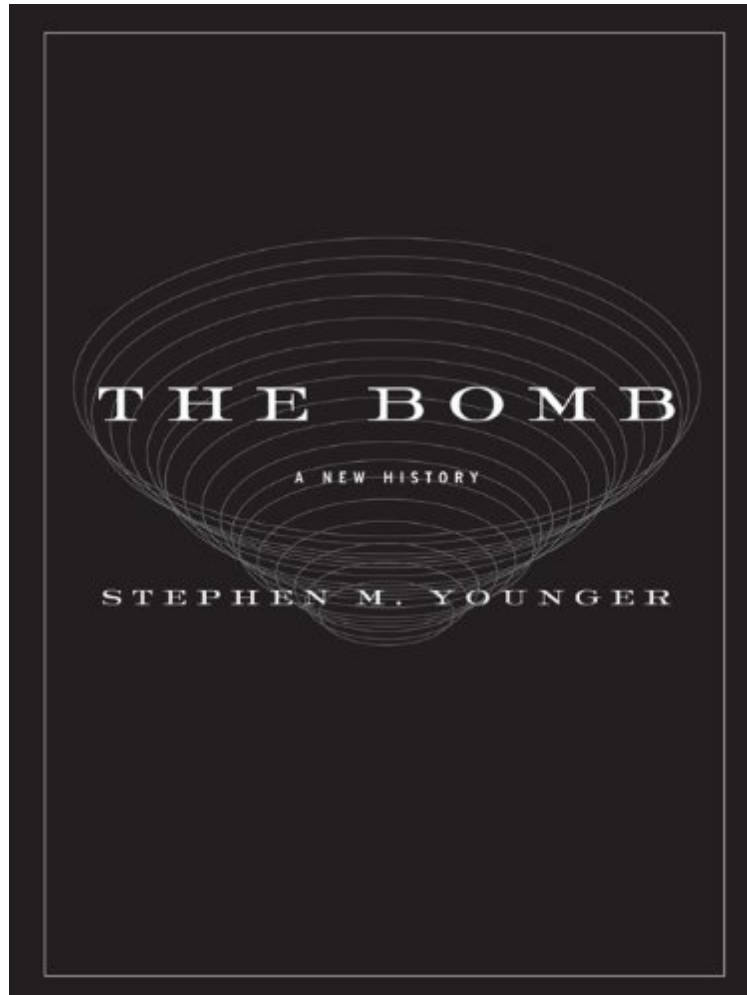


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The Bomb: A New History

Von *Stephen M. Younger PhD*

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Von Stephen M. Younger PhD : The Bomb: A New History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bomb: A New History:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. How did we arrive at the theory of mutually assured destruction?Von expressDr. Younger, the former head of nuclear arms research and development at Los Alamos and former director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at the Pentagon, has witnessed firsthand the making of nuclear policy. He points out how political self-control and global treaties worked for decades to limit atomic proliferation. Although he destroys the myth that all the secrets of nuclear weapons design are available on the Internet, he warns of the hidden dynamics of nuclear proliferation and suggests ways to reduce the threat.Dr. Younger is well positioned to grasp the politics behind nuclear weapons as well as the technology, although his atomic experience from the Manhattan project to the Cold War and into the present day is

sketchy. In this slender tome he explains convincingly how nuclear weapons fit into our globalized, war-plagued world. It becomes apparent that all paths stem from the United States, directly or indirectly. It is rather well known that the Manhattan Project was compromised by Soviet spies. Stalin was so awestruck by the success of his agents, that his first atom bomb was an exact replica of Fat Man, the codename for the type of atomic bomb that the United States detonated over Nagasaki on 9 August 1945. And the genie was out of the bottle. In the 1950s dozens of Israeli scientists - the only foreign scientists - were observing and participating in the French program of nuclear weapons design. Until Charles de Gaulle returned to power, France was the principal arms supplier for the young Jewish state. Israel, in turn, shared its atomic secrets with South Africa. The two states cooperated in the exchange of the most important basic ingredients for the making of atom bombs: Israel shipped tritium to South Africa to receive the key element: uranium. Younger analyzes and describes current nuclear arsenals in the United States as well as those the Russian Federation inherited from the USSR. There are also chapters on the nuclear forces of the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan and North Korea. Younger also confirms that Iran is pursuing the enrichment of uranium to levels higher than would be required for a nuclear energy program. With clarity that can drift off to simplification, Dr. Younger explains how weapons work, the myths and realities of what happens after a nuclear explosion and explains the tactics of nuclear targeting (countervalue and counterforce). In the closing chapter he discusses the role of nuclear weapons in the twenty-first century and explores the fundamental role of these weapons to maintain strategic peace with a mix of old and new ways to defuse the proliferation threat. He recognizes past restraints as fraying and the task of replacing nuclear weapons with advanced conventional weapons as increasingly urgent. However, there is a profound lack of new history as the subtitle indicates.

Kurzbeschreibung Younger has provided an insightful guide, especially for the general reader, into today's array of nuclear powers and their capabilities. James Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Energy, former Director of Central Intelligence. In *The Bomb*, Stephen Younger, former Los Alamos weapons designer and author of *Endangered Species*, provides a new history of the making of nuclear policy and the creation of the most terrible weapons humankind has ever possessed. In an era when rogue nations like North Korea and Iran strive to create their own precarious weapons programs, Younger's *The Bomb* provides much-needed background and insight for students, policy makers, and readers who wish to better understand the important issues involving nuclear weapons and national security. **Kurzbeschreibung** Younger has provided an insightful guide, especially for the general reader, into today's array of nuclear powers and their capabilities. James Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Energy, former Director of Central Intelligence. In *The Bomb*, Stephen Younger, former Los Alamos weapons designer and author of *Endangered Species*, provides a new history of the making of nuclear policy and the creation of the most terrible weapons humankind has ever possessed. In an era when rogue nations like North Korea and Iran strive to create their own precarious weapons programs, Younger's *The Bomb* provides much-needed background and insight for students, policy makers, and readers who wish to better understand the important issues involving nuclear weapons and national security. **Buchrückseite** From his years at Los Alamos and the Nevada Test Site to his meetings with nuclear arms experts in Moscow, former weapons designer Stephen M. Younger has witnessed firsthand the making of nuclear policy. With a deep understanding of both the technology and the politics behind nuclear weapons, he guides us from the Manhattan Project to the Cold War and into the present day, illuminating how nuclear weapons fit into our globalized, war-plagued world. Does the United States genuinely need a massive stockpile in an era of precision bombs and missile defense? Under what circumstances might we need nuclear weapons in the future? How does the proliferation of weapons in the hands of other nations affect our own nuclear policy? With startling clarity, Younger reveals how weapons work, the myths and realities of what happens after a nuclear explosion, and how our nuclear policy evolved to what it is today. *The Bomb* is a compelling call to debate, and to action, that no one can afford to ignore.