

# TAKING ON THE WORLD

JOSEPH *and* STEWART ALSOP—  
GUARDIANS *of the* AMERICAN CENTURY



"A probing examination of the 'American Century' . . .  
as seen through the eyes of two men who both chronicled and shaped the  
great events of their era."—*The New York Times Book Review*

ROBERT W. MERRY

# Taking On The World Joseph And Stewart Alsop Guardians Of The American Century

**Henry G. Gole**



## **Taking On The World Joseph And Stewart Alsop Guardians Of The American Century:**

**Taking on the World** Robert W. Merry, 1997-04 Blue blooded journalists Joseph and Stewart Alsop dominated the Washington press corps from the end of World War II to Vietnam Their influence in the highest government circles was so great that they even initiated policy decisions This rich and entertaining portrait of the Alsops and their age is an unusually illuminating window into American history 16 pages of photos The Road Not Taken: Edward Lansdale and the American Tragedy in Vietnam Max Boot, 2018-01-09 Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize Biography A New York Times bestseller this epic and elegant biography Wall Street Journal profoundly recasts our understanding of the Vietnam War Praised as a superb scholarly achievement Foreign Policy The Road Not Taken confirms Max Boot's role as a master chronicler Washington Times of American military affairs Through dozens of interviews and never before seen documents Boot rescues Edward Lansdale 1908-1987 from historical ignominy to restore a sense of proportion to this political Svengali or Lawrence of Asia The New Yorker Boot demonstrates how Lansdale the man said to be the fictional model for Graham Greene's The Quiet American pioneered a hearts and minds diplomacy first in the Philippines and then in Vietnam Bringing a tragic complexity to Lansdale and a nuanced analysis to his visionary foreign policy Boot suggests Vietnam could have been different had we only listened With contemporary reverberations in Iraq Afghanistan and Syria The Road Not Taken is a judicious and absorbing New York Times Book Review biography of lasting historical consequence *Decade of Disunion* Robert W. Merry, 2025-07 With characteristic wisdom and grace Jon Meacham Pulitzer Prize winning author Robert W Merry explores a critical lesson about our nation that is as timely today as ever demonstrating how the country came apart during the enveloping slavery crisis of the 1850s The Mexican War brought vast new territories to the United States which precipitated a growing crisis over slavery The new territories seemed unsuitable for the type of agriculture that depended on slave labor but they lay south of the line where slavery was permitted by the 1820 Missouri Compromise The subject of expanding slavery to the new territories became a flash point between the North and South First came the 1850 compromise legislation which strengthened the fugitive slave law and outraged the North Then in 1854 Congress repealed the Missouri Compromise altogether unleashing a violent conflict in Bleeding Kansas over whether that territory would become free or enslaved The 1857 Dred Scott decision abrogating any rights of African Americans enslaved or free further outraged the North And John Brown's ill planned 1859 attack at the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry stirred anger and fear throughout the South Through a decade the divide between the North and the South widened until disunion became inevitable Then in December 1860 in the wake of the Lincoln election South Carolina finally seceded leading the South of the Union Beginning with the deaths of the great second generation figures of American history Calhoun Webster and Clay Decade of Disunion tells the story of this great American struggle through the aims fears and maneuvers of the subsequent prominent figures at the center of the drama with particular attention to the key players from Massachusetts and South Carolina Decade of Disunion is a thoughtful

and accomplished The Wall Street Journal look at one of the most tumultuous times of American history offering us a sobering reminder that democracy is not self sustaining it must be constantly and carefully tended **A Tangled Web** William P. Bundy, 1999-06-04 An authoritative historical assessment of American foreign policy in a crucial postwar decade William Bundy's magisterial book focuses on the controversial record of Richard Nixon's and Henry Kissinger's often overpraised foreign policy of 1969 to 1973 an era that has rightly been described as the hinge on which the last half of the century turned Bundy's principled clear-eyed assessment in effect pulls together all the major issues and events of the thirty year span from the 1940s to the end of the Vietnam War and makes it clear just how dangerous the consequences of Nixon and Kissinger's deceptive modus operandi were Staging America Christopher Bigsby, 2019-12-12 This book is open access and available on [www.bloomsburycollections.com](http://www.bloomsburycollections.com) It is funded by Knowledge Unlatched Many of the American playwrights who dominated the 20th century are no longer with us Edward Albee Arthur Miller Sam Shepard Neil Simon August Wilson and Wendy Wasserstein A new generation whose careers began in this century has emerged and done so when the theatre itself along with the society with which it engages was changing Capturing the cultural shifts of 21st century America Staging America explores the lives and works of 8 award winning playwrights including Ayad Akhtar Stephen Adly Guirgis Young Jean Lee and Quiara Alillegre a Hudes whose backgrounds reflect the social religious sexual and national diversity of American society Each chapter is devoted to a single playwright and provides an overview of their career a description and critical evaluation of their work as well as a sense of their reception Drawing on primary sources including the playwrights own commentaries and notes and contemporary reviews Christopher Bigsby enters into a dialogue with plays which are as various as the individuals who generated them An essential read for theatre scholars and students Staging America is a sharp and landmark study of the contemporary American playwright **The Kennedy Assassination Tapes** Max Holland, 2004-09-14 A major work of documentary history the brilliantly edited and annotated transcripts most of them never before published of the presidential conversations of Lyndon B Johnson regarding the Kennedy assassination and its aftermath The transition from John F Kennedy to Johnson was arguably the most wrenching and ultimately one of the most bitter in the nation's history As Johnson himself said later I took the oath I became president But for millions of Americans I was still illegitimate a naked man with no presidential covering a pretender to the throne The whole thing was almost unbearable In this book Max Holland a leading authority on the assassination and longtime Washington journalist presents the momentous telephone calls President Johnson made and received as he sought to stabilize the country and keep the government functioning in the wake of November 22 1963 The transcripts begin on the day of the assassination and reveal the often chaotic activity behind the scenes as a nation in shock struggled to come to terms with the momentous events The transcripts illuminate Johnson's relationship with Robert F Kennedy which flared instantly into animosity the genuine warmth of his dealings with Jacqueline Kennedy his contact with the FBI and CIA directors and the advice he sought from friends and

mentors as he wrestled with the painful transition We eavesdrop on all the conversations including those with leading journalists that persuaded Johnson to abandon his initial plan to let Texas authorities investigate the assassination Instead we observe how he abruptly established a federal commission headed by a very reluctant chief justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren We also learn how Johnson cajoled and drafted other prominent men among them Senator Richard Russell who detested Warren Allen Dulles John McCloy and Gerald Ford into serving We see a sudden president under unimaginable pressure contending with media frenzy and speculation on a worldwide scale We witness the flow of inaccurate information some of it from J Edgar Hoover amid rumors and theories about foreign involvement And we glimpse Johnson addressing the mounting criticism of the Warren Commission after it released its still controversial report in September 1964 The conversations rendered here are nearly verbatim and have never been explained so thoroughly No passages have been deleted except when they veered from the subject Brought together with Holland's commentaries they make riveting hugely revelatory reading

[A Ball, a Dog, and a Monkey](#) Michael D'Antonio, 2007-09-18 A Ball a Dog and a Monkey tells the remarkable story of America's first efforts to succeed in space a time of exploding rockets national space mania Florida boomtowns and interservice rivalries so fierce that President Dwight Eisenhower had to referee them When the Soviet Union launched the first orbital satellite Sputnik I Americans panicked The Soviets had nuclear weapons the Cold War was underway and now the USSR had taken the lead in the space race Members of Congress and the press called for an all out effort to launch a satellite into orbit With dire warnings about national security in the news almost every day the armed services saw space as the new military frontier But President Eisenhower insisted that the space effort which relied on military technology be supervised by civilians so that the space race would be peaceful The Navy's Vanguard program flopped and the Army led by ex Nazi rocket scientist Wernher von Braun and a martinet general named J Bruce Medaris whom Eisenhower disliked took over Meanwhile the Soviets put a dog inside the next Sputnik and Americans grew more worried as the first animal in space whirled around the Earth Throughout 1958 America went space crazy UFO sightings spiked Boys from Brooklyn to Burbank shot model rockets into the air Space themed beauty pageants became a national phenomenon The news media flocked to the launchpads on the swampy Florida coast and reporters reinvented themselves as space correspondents And finally the Army's rocket program succeeded Determined not to be outdone by the Russians America's space scientists launched the first primate into space a small monkey they nicknamed Old Reliable for his calm demeanor And then at Christmastime Eisenhower authorized the launch of a secret satellite with a surprise aboard A Ball a Dog and a Monkey memorably recalls the infancy of the space race a time when new technologies brought ominous danger but also gave us the ability to realize our dreams and reach for the stars

**Schlesinger: The Imperial Historian** Richard Aldous, 2017-10-10 The first major biography of preeminent historian and intellectual Arthur Schlesinger Jr a defining figure in Kennedy's White House Arthur M Schlesinger Jr 1917 2007 known today as the architect of John F Kennedy's presidential

legacy blazed an extraordinary path from Harvard University to wartime London to the West Wing The son of a pioneering historian and a two time Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner in his own right Schlesinger redefined the art of presidential biography A Thousand Days his best selling and immensely influential record of the Kennedy administration cemented Schlesinger's place as one of the nation's greatest political image makers and a key figure of the American intellectual elite a peer and contemporary of Reinhold Niebuhr Isaiah Berlin and Adlai Stevenson The first major biography of this defining figure in Kennedy's Camelot Schlesinger The Imperial Historian presents a dramatic life and career set against the backdrop of the American Century Biographer Richard Aldous draws on oral history rarely seen archival documents and the official Schlesinger papers to craft a portrait of the incandescently brilliant and controversial historian who framed America's ascent to global empire

**Poisoning the Press** Mark Feldstein, 2010-09-28 It is March 1972 and the Nixon White House wants Jack Anderson dead The syndicated columnist Jack Anderson the most famous and feared investigative reporter in the nation has exposed yet another of the President's dirty secrets Nixon's operatives are ordered to stop Anderson at all costs permanently Across the street from the White House they huddle in a hotel basement to conspire Should they try Aspirin Roulette and break into Anderson's home to plant a poisoned pill in one of his medicine bottles Could they smear LSD on the journalist's steering wheel so that he would absorb it through his skin lose control of his car and crash Or stage a routine looking mugging making Anderson appear to be one more fatal victim of Washington's notorious street crime

**Poisoning the Press** Richard Nixon Jack Anderson and the Rise of Washington's Scandal Culture recounts not only the disturbing story of an unprecedented White House conspiracy to assassinate a journalist but also the larger tale of the bitter quarter century battle between the postwar era's most embattled politician and its most reviled newsman The struggle between Nixon and Anderson included bribery blackmail forgery spying and burglary as well as the White House murder plot Their vendetta symbolized and accelerated the growing conflict between the government and the press a clash that would long outlive both men Mark Feldstein traces the arc of this confrontation between a vindictive president and a flamboyant crusading muckraker who rifled through garbage and swiped classified papers in pursuit of his prey stoking the paranoia in Nixon that would ultimately lead to his ruin The White House plot to poison Anderson Feldstein argues is a metaphor for the poisoned political atmosphere that would follow and the toxic sensationalism that contaminates contemporary media discourse Melding history and biography Poisoning the Press unearths significant new information from more than two hundred interviews and thousands of declassified documents and tapes This is a chronicle of political intrigue and the true price of power for politicians and journalists alike The result Washington's modern scandal culture was Richard Nixon's ultimate revenge

**Stuart Symington** James C. Olson, 2003 **The Color of Truth** Kai Bird, 2017-01-10 From the Pulitzer Prize winning coauthor of American Prometheus this biography of the Bundy Brothers inspired the Academy Award winning film Oppenheimer In this definitive biography of McGeorge Bundy and William Bundy two of the best and the

brightest who advised presidents about peace and war during the most dangerous years of the Cold War Kai Bird pens a portrait of the fiercely patriotic brilliant and brazenly self confident men who directed a steady escalation of a war they did not believe could be won Drawing on seven years of research nearly one hundred interviews and scores of still classified top secret documents in a masterful reevaluation of America s actions throughout the Cold War and Vietnam *The Color of Truth* tells the tale of the anti communist liberals who despite their grave doubts about sending Americans to fight in Southeast Asia became key architects of America s war in Vietnam Like the bestselling *The Wise Men* this dual biography is both an inside account of the making of US foreign policy in an era of nuclear weapons and a stunning group portrait of the heirs of the Wise Men including Robert McNamara George Ball and Robert Kennedy and the presidents they served General William E. DePuy Henry G. Gole, 2008-09-26 This excellent biography of one of the US Army s unsung heroes provides a much needed re examination of the early post Vietnam Army Bowling Green Daily News By the 1970s the United States Army was demoralized by the outcome of the Vietnam War and shifting attitudes at home The institution as a whole needed to be reorganized and reinvigorated and General William E DePuy was the man for the job In 1973 DePuy was appointed commander of the newly established Training and Doctrine Command TRADOC By integrating training doctrine combat developments and management in the US Army he cultivated a military force prepared to fight and win in modern war General William E DuPuy is the first full length biography of this key figure in American military history With extensive interviews with those who knew DePuy as well as access to his personal papers Henry G Gole chronicles and analyzes his unique contributions to the Army and nation Gole guides the reader from DePuy s boyhood and college days in South Dakota through the major events and achievements of his life During World War II DePuy served in the 357th Infantry Regiment in Europe from the Normandy invasion until 1945 when he was stationed in Czechoslovakia DePuy was asked by George Patton to serve as his aide he supervised clandestine operations in China he was instrumental in establishing Special Forces in Vietnam and he briefed President Lyndon B Johnson in the White House But his finest contribution was fixing a broken Army

*Pax Democratica* James Robert Huntley, 2016-06-01 After a turbulent century characterized by vast bloodshed but also by the spread of democratic government and humane values the author suggests that the great democracies led by Britain France Germany Japan and the United States should form an intercontinental community of democracies a Pax Democratica according to the author He argues that such a union will culminate centuries of evolution in world order from empires to balance of power Realpolitik more recently from cooperative international institutions to an era of supranational communities composed of likeminded peoples and organized around democratic principles **The Road to Camelot** Thomas Oliphant, Curtis Wilkie, 2017-05-09 A provocative reconstruction of John F Kennedy s five year campaign for the White House The New Yorker beginning with his bold failed attempt to win the vice presidential nomination in 1956 and culminating when he plotted his way to the presidency and changed the way we nominate and elect presidents John F Kennedy and his young

warriors invented modern presidential politics They turned over accepted wisdom that his Catholicism was a barrier to winning an election They hired Louis Harris to become the first presidential pollster They twisted arms and they charmed They turned the traditional party inside out They invented The Missile Gap in the Cold War and out glamoured Richard Nixon in the TV debates Now Thomas Oliphant and Curtis Wilkie both veteran political journalists retell the story of this momentous campaign reminding us of now forgotten details of Kennedy's path to the White House The Wall Street Journal The authors have examined more than 1 600 oral histories at the John F Kennedy library they've interviewed surviving sources including JFK's sister Jean Smith and they draw on their own interviews with insiders including Ted Sorensen and Arthur Schlesinger Jr From the start of the campaign in 1955 The Road to Camelot brings much new insight to an important playbook that has echoed through the campaigns of other presidential aspirants as disparate as Barack Obama and Donald Trump The authors take us step by step on the road to the Kennedy victory leaving us with an appreciation for the maniacal attention to detail of both the candidate and his brother Robert the best campaign manager in American political history The Washington Post A must read for fans of presidential history USA TODAY this is an excellent chronicle of JFK's innovations his true personality and how close he came to losing Kirkus Reviews starred review [The CIA and Congress](#) David M. Barrett,2017-05-12 From its inception more than half a century ago and for decades afterward the Central Intelligence Agency was deeply shrouded in secrecy with little or no real oversight by Congress or so many Americans believe David M Barrett reveals however that during the agency's first fifteen years Congress often monitored the CIA's actions and plans sometimes aggressively Drawing on a wealth of newly declassified documents research at some two dozen archives and interviews with former officials Barrett provides an unprecedented and often colorful account of relations between American spymasters and Capitol Hill He chronicles the CIA's dealings with senior legislators who were haunted by memories of our intelligence failure at Pearl Harbor and yet riddled with fears that such an organization might morph into an American Gestapo He focuses in particular on the efforts of Congress to monitor finance and control the agency's activities from the creation of the national security state in 1947 through the planning for the ill fated Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 Along the way Barrett highlights how Congress criticized the agency for failing to predict the first Soviet atomic test the startling appearance of Sputnik over American air space and the overthrow of Iraq's pro American government in 1958 He also explores how Congress viewed the CIA's handling of Senator McCarthy's charges of communist infiltration the crisis created by the downing of a U 2 spy plane and President Eisenhower's complaint that Congress meddled too much in CIA matters Ironically as Barrett shows Congress itself often pushed the agency to expand its covert operations against other nations The CIA and Congress provides a much needed historical perspective for current debates in Congress and beyond concerning the agency's recent failures and ultimate fate In our post 9 11 era it shows that anxieties over the challenges to democracy posed by our intelligence communities have been with us from the very beginning **Gossip Men** Christopher M. Elias,2022-09-30 The legacies of



Joseph McCarthy J Edgar Hoover Roy Cohn seem like they might be with us forever Yet Christopher Elias finds in them startling new connections between gender sexuality and national security in 20th century US politics a paradigm he christens security state masculinity Elias integrates biographies of the trio with a history of gossip magazines and their tactics such as insinuation guilt by association hyperbole and alarmism not to mention cynicism slang and photographic manipulation which all three used to consolidate their power The story of security state masculinity reached its climax in the Army McCarthy hearings which were rife with insinuations and coded threats Using gossip as a lens Elias shifts our understanding of the development of American political culture c Provided by publisher **Louis Johnson and the Arming of America** Keith D. McFarland, David L. Roll, 2005-10-04 Without question this is an important new addition to World War II and Cold War historiography Highly recommended Douglas Brinkley author of Dean Acheson The Cold War Years and The Unfinished Presidency Jimmy Carter s Journey beyond the White House A remarkably objective yet sympathetic study of Louis Johnson s life and career Now only half remembered Johnson was a major national figure Colorful aggressive independent minded egotistical his strong views and conflicts with Dean Acheson proved to be his undoing All in all a fascinating tale James R Schlesinger former Secretary of Defense McFarland and Roll have performed a real service in rescuing from obscurity this Democratic mover and shaker Their account of the rise and fall of Louis Johnson provides us with the fullest depiction yet of an important Washington figure employed for better or worse as a blunt instrument of policy change by both Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman Alonzo L Hamby author of Man of the People A Life of Harry S Truman and For the Survival of Democracy Franklin Roosevelt and the World Crisis of the 1930s Johnson s career is a cautionary tale of how even the most ruthlessly effective men can become pawns in the Washington power game McFarland and Roll bring Johnson to life in this thorough and well told history Evan Thomas Newsweek author of Robert Kennedy His Life and The Very Best Men The Early Years of the CIA Louis Johnson was FDR s Assistant Secretary of War and the architect of the industrial mobilization plans that put the nation on a war footing prior to its entry into World War II Later as Truman s Secretary of Defense Johnson was given the difficult job of unifying the armed forces and carrying out Truman s orders to dramatically reduce defense expenditures In both administrations he was asked to confront and carry out extremely unpopular initiatives massive undertakings that each president believed were vital to the nation s security and economic welfare Johnson s conflicts with Henry Morgenthau Secretary of War Harry H Woodring Winston Churchill Harry Hopkins Dean Acheson Averell Harriman and Paul Nitze find contemporary parallels in the recent disagreements between the national defense establishment and the State Department Where They Stand Robert W. Merry, 2012-06-26 The author of the acclaimed biography of President James Polk A Country of Vast Designs offers a fresh playful and challenging way of playing Rating the Presidents by pitching historians views and subsequent experts polls against the judgment and votes of the presidents own contemporaries Merry posits that presidents rise and fall based on performance as judged by the electorate Thus he explores the presidency by

comparing the judgments of historians with how the voters saw things Was the president reelected If so did his party hold office in the next election Where They Stand examines the chief executives Merry calls Men of Destiny those who set the country toward new directions There are six of them including the three nearly always at the top of all academic polls Lincoln Washington and FDR He describes the Split Decision Presidents including Wilson and Nixon successful in their first terms and reelected less successful in their second terms and succeeded by the opposition party He describes the Near Greats Jefferson Jackson Polk TR Truman the War Presidents Madison McKinley Lyndon Johnson the flat out failures Buchanan Pierce and those whose standing has fluctuated Grant Cleveland Eisenhower This voyage through our history provides a probing and provocative analysis of how presidential politics works and how the country sets its course Where They Stand invites readers to pitch their opinions against the voters of old the historians the pollsters and against the author himself In this year of raucous presidential politics Where They Stand will provide a context for the unfolding campaign drama

**Truman and MacArthur** Michael D. Pearlman, 2008-03-12 Truman and MacArthur offers an objective and comprehensive account of the very public confrontation between a sitting president and a well known general over the military's role in the conduct of foreign policy In November 1950 with the army of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea mostly destroyed Chinese military forces crossed the Yalu River They routed the combined United Nations forces and pushed them on a long retreat down the Korean peninsula Hoping to strike a decisive blow that would collapse the Chinese communist regime in Beijing General Douglas MacArthur the commander of the Far East Theater pressed the administration of President Harry S Truman for authorization to launch an invasion of China across the Taiwan straits Truman refused MacArthur began to argue his case in the press a challenge to the tradition of civilian control of the military He moved his protest into the partisan political arena by supporting the Republican opposition to Truman in Congress This violated the President's fundamental tenet that war and warriors should be kept separate from politicians and electioneering On April 11 1951 he finally removed MacArthur from command Viewing these events through the eyes of the participants this book explores partisan politics in Washington and addresses the issues of the political power of military officers in an administration too weak to carry national policy on its own accord It also discusses America's relations with European allies and its position toward Formosa Taiwan the long standing root of the dispute between Truman and MacArthur Vietnam's Second Front Andrew L. Johns, 2010-01-21 The effects of domestic politics on the Vietnam War are revealed in this groundbreaking historical study by the author of The Price of Loyalty In Vietnam's Second Front Andrew L Johns examines how American domestic politics effected the Vietnam War He pays special attention to the role of the Republican Party from the Nixon administration to grassroots organizations The revealing analysis sheds new light on the relationship between Congress and the imperial presidency as they struggled for control over US foreign policy Johns argues that from 1961 through the Paris Peace Accords of 1973 the Kennedy Johnson and Nixon administrations failed to achieve victory on both

fronts of the Vietnam War military and political because of their preoccupation with domestic politics Johns details the political dexterity required of all three presidents and of members of Congress to maneuver between the countervailing forces of escalation and negotiation offering a provocative account of the ramifications of their decisions With clear incisive prose and extensive archival research Johns s analysis covers the broad range of the Republican Party s impact on the Vietnam War offers a compelling reassessment of responsibility for the conflict and challenges assumptions about the roles of Congress and the president in US foreign relations

## The Enigmatic Realm of **Taking On The World Joseph And Stewart Alsop Guardians Of The American Century**: Unleashing the Language is Inner Magic

In a fast-paced digital era where connections and knowledge intertwine, the enigmatic realm of language reveals its inherent magic. Its capacity to stir emotions, ignite contemplation, and catalyze profound transformations is nothing short of extraordinary. Within the captivating pages of **Taking On The World Joseph And Stewart Alsop Guardians Of The American Century** a literary masterpiece penned by a renowned author, readers embark on a transformative journey, unlocking the secrets and untapped potential embedded within each word. In this evaluation, we shall explore the book's core themes, assess its distinct writing style, and delve into its lasting affect the hearts and minds of those who partake in its reading experience.

[https://archive.kdd.org/data/browse/default.aspx/the\\_crisis\\_in\\_american\\_diplomacy\\_shots\\_across\\_the\\_bow\\_of\\_the\\_state\\_department.pdf](https://archive.kdd.org/data/browse/default.aspx/the_crisis_in_american_diplomacy_shots_across_the_bow_of_the_state_department.pdf)

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### **Taking On The World Joseph And Stewart Alsop Guardians Of The American Century Introduction**

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