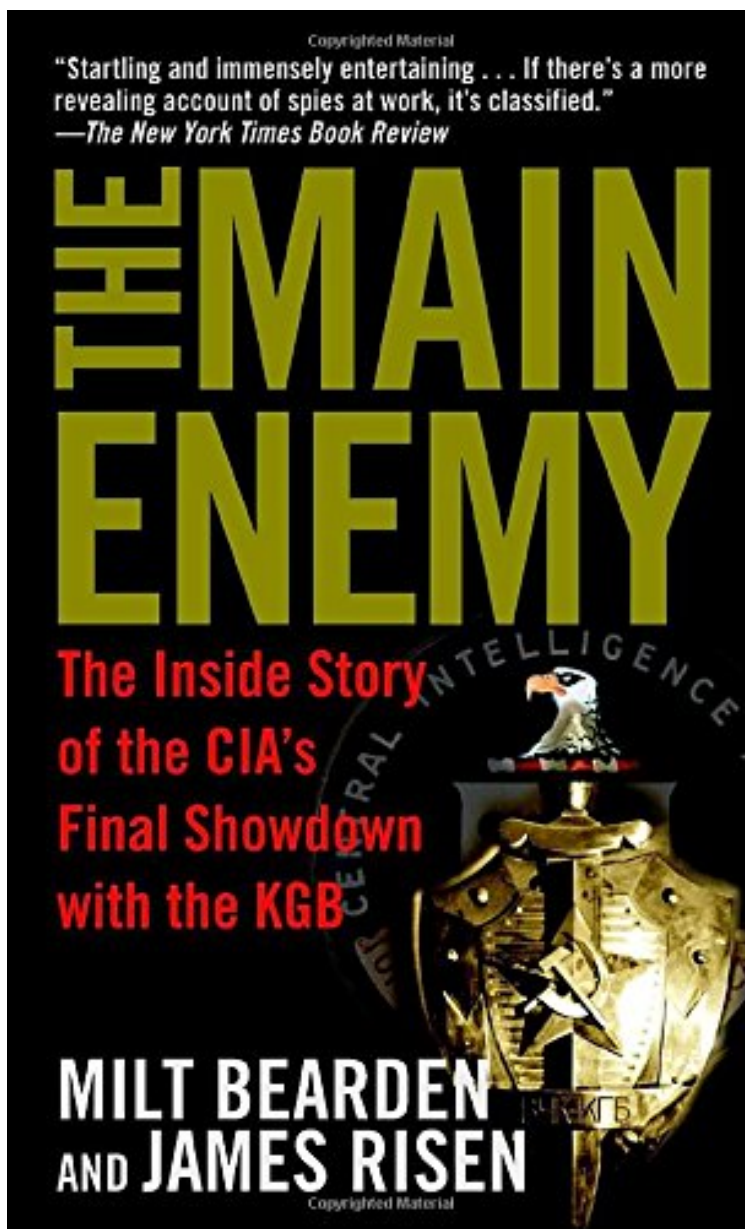


The Main Enemy: The Inside Story of the CIA's Final Showdown with the KGB

Milton Bearden, James Risen

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Milton Bearden, James Risen : The Main Enemy: The Inside Story of the CIA's Final Showdown with the KGB before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Main Enemy: The Inside Story of the CIA's Final Showdown with the KGB:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great history leading to demise of USSR By R. Marten At 536 pages, this reads like a novel covering the years 1985-1992, from CIA spy-versus-KGB spy, to Berlin Wall removal and USSR breakup, which dissolves the KGB. With Bearden as the CIA inside man and Risen as the journalist filling in gaps and KGB insiders filling in on the Russian side this book is difficult to put down. Traitors defect from both sides until there is little accomplished and both sides are tuning into CNN to get updates to the Russian collapse in early 1990's. Describing the 9 year Russian debacle in Afghanistan, along with US and Pakistan involvement is a major part of the book and also a major reason for Russia's bankruptcy. Bearden describes in some detail with real names how the CIA and KGB ran spies, dead drops, recruitment of opposing agents and a lot of other detail in the spy game. The biggest disappointment is how long it took to find the three main US traitors, Aldrich Ames, Robert Hanssen and Edward Howard with a fourth possible still unknown. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well done By Too many toys Rarely can an autobiographic author get out of their own way and accept some help. It is also rare that a co-author, even a knowledgeable one can preserve the authenticity of the stories participants. The authors were able to accomplish both in this story. They used good judgement as to the right level of detail to promote understanding without becoming tedious. I am not in the intelligence field, but I was able to appreciate the characters and stories. The authors seemed to resist the urge to sensationalize, be too proud or too humble in a way that would reduce their credibility. If the topic is of interest, I highly recommend this book. I would liken it to a Michael Shaara work in the sense that it is factual, but reads like a novel. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating - almost too good! By S. Uehlinger This is an excellent work...almost too good! It seems that at the end of the Cold War, CIA rather naively agreed to the publishing of this book - which features operational details which had they been written about only 5 years earlier, would have earned a jail sentence. I couldn't help thinking as I turned its pages that the SVR/FSB also really enjoyed reading this book - heck, they even allowed Bearden to use the digraph/crypts of the assets! like GTTophat, etc. Apparently Bearden was one of those officers who sort of "lost it" at the end of the Cold War - a professional, Russian speaking officer that suddenly became a polyanna type the minute the Cold War ended.....The Russians were going to be our friends, kumbaya.....I guess he kind of ignored about 1000 years of Russian history. And now, of course, we have seen the reversion to the mean with good old Russia.....

A landmark collaboration between a thirty-year veteran of the CIA and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, *The Main Enemy* is the dramatic inside story of the CIA-KGB spy wars, told through the actions of the men who fought them. Based on hundreds of interviews with operatives from both sides, *The Main Enemy* puts us inside the heads of CIA officers as they dodge surveillance and walk into violent ambushes in Moscow. This is the story of the generation of spies who came of age in the shadow of the Cuban missile crisis and rose through the ranks to run the CIA and KGB in the last days of the Cold War. The clandestine operations they masterminded took them from the sewers of Moscow to the back streets of Baghdad, from Cairo and Havana to Prague and Berlin, but the action centers on Washington, starting in the infamous "Year of the Spy"--when, one by one, the CIA's agents in Moscow began to be killed, up through to the very last man. Behind the scenes with the CIA's covert operations in Afghanistan, Milt Bearden led America to victory in the secret war against the Soviets, and for the first time he reveals here what he did and whom America backed, and why. Bearden was called back to Washington after the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan and was made chief of the Soviet/East Euro-pean Division—just in time to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall, the revolutions that swept across Eastern Europe, and the implosion of the Soviet Union. Laced with startling revelations--about fail-safe top-secret back channels between the CIA and KGB, double and triple agents, covert operations in Berlin and Prague, and the fateful autumn of 1989--*The Main Enemy* is history at its action-packed best. From the Hardcover edition.

From *Library Journal* Bearden, who headed up the CIA's Soviet/ Eastern European division as the Soviet Union was coming undone, joins with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Risen to chronicle those fateful years. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. ADVANCE PRAISE FOR *THE MAIN ENEMY* "Risen, the journalistic outsider, and Bearden, the clandestine insider, have combined their insight and knowledge to give us a compelling account of the last fierce days of Cold War machinations between Soviet and American intelligence. This is history very up close and very personal." --Seymour M. Hersh "Fascinating stuff . . . an inside view of a complex world . . . it doesn't get any better than this. It's great." --Robert De Niro "Some study war from an armchair; others through field glasses. The best go into the firing line. Milt Bearden of the CIA was one of those. For those of us who recall the Cold War, this is fascinating stuff. For those who are too young, read and learn." --Frederick Forsyth, author of *The Day of the Jackal* and *The Dogs of War* From the Hardcover edition. From the Inside Flap A landmark collaboration between a thirty-year veteran of the CIA and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, *The Main Enemy* is the dramatic inside story of the CIA-KGB spy wars, told through the actions of the men who fought them. Based on hundreds of interviews with operatives from both sides, *The Main Enemy* puts us inside the heads of CIA officers as they dodge surveillance and walk into violent ambushes in Moscow. This is the story of the generation of spies who came of age in the shadow of the Cuban missile crisis and rose through the ranks to run the CIA and KGB in the last days of the Cold War. The clandestine

operations they masterminded took them from the sewers of Moscow to the back streets of Baghdad, from Cairo and Havana to Prague and Berlin, but the action centers on Washington, starting in the infamous "Year of the Spy"--when, one by one, the CIA's agents in Moscow began to be killed, up through to the very last man. Behind the scenes with the CIA's covert operations in Afghanistan, Milt Bearden led America to victory in the secret war against the Soviets, and for the first time he reveals here what he did and whom America backed, and why. Bearden was called back to Washington after the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan and was made chief of the Soviet/East Euro-pean Division--just in time to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall, the revolutions that swept across Eastern Europe, and the implosion of the Soviet Union. Laced with startling revelations--about fail-safe top-secret back channels between the CIA and KGB, double and triple agents, covert operations in Berlin and Prague, and the fateful autumn of 1989--The Main Enemy is history at its action-packed best."From the Hardcover edition.