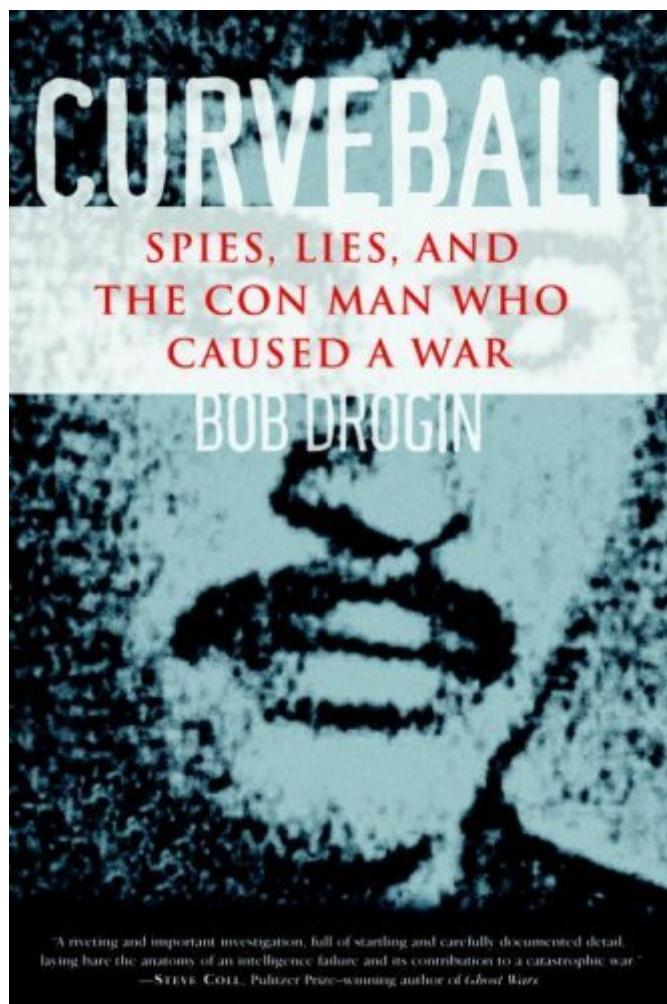


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Curveball: Spies, Lies, And The Con Man Who Caused A War



Synopsis

Curveball answers the crucial question of the Iraq war: How and why was America's intelligence so catastrophically wrong? In this dramatic and explosive book, award-winning Los Angeles Times reporter Bob Drogin delivers a narrative that takes us to Europe, the Middle East, and deep inside the CIA to find the truth—the truth about the lies and self-deception that led us into a military and political nightmare.

Book Information

File Size: 1260 KB

Print Length: 368 pages

Publisher: Random House; 1 edition (October 30, 2007)

Publication Date: October 30, 2007

Language: English

ASIN: B000SHMJIQ

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #303,375 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #52

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Nuclear #117

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Military History > Iraq

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Customer Reviews

This book was so hyped, I was looking forward to a pragmatic analysis of what went right and what went wrong in the lead-up to the Iraq war. Instead, this book is a narrative prose written in almost novel-like style that tells the story of Curveball the man. The book is well written, and the author paints a very vivid picture of how the events unfolded, but for my personal tastes in reading material, it was too much story-telling, not enough analysis.

This book points out how human the people making life and death decisions are. What is seen in this book is seen in all walks of life and I found it enlightening

When I got my doctorate at Columbia on the subject of Vietnam, I ever worried about the vast damage done by lies and disinformation and lobbying. This book, on the liar and disinformationist and lobbyist who brought us the Iraq war, is superlative. Do note when you read it how inept the CIA was in accepting this man's lies, and then in stonewalling the Congress and White House about its inept performance. Trivia for the day: Are we all aware that "lobby" and "lobbyist" are words invented in the good old USA? Probably in the 1840s or somewhat before...?

Well written, griping story. Makes your blood boil at CIA incompetance.

It was Fate that I bought this overpriced ebook for a class a few days before Curveball's admission of fabricating his entire story about mobile bioweapons trucks being used by the Saddam Hussein regime to develop germs to conduct warfare. The Germans were fools but not as big a group of fools as the US intelligence community, specifically the CIA. Drogin must feel vindicated in his assessment of the entire issue of Curveball's creditability, as must some of the personalities in his book who tried to spread the true word about Curveball. Curveball studied Americans and he read them right. He knew what to do to get their attention. He played everyone like a fiddle, but now is the time for him to pay for the dance. Now that Curveball has outed himself, the saga continues as the Germans strip him of his asylum perks and the US want him extradited to answer for his fraud. He is not totally at fault. The Bush administration knew his story was false, but Powell was made to be the goat and deliver the speech to the UN that helped that body to buy off on any action the US took to relieve the threat of any WMD existing in the hands of an unfriendly despotic regime. In his February 15 interview with German journalists for the UK Guardian, Curveball expressed regret, not over the lives lost in fighting in his country, but for the loss of his cell phone and his apartment which the Germans took back. The Germans are reviewing his status in their witness protection program and it can be hoped they will kick him out and set an example for what happens when immigrants betray their trust. This book details not just Curveball's fraud but the arrogance of the CIA who ignored all of their training and their common sense to make their fantasy come true. It would be nice to think everyone who erred deliberately would ultimately pay for their transgressions, including Bush. But, as Nixon dodged his bullet, so most likely will Bush. This book is a fast read and well written. It is even better now we know the rest of the story. Highly recommended.

It's familiar spy-thriller fodder -- little guy outwits bumbling government bureaucrats, leading to

international disaster. And the writing moves along in the page-turning way of the best of the genre. This isn't made-up stuff, though. It's the real story of how an Iraqi nobody with a good sales pitch and a glib tongue fooled enough intelligence people enough of the time to give the U.S. administration its pretext to go after Saddam Hussein's supposed weapons of mass destruction. Author Bob Drogin is a veteran newspaper reporter who wrote episodes of this story for the Los Angeles Times over the past several years. His book is thoroughly (but unobtrusively) documented. Read it and you'll hope, as I do, that future Washington decision-makers have read it, too.

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