promising possibilities for negotiating a suitable peaceful conclusion that would have spared tens of thousands of lives and perhaps stifled the impetus for a nuclear arms race. // This book was very well researched and gives fascinating insights into the realm of WW2 intelligence operations. A bit of a shame that nothing was yet publicly known about Garbo or Enigma when the book was first published back in 1961.

Always hard to know what really went on, but this is a great attempt to shed light on all countries' efforts at spying and other espionage activity before and during World War II. I'm sure many of the facts will never come to light fully and what actually happened will be debated, giving rise to varying theories, but this seems to be about as clear a picture as one can get of the vast networks, how they worked and what happened as a result - very enlightening.

quite interesting, but a great avalanche of details and names. Leads up to a fascinating view on an

alternative ending to WWII that was close to fruition but was abruptly interrupted by the use of the A-bomb. The book ends just as abruptly perhaps to lend the reader the same feeling that was felt by the proponents of the peaceful end of WWII...

Good stories, from someone who was there. Fascinating, up until the end, when he tells the story of how he could've ended WW2 if they'd only listened to him. Now that was a little far-fetched. Other than that, some good insight on espionage - especially how Germany was able to invade Poland so quickly and easily.

The book was written when the Cold War was beginning by a player who seemed objective. It gave a view of the thinking at the time. It also describes well different countries intelligence services their strengths and of course where they were not so strong from the 19th century up until the middle 20th century.

Excellent book... Well written,,, Although I have been studying WW-II for many years, I learned a lot from this book and enjoyed reading it also!

Though you could get lost in the details, which I skipped over sometimes, the espionage stories of WWII were very revealing. A side story is the horrendous loss of life of those who resisted the Nazis. Had President Roosevelt lived a bit longer, might the atomic bomb not be used?

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