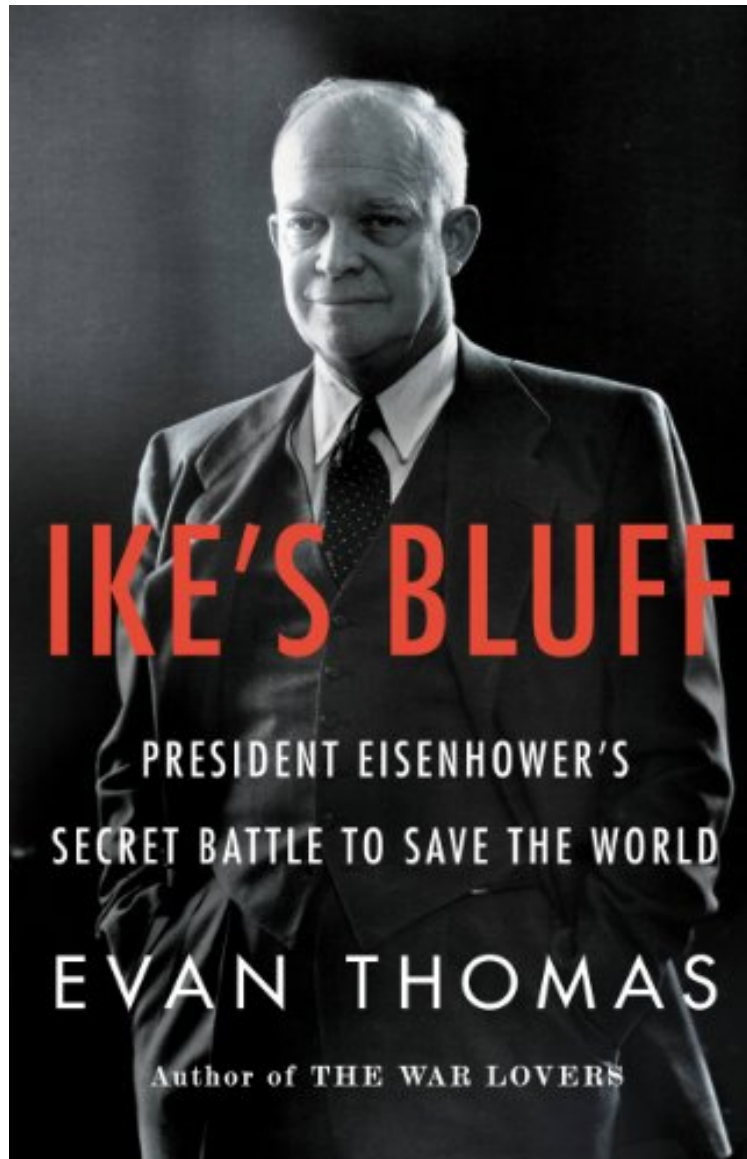


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Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Battle to Save the World (English Edition)

Von Evan Thomas

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Von Evan Thomas : Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Battle to Save the World (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ike's Bluff: President Eisenhower's Secret Battle to Save the World (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ike's Big

Stakes Bridge Game Von James G. Thompson
Ikes Bluff is another history of the Eisenhower Presidency. What sets it apart is its theme of Ike the card player, the man confident in his own judgment and who could keep his own counsel and successfully bluff his opponents when the fate of the world was at stake. The historical setting is what Eisenhower students know and those unfamiliar with his story will quickly pick up. It portrays Ike as less the reluctant candidate than a man driven by ambition for himself, his country and the world. Coming into office during the Korean War he swiftly had to confront the rising Soviet power, seek reelection amidst the Suez crisis and the Soviet Hungarian intervention and, in his last year, endure the failure of the Summit over the U-2 crisis. Through it all Ike had political problems with his vice-president, who some wanted to dump in 1956, his aide, Sherman Adams, who eventually had to resign in scandal, and a series of health problems that became progressively more impairing as his term advanced. For a book to contribute to a well researched subject such as this it must bring a new perspective. Ikes Bluff meets that test. It replaces the concept of the Eisenhower Administration as quiet years of inactivity with the view of them as an era in which great danger was only averted through Ike's skilled statesmanship and bluffing. Unwilling to spend the country into weakness by giving the military everything it sought he was required to rely on the threat of massive nuclear retaliation to keep the enemies at bay. The bluff worked because he never revealed to anyone under what, if any, circumstances, he would use the nuclear option. We are familiar with the procedure in which only the President can release nuclear weapons, but need to be reminded that it was Ike who instituted that requirement and it was he who sorted out the types of nuclear delivery systems and their distribution. His records as the liberator of Europe gave Eisenhower a unique credibility to play the game of international statecraft. He not only avoided World War, but also the brushfire wars that have tormented his successors. Author Evan Thomas has again written a book (see my review of *The War Lovers*) that is both readable and educational. It helps us see its subject in a new light and gain an enhanced appreciation for him. A work that can accomplish that deserves five stars.

Kurzbeschreibung Evan Thomas's startling account of how the underrated Dwight Eisenhower saved the world from nuclear holocaust. Upon assuming the presidency in 1953, Dwight Eisenhower set about to make good on his campaign promise to end the Korean War. Yet while Eisenhower was quickly viewed by many as a doddering lightweight, behind the bland smile and simple speech was a master tactician. To end the hostilities, Eisenhower would take a colossal risk by bluffing that he might use nuclear weapons against the Communist Chinese, while at the same time restraining his generals and advisors who favored the strikes. Ike's gamble was of such magnitude that there could be but two outcomes: thousands of lives saved, or millions of lives lost. A tense, vivid and revisionist account of a president who was then, and still is today, underestimated, *IKE'S BLUFF* is history at its most provocative and thrilling. *Pressestimmen* Terrific Praise for *The War Lovers*: No biographer at work today has a surer feel for the human dimension of history than Evan Thomas... *The War Lovers* is as good as popular history gets. "Jon Meacham, author of *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*" In his absorbing narrative of men who found duty or fulfillment or personal meaning in a war for empire-and of other men, like William James, who feared that such a quest would rot the nation's soul-Thomas has illuminated, in a compulsively readable style, a critical moment in American history. This is a book that, with its style and panache, is hard to forget and hard to put down. "Ronald Steel, *New York Times Book*" Thomas has delivered an innovative, frequently entertaining and valuable retelling of an episode that set the pattern for more than a century of foreign military adventurism. This timely book is a cautionary tale about how the psyche of powerful and ambitious leaders may matter more than fact-or even truth-when the question of war arises. "James McGrath Morris, *The Washington Post*" Thomas takes some risks in his biography of Theodore Roosevelt and his cohorts, trying to get not just inside their actions, but inside their heads. The result is an intriguing examination of the pull that war has on men. "Steve Weinberg, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*" *Werbetext* A startling new account of how the underrated Dwight Eisenhower saved the world from nuclear holocaust, by the bestselling author of *The War Lovers*.