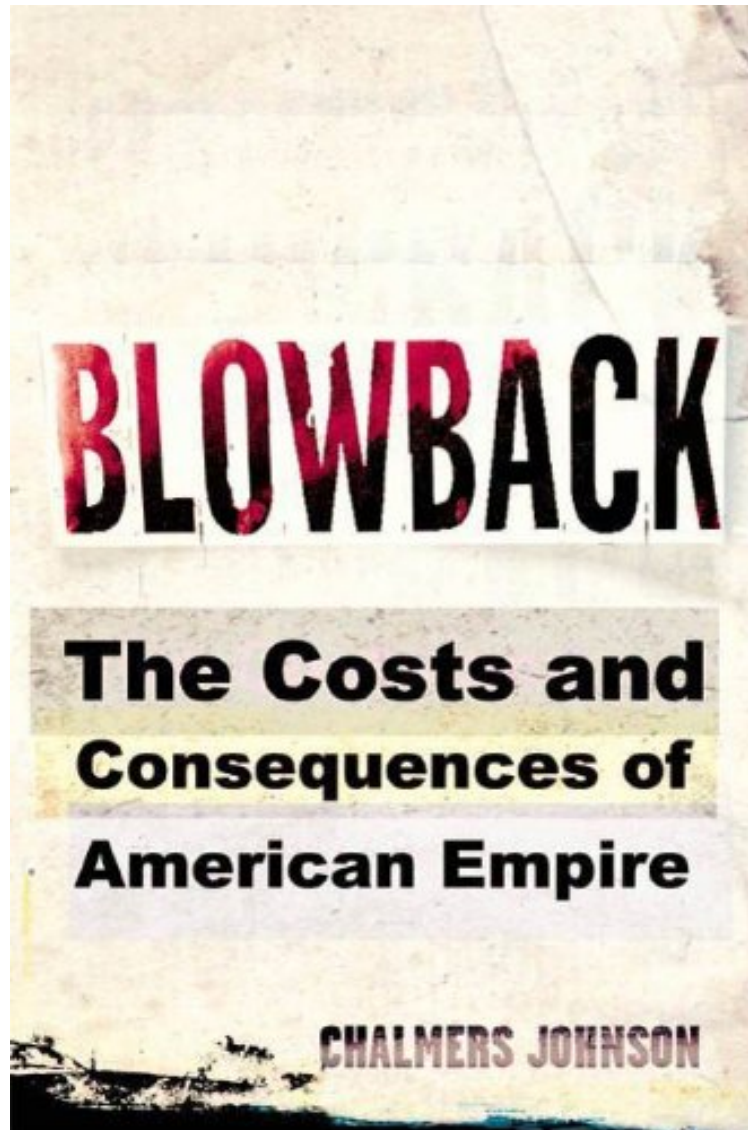


(Mobile library) Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire (American Empire Project)

Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire (American Empire Project)

Von Chalmers Johnson

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Von Chalmers Johnson : Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire (American Empire Project) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire (American Empire Project):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen11 von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well versed, well written, and an important warningVon Andrew FairAlthough some of the reviewers of this book believe

that Johnson has stepped beyond his realm of knowledge, as someone who has researched these issues in depth, I can say with certainty that he has not. This book has placed forward a very important thesis on the current state of American affairs, and a rather accurate one. Cruise Missile foreign policy and economic brinksmanship have certainly dominated U.S. policy in this decade, and it is a very dangerous game to play. If anyone doubts Mr. Johnson's theory, then they should perhaps take a closer look at the countries and situations he had included into his writing, from China and Japan, which he knows intimately, to the politics and policies of the end of the Cold War. Johnson is not an isolationist, and neither am I, but the fact remains that America is in a new stage of pseudo-imperialism, only without even the containment justifications of the Cold War. You need only to look at Iraq and the Balkans to see the truth. That, and the economic information that the author provides is excellent. In the end, I do not agree with all of Johnson's statements, such as the brief analysis of Pentagon spending (his statement concerning the F-15 fighter being unmatched is flawed, considering the proliferation of agile Su-27/33 fighter in China). However, his thesis holds up, and his opinions are fundamentally sound. Not a single statement is made that cannot be backed up with hard evidence and plain old history.

9 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Clear and to the point
Von Dennis E. Wright
Chalmers Johnson in this book is informative, factual and unbiased as he recounts our American approach to dealing with the post W.W.II situation and the Cold War. We as Americans would do well to reflect upon the validity of continuing to interact with our neighbors, friends and allies in this manner in the future. Having spent 30 years overseas in the places he describes, Viet Nam (68-71, Okinawa (71, 86 to 90), Japan, Saudi Arabia (Gulf War), Iran (during the Sha), Indonesia (in 97), Malaysia (98-99), Singapore (97-99) as both an instrument of U.S. policy (USMC) and a businessman I concur with his view of the situation. This book should be required reading for all federal government officials (elected or appointed) and all state department personnel.

Chalmers Johnson in this book is a candle raging against the darkness.
2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Why do they hate us?
Von Thomas S. Karat
The Book
This book is a guide to some of the policies during and after the Cold War that generated, and continue to generate, 'blowback' a term the CIA invented to describe the likelihood that US covert operations in other people's countries would result in retaliations against Americans, civilian and military, at home and abroad. During the first year after its publication, Blowback was largely ignored in the US. Few of the mainstream book reviews took any notice of it, and the house organ of the Council on Foreign Relations, Foreign Affairs, wrote that 'Blowback reads like a comic book.' Not surprisingly perhaps, the response elsewhere in the world was somewhat different. The book was quickly translated into German, Italian, and Japanese, and the foreign news editor of Der Spiegel even flew to California to interview Johnson. Domestic lack of interest changed dramatically after September 11, 2001. The book was reprinted eight times in less than two months and became an underground bestseller among Americans suddenly sensitized to, or at least desperate to know about, some of the realities of the world in which they lived. Actions that generate blowback are normally kept totally secret from the American public and from most of their representatives in Congress. The American people may not know what is done in their name, but those on the receiving end surely do - including the people of Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954), Cuba (1959 to present), Congo (1960), Brazil (1964), Indonesia (1965), Vietnam (1961-73), Laos (1961-73), Cambodia (1961-73), Greece (1967-74), Chile (1973), Afghanistan (1979 to present), El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua (1980s), and Iraq (1991 to present), to name only the most obvious cases.

Comment
In a speech to Congress on September 20, 2001, shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, President George W. Bush posed this question: 'Why do they hate us?' And he answers: 'They hate our freedoms, our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote.' He commented later that he was amazed 'that there's such misunderstanding of what our country is about that people would hate us.' Coming from a President this statement serves well to illustrate both, the ignorance and arrogance prevalent in the highest decision making circles in the US. This statement goes beyond blunt deception, it is so far off target that it is difficult to find a common denominator on which to base a counter argument. People genuinely believing in this simplistic world view (President or not) unfortunately mostly do not find their way to books like 'Blowback.' It is easier to believe that Saddam Hussein possessed WMD, or that he would cooperate with Al Qaeda to execute 9/11, a view that apparently was shared by 75% of the US troops just before Iraq was invaded. Like any other writer Johnson portrays his own view of his own field of expertise. Given his history, this makes him an excellent source of fairly balanced information. He presents his facts with much thought and restrains from abstractions which makes his writings easily digestible. As ancient Rome fell due to military overstretch and political infighting, one might assume that our elites drew some lessons there, however, it seems that Churchill was right when he said: 'history shows that men do not learn from history'. If you want to broaden your view on past world affairs that affect our lives today or even have a glimpse of the future, 'Blowback' might just do that.

Kurzbeschreibung
An explosive account of the resentments American policies are sowing around the world and of the payback that will be our harvest in the twenty-first century. Blowback, a term invented by the CIA, refers to the unintended consequences of American policies. In this sure-to-be-controversial book, Chalmers Johnson lays out in vivid

detail the dangers faced by our overextended empire, which insists on projecting its military power to every corner of the earth and using American capital and markets to force global economic integration on its own terms. From a case of rape by U.S. servicemen in Okinawa to our role in Asia's financial crisis, from our early support for Saddam Hussein to our actions in the Balkans, Johnson reveals the ways in which our misguided policies are planting the seeds of future disaster. In the wake of the Cold War, the United States has imprudently expanded the commitments it made over the previous forty years, argues Johnson. In *Blowback*, he issues a warning we would do well to consider: it is time for our empire to demobilize before our bills come due. If the 20th century was the American century, the 21st century may be a time of reckoning for the United States. Chalmers Johnson, an authority on Japan and its economy, offers a troubling prognosis of what's to come. *Blowback*--the title refers to a CIA neologism describing the unintended consequences of American activity--is a call for the United States to rethink its position in the world. "The evidence is building up that in the decade following the end of the Cold War, the United States largely abandoned a reliance on diplomacy, economic aid, international law, and multilateral institutions in carrying out its foreign policies and resorted much of the time to bluster, military force, and financial manipulation," writes Johnson. "The world is not a safer place as a result." Individual chapters focus on Okinawa (where American servicemen were accused of raping a 12-year-old girl in "Asia's last colony"), the two Koreas, China, and Japan. The result is a liberal-leaning (and Asia-centric) call for the United States to disengage from many of its global commitments. Critics will call Johnson an isolationist, but friends (perhaps admirers of Patrick Buchanan's *A Republic, Not an Empire*) will say he simply speaks good sense. All will agree he is an earnest voice: "I believe our very hubris ensures our undoing." --John J. Miller

From *Booklist* A veteran, and veteran academic on China and Japan, offers a serious indictment of the security system the U.S. organized in East Asia circa 1950 to contain the communists. Convinced the time has arrived to close down bases, bring troops home, and renegotiate extant security treaties, Johnson examines, from a highly critical, almost excoriating viewpoint, the American presence in Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Indonesia. He wants to connect with general-interest readers, perceiving them blinkered to the resentments engendered by U.S. military activity. When anti-Americanism erupts, Americans tend to be perplexed by it (why are those ingrates rioting?), they and their leaders believing their foreign policy to be animated by virtuous liberal values, not hegemonic self-interest. These occasional but persistent reactions Johnson calls "blowback," and his intimation of disasters to come, possibly wars, drives his insistence on dismantlement of the cold war security structures. This is edgy, unconventional wisdom that deserves hearing and debating. Gilbert Taylor