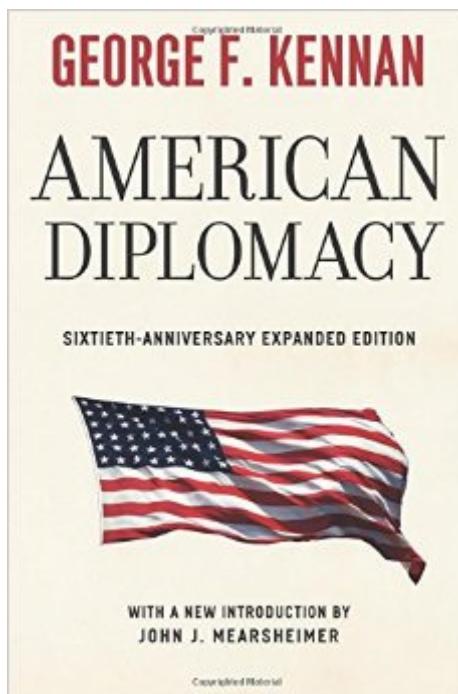


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American Diplomacy: Sixtieth-Anniversary Expanded Edition (Walgreen Foundation Lectures)



Synopsis

For more than sixty years, George F. Kennan's American Diplomacy has been a standard work on American foreign policy. Drawing on his considerable diplomatic experience and expertise, Kennan offers an overview and critique of the foreign policy of an emerging great power whose claims to rightness often spill over into self-righteousness, whose ambitions conflict with power realities, whose judgmentalism precludes the interests of other states, and whose domestic politics frequently prevent prudent policies and result in overstretch. Keenly aware of the dangers of military intervention and the negative effects of domestic politics on foreign policy, Kennan identifies troubling inconsistencies in the areas between actions and ideals—“even when the strategies in question turned out to be decided successes. In this expanded sixtieth-anniversary edition, a substantial new introduction by John J. Mearsheimer, one of America's leading political realists, provides new understandings of Kennan's work and explores its continued resonance. As America grapples with its new role as one power among many—“rather than as the “indispensable nation”—that sees “further into the future,” Kennan's perceptive analysis of the past is all the more relevant. Today, as then, the pressing issue of how to wield power with prudence and responsibility remains, and Kennan's cautions about the cost of hubris are still timely. Refreshingly candid, American Diplomacy cuts to the heart of policy issues that continue to be hotly debated today. “These celebrated lectures, delivered at the University of Chicago in 1950, were for many years the most widely read account of American diplomacy in the first half of the twentieth century.” “Foreign Affairs, Significant Books of the Last 75 Years

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The 2012 "expanded" edition does not appear to have anything by Kennan that was not in the earlier 1984 edition, so if you have that, or have read that, you would only be interested in this for the lengthy "substantial new introduction by John J. Mearsheimer."

George Kennan is a gifted writer and a forward thinking theorist. His influence in American foreign policy during the Cold War is likely a major contributing factor to the eventual defeat of Russian Communism.

There are true monuments of the American Diplomacy. These are people of a great talent and experience like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and I would say the author of this book George F. Kennan. He was an American ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1952 (dictator Stalin was alive). As prof. John J. Mearsheimer put it in his Introduction, "Kennan was a 'father of containment', the strategy the U.S. employed throughout Cold War to deal with the Soviet threat...played a central role in the making of the Marshall Plan, as well as the creation of Radio Free Europe and the CIA's covert operations directorate". Since 1945, the Anglo-Saxon dominance was checked and interrupted with the Soviets' actions that were made to fulfill an aggressive agenda, that is to control the world by any means. Kennan knew Soviets' thinking, he lived in Moscow as a diplomat long enough to learn first hand. He put a good historical account for those who want to know more about the art of making American diplomacy. It is not easy to be a superpower or an empire simply because the entire world is watching and judging you instantly. This book is 192 pages long. It is interesting and helpful to recollect things from U.S. foreign policy we forgot about already. Andrzej Mikolaj GasienicaChicago, Illinois

Required reading for anyone interested in Foreign Policy in the United States. Also an excellent primary piece of academic history.

It is full of advice which was clearly reasoned and much neglected at high cost to the US. Very clearly reasoned.

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