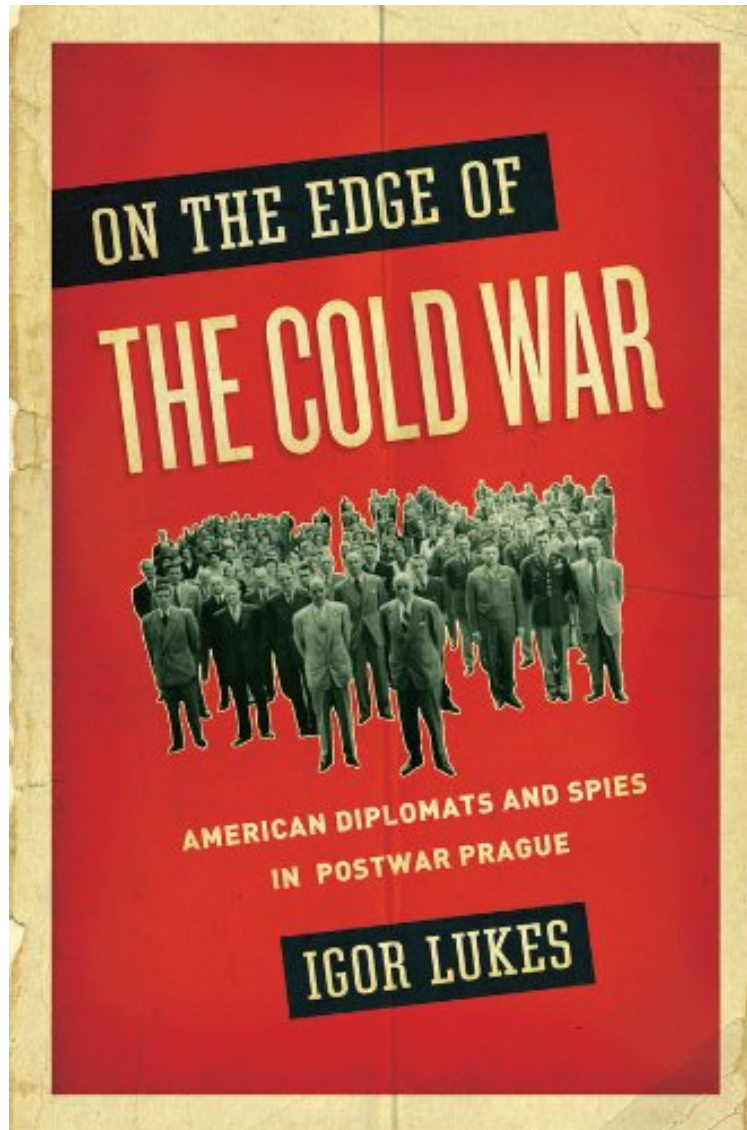


[Ebook pdf] On the Edge of the Cold War: American Diplomats and Spies in Postwar Prague

On the Edge of the Cold War: American Diplomats and Spies in Postwar Prague

Von Igor Lukes

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Von Igor Lukes : On the Edge of the Cold War: American Diplomats and Spies in Postwar Prague before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Edge of the Cold War: American Diplomats and Spies in Postwar Prague:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. well written with amazing detailsVon crypto skriptDid you know, that the war in Central Europe could have been over by

May 4 or 6, 1945? Did you know that the first victorious vehicle in Prague was not a Soviet tank, but an American jeep? Did you know that Dr. Edward Benes, president of the Czechoslovak government in exile (London), returned to Prague via Moscow, without any foreign diplomats at his side, without any possibility to communicate with anyone but Soviet generals and politicians? Did you know that Czech communists declined any help during the Prague uprising in May 45 and waited for the Soviets to arrive, while brave hearted Czech patriots were snuffed by skilled SS troops? Did you know that the infamous Iron Curtain could have been somewhere further east like in the Baltic states, Byelarus and Romania? I didn't neither. It is a very well researched book written by someone who knows these details that were supposed to stay untold. It is a book of suspense, of good men doing nothing and, therefore, doing horribly wrong.

Kurzbeschreibung This book studies the early stages of the Cold War from the perspective of the U.S. Embassy in postwar Prague. The main personalities include Ambassador Steinhardt and U.S. Intelligence officers Katek and Taggart. They were highly educated and motivated. Nevertheless, in 1948 they suffered a strategic defeat that helped deepen the Cold War tensions for decades to come. *Pressestimmen* "With inventive research and skillful storytelling, Igor Lukes reconstructs the crucial Cold War history of Czechoslovakia between the collapse of the Third Reich and the momentous February 1948 Czech coup. A striking cast of characters--adventurous spies, naive diplomats, secret police rogues, and seductive women--inhabits this intriguing, if ultimately tragic, tale of the fecklessness of the U.S. government when facing the destruction of Czechoslovak democracy." --Norman M. Naimark, Stanford University "Though full of thrilling detail, this excellent history of the failure of American diplomats and spies to support Czechoslovak democracy before the communist takeover is ultimately quite sobering. Deep research in both American and Czech archives reveals some of the lessons that Americans had to learn in order to become a great power." --Timothy Snyder, author of *Bloodlands* "Espionage and intelligence-gathering have often been described as the 'missing dimension' in the historiography of the Cold War. Igor Lukes's fascinating book fills in this dimension in great detail. By showing how U.S. intelligence agencies went astray in early postwar Czechoslovakia, Lukes's gripping narrative sheds invaluable light on the initial years of the Cold War." --Mark Kramer, Cold War Studies Program, Harvard University "Superb and unique--I know of no account of the Cold War's beginnings as vivid and entertaining as this or as full of lessons and warnings for today. Igor Lukes presents these three postwar years as a high-stake drama, full of suspense. Had that drama ended differently--and he reminds us that it could have--it would have changed the shape of the Cold War that was to beset the world for two generations. With sinking hearts we watch Czechoslovak democracy--this pivot point, this 'master key to Europe'--being lost, step by step, by wrong-headed Western policies, naivet, lack of will, and inept intelligence work." --Tennen "As Igor Lukes shows in *On the Edge of the Cold War*, his engrossing chronicle of the days when Czechoslovakia hung in the balance, the country's place behind the Iron Curtain was anything but foreordained...an invaluable account." --Wall Street Journal "Though full of thrilling detail, this excellent history of the failure of American diplomats and spies to support Czechoslovak democracy before the communist takeover is ultimately quite sobering. Deep research in both American and Czech archives reveals some of the lessons that Americans had to learn in order to become a great power." --Timothy Snyder, author of *Bloodlands* "Espionage and intelligence-gathering have often been described as the 'missing dimension' in the

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