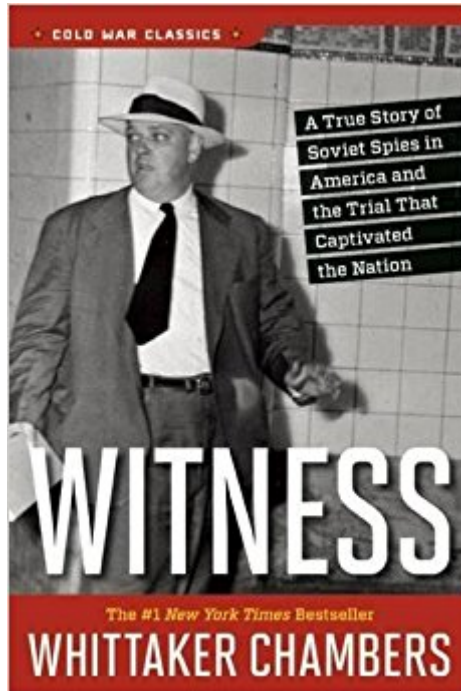




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Witness (Cold War Classics)



Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestseller for 13 consecutive weeks! First published in 1952, *Witness* is the true story of Soviet spies in America and the trial that captivated a nation. Part literary effort, part philosophical treatise, this intriguing autobiography recounts the famous Alger Hiss case and reveals much more. Chambers' worldview and his belief that "man without mysticism is a monster" went on to help make political conservatism a national force. Regnery History's Cold War Classics edition is the most comprehensive version of *Witness* ever published, featuring forewords collected from all previous editions, including discussions from luminaries William F. Buckley Jr., Robert D. Novak, Milton Hindus, and Alfred S. Regnery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First published in 1952, *Witness* was at once a literary effort, a philosophical treatise, and a bestseller. Whittaker Chambers had just participated in America's trial of the century in which Chambers claimed that Alger Hiss, a full-standing member of the political establishment, was a spy for the Soviet Union. This poetic autobiography recounts the famous case, but also reveals much more. Chambers' worldview--e.g. "man without mysticism is a monster"--went on to help make political conservatism a national force. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Whittaker Chambers has written one of the really significant American autobiographies...penetrating and terrible insights into America in the early twentieth century. -- Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

excellent book and should be read by every American.

The years prior to, during and following World War II were a time of heavy communist infiltration into all aspects of the federal government. The most famous and notable, perhaps, was Alger Hiss who was a key man at Yalta, and in writing the UN Charter. I was raised by the popular media to believe that any discussion of communist penetration of the federal government was merely "McCarthyism," and 'red baiting.' As WITNESS makes clear, there was a considerable communist presence (Harry Dexter White, Harry Hopkins, Hiss. among others) in the executive branch, and WITNESS also makes clear that there was an above ground, and below ground, apparatus that was populated by dedicated communists. The best feature of the book, however, is Mr. Chambers discussion of how and why he turned to communism as the only possible solution to the woes of the world. He was an exceptionally intelligent man, and in his view, there was no other possible choice. In a word, despair led him to believe that communism was the best vehicle to solve the problems of mankind. In fairly short order (10 years), he realized that once communists were in power, they tended to lean heavily on the 'ends justify the means' approach as millions starved or were executed (or worked to death). He later turned to Biblical Christianity as the best hope for mankind, fully aware that there are no easy solutions to the dilemma of existence. This book did have an influence on my understanding of history and on how decisions are made. In a very real sense, it impacted my life.

Witness is well written and extremely interesting. I was captivated by Whittaker Chambers story and his narration of his life and philosophy. I recommend this book to anyone who believes in freedom for all people and for those who now and then (should be more often) question their government officials. Can't praise this book enough.

A #1.

The best part of this book is the opening Chapter in which Chambers, for posterity sake, writes a letter to his children. That letter is probably the best exposition/analysis of the difference between Communism and folks who fear an active God that I've ever read.

Amazing information. This book "stays with you. "

Even at this remove, Whittaker Chambers' autobiography, besides being great literature, contains insights and lessons for every American today. Should be required reading in high school and college literature classes.

The most important autobiography of the 20th Century, Whittaker Chambers' Witness improves with each reading. One man's struggle between good and evil has rarely been so eloquently recorded. Embroiled in an internal dilemma that personified the Cold War battle, Chambers remains America's quintessential dark horse hero. While some seem eager to defile Chambers' credibility, time has proven Witness to be the sincere accounting of a unique man's winning battle against evil. True, Chambers was a troubled and desperate man, but only such an individual could have recorded this stunning work of both political and literary significance. It saddens this reviewer that Witness is not required reading for all American high school seniors. Witness is recommended to all readers who desire a better understanding of American communism in the wake of the New Deal. Chambers offers an insider's perspective that is unmatched in the genre. While Chambers doubted that his choice against communism was a triumphant one, the reader now knows that the author's fears were never realized. Americans have their deity, and Chambers (among others) to thank.

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