



Historical Dictionary of the Cold War

By Joseph Smith, Simon Davis

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Joseph Smith and Simon Davis have captured the essence and madness of the "balance of terror" of the Cold War in the *Historical Dictionary of the Cold War*. Covering an extensive period and much of the globe, this dictionary presents a year-by-year chronology and alphabetical entries on civilian and military leaders, crucial countries and peripheral conflicts, the increasingly lethal weapons systems, and the various political and military strategies.

While both authors are specialists in American foreign policy and diplomacy, Smith has a particular interest in United States relations with Latin America and Davis in Anglo-American relations. This broader focus is helpful, since it enables the authors to have a broader view of the Cold War, and having studied and lived in Great Britain, they view events from a more neutral perspective. This, and a conscious effort to maintain a scholarly balance, enhances the objectivity of this volume. Smith and Davis have produced an easy-to-use reference tool for both the history scholar and student.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The dangerous Cold War era (1945-91) was one of immense political, cultural, and historical significance. Smith (American diplomatic history, Exeter Univ., U.K.; *The Cold War: 1945-1991*) and Davis (history, Bronx Community Coll.) provide medium-length to long entries about the important people, organizations, treaties, and events of this period. Persons new to the subject are invited to read the 27-page introduction for a narrative history of the period's main themes and events. The layout and writing of this material make it easy to read, and numerous cross references are embedded in the text of each entry. The book contains a long chronology, a list of acronyms and abbreviations, and a good 33-page bibliography. There are, however, no photographs, maps, or index. Other recent reference works in this field include *The Cold War, 1945-1991*, edited by Benjamin Frankel (Gale, 1992), Thomas S. Arms's *Encyclopedia of the Cold War* (LJ 11/15/94), and Thomas Parrish's *The Cold War Encyclopedia* (LJ 12/1/95). Not surprisingly, *The Historical Dictionary* has some newer information than these books, which nevertheless have more entries that are more in-depth. The dictionary is a nice complement, but if you have these other books, you can survive without it. It is suitable, however, for all reference collections that do not have comparable resources. DDaniel K. Blewett, Coll. of DuPage Lib., Glen Ellyn, IL
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From [Booklist](#)

Entries on civilian and military leaders, key countries, weapons systems, agreements, conferences, and more are accompanied by a day-by-day chronology and an extensive bibliography. This volume joins several others on the topic, including *The Cold War Reference Guide* (McFarland, 1997), *The Columbia Guide to the Cold War* (1998), and *Encyclopedia of Cold War Politics* (Facts On File, 2000). REVWR
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Review

The definitions are succinct and precise....a lucid, twenty-five page history of the Cold War. (*The Journal Of Military History*)

Entries are intelligent, well written, and interesting. (*American Reference Books Annual*)

...an excellent dictionary of the cold war which will be of use not merely to undergraduates but also to more seasoned observers. (*History*)

A first stop reference book for the Cold War. (*Journal of Strategic Studies*)

Articles are...objective and accurate...Nevertheless, undergraduates should find this a useful source on the military and political facets of the Cold War. (*CHOICE*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Matthew Haley:

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