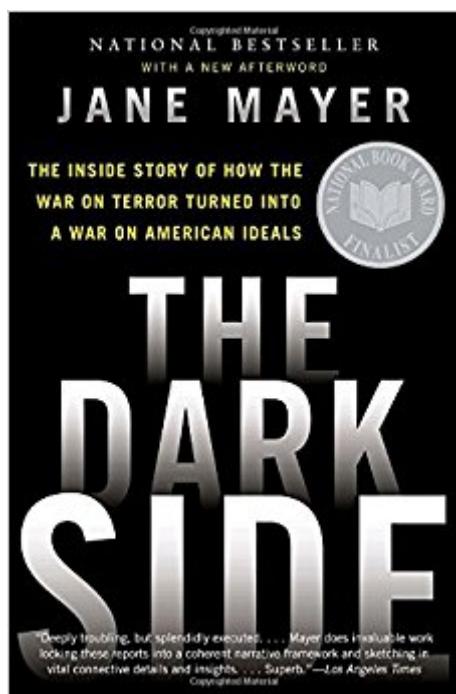


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The Dark Side: The Inside Story Of How The War On Terror Turned Into A War On American Ideals



Synopsis

The Dark Side is a dramatic, riveting, and definitive narrative account of how the United States made self-destructive decisions in the pursuit of terrorists around the world—decisions that not only violated the Constitution, but also hampered the pursuit of Al Qaeda. In spellbinding detail, Jane Mayer relates the impact of these decisions by which key players, namely Vice President Dick Cheney and his powerful, secretive adviser David Addington, exploited September 11 to further a long held agenda to enhance presidential powers to a degree never known in U.S. history, and obliterate Constitutional protections that define the very essence of the American experiment. With a new afterward.

One of The New York Times 10 Best Books of the Year
National Bestseller
National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist
A Best Book of the Year:
Salon, Slate, The Economist, The Washington Post, Cleveland Plain-Dealer

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Customer Reviews

Following the paper trail left by the blank check the government and the citizenry gave the Bush administration after 9/11, Mayer tracks the nuanced and specific actions that have resulted in a devaluation of American ideals both domestically and abroad. Her talent lies in identifying the key moments, cases, actions and decisions that proved pivotal in empowering a monarchical executive power to avoid checks and balances. Mayer's comprehensive and detailed approach certainly ranks

her work higher among the scores of books on the Bush administration. Richard McGonagle has a powerfully resonant and gruff voice that is at times deliberate and works effectively with the tone of this book. Occasionally, however, he seems distant, not monotonic, but projecting the sense he is just going through the motions. A Doubleday hardcover (reviewed online). (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Deeply troubling, but splendidly executed.... Mayer does invaluable work locking these reports into a coherent narrative framework and sketching in vital connective details and insights.... Superb.” •Los Angeles Times “A gripping, meticulously researched, and deeply disturbing book that vindicates the observation of the great Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis that 'the greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding.'” •Parameters (U.S. Army War College Quarterly) “Essential reading.” •Pittsburgh Post-Gazette “Gripping.... Chilling.... [A] vivid and comprehensive account.” •The New York Times “One of those rare books that should be read by every concerned American.” •Austin American-Statesman “Stunning.” •Slate “Powerful, brilliantly researched, and deeply unsettling.... Extraordinary and invaluable.” •The New York Times Book Review “Some of The Dark Side seems right out of ‘The Final Days,’ minus Nixon's operatic boozing and weeping.... Nixon parallels take us only so far, however. The Dark Side is scarier than ‘The Final Days’ because these final days aren't over yet and because the stakes are much higher.” •Frank Rich, The New York Times “In The Dark Side, Jane Mayer, a staff writer for the New Yorker, documents some of the ugliest allegations of wrongdoing charged against the Bush administration. To dismiss these as wild, anti-American ravings will not do. They are facts, which Mayer substantiates in persuasive detail, citing the testimony not of noted liberals like Noam Chomsky or Keith Olbermann but of military officers, intelligence professionals, 'hard-line law-and-order stalwarts in the criminal justice system' and impeccably conservative Bush appointees who resisted the conspiracy from within the administration.” •The Washington Post Book World “Whatever it takes to get those bastards. The true nature of our Faustian bargain would not become clear until later, and maybe it needed a journalist as steely and tenacious as Jane Mayer to give us the full picture. The Dark Side is about how the war on terror became 'a war on American ideals,' and Mayer gives this story all the weight and sorrow it deserves. Many books get tagged with the word

"essential

I got a lot out of reading this book though I am one of those somewhat appalled by the resort to what I believe is clearly torture by our zealous and, I think, very committed seekers of information. I am concerned that we have compromised our values in our determined search for the guilty...efforts which, unfortunately, do us more harm than good in that the quality of information is lessened and "enemy" reaction to our use of such tactics is hardened aiding their ability to add recruits. Many innocent people have been "injured" by our unprincipled approach it would seem...their lives forever changed by their detention and subsequent release. While I am totally against the use of terror and want perpetrators to be apprehended and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, I am against our use of illegal means of handling them as it taints us too. There is the suggestion that many higher ups are guilty of being labeled as war criminals ...not just the little people who were the actives in the process. They may well be!!

The Dark Side removes any doubt that the law was twisted to rationalize what was clearly torture in the name of the United States. Jane Mayer used her remarkable research skills to uncover who the justifiers were who made water-boarding and other forms of internationally defined torture to unsuccessfully extract useful information about enemy activity. Meanwhile, our national leaders managed to simultaneously justify these harsh measures while denying they were going on. The few protests against these practices were feeble and vigorously suppressed. Mayer has done an amazing job of probing deep into the primary sources necessary to unearth this national disgrace.

Ms. Mayer has done a great service for our country by writing this book. She lays out in a highly informative and engrossing read how the Bush Administration fell into the abyss of sanctioning torture and denying individuals their civil rights. The Machiavelian Vice-President Cheney, his right-hand troll David Addington and legal adviser John Yoo come under especially harsh criticism. Addington's and Yoo's Orwellian, legalistic sophistry in justifying torture and how the President is above the law is truly breathtaking. If these two are considered to be the best and the brightest of the legal community then our nation is in deep doo-doo. Once the Abu Ghraib torture photos came out, it's almost comical how the CIA and some cabinet members scurry around in damage-control mode trying to save their own little hinnies. Some of the descriptions of torture are difficult to read. The subterfuge by especially Cheney, Addington, Rumsfeld, Yoo, Tenet, Gonzales and some personnel is infuriating. The book, however, also explains how many people within the FBI, some

military officials and conservative Republicans working within the Administration heroically tried to thwart Cheney's monstrous shenanigans. Well worth reading if you care about our nation and civil rights.

Very well written and documented. It jibes with what there was present in the news when Bush 43 was president. Personally, he got us into a needless war which has not only affected our current president but the next president as well. As Ms. Mayer said, Bush 43 was an intelligent (?) president but undoubtedly one who could be easily manipulated and was by the one of the most powerful V.P.'s in American history.

Jane Mayer is a phenomenal investigative reporter. Her writing reads like a spy novel, it grabs you and doesn't let go. I had to read a portion of this book for a political science class and I couldn't put it down. Then I went and bought Dark Money because I enjoyed her writing so much. Read them both. The Dark Side for historical purposes and Dark Money because it is relevant to the current political climate. If you want to know exactly who's money has infiltrated our democracy and to serve what purpose, it is all in there.

This is an amazing book, very well researched and beautifully written. It makes you wonder how these people (politicians and lawyers alike) continue to garner any respect in political circles. It shows that you can do anything, no matter how heinous, as long as you have power and position.

Great Book shows how Uncle Sam was bamboozled by the neocon War Hawks into invading a without provocation a United Nations member in violation of the UN Charter which Uncle Sam helped draw up and signed! Go figure.

Very very scary:(I cannot believe how American politicians behave.I am sure many world politicians are much the same.I thank Jane for sharing this story with the world and me!She is an amazing journalist

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