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The Spy Who Saved the World: How a Soviet Colonel Changed the Course of the Cold War

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Jerrold L. Schecter, Peter S. Deriabin : The Spy Who Saved the World: How a Soviet Colonel Changed the Course of the Cold War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Spy Who Saved the World: How a Soviet Colonel Changed the Course of the Cold War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The title will suffice --- the spy who saved the world!By Bubbles R. BouldRotten guy but he saved us from nuclear aggression. If he wasn't such a creep (as were his handlers) he would have been a hero.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you love espionage literature and biographies you will love this man's story of how he persisted in helping the west.By bonnieIt makes your heart race from the first pages. Everyone should know of the patriotism of this brave and creative Russian who made an incredible contribution to the survival of the western world.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The perfect book for cold war history readers.By Jim LindemanThe Spy Who Saved The World has been one of the best cold war reads I have discovered. It is well written and provided me with a vivid and detailed glimpse of the lives of all involved. If you think the cold war is an interesting topic, then you owe it to yourself to find a copy of this book, read it and then display it with pride on your book shelf.

A look at the career of the highest-ranking Soviet official to cooperate with the West describes how Oleg Penkovsky, cursed by a family's legacy of anti-Bolshevism, provided U.S. and British intelligence with accurate data on Soviet

nuclear capabilities. 30,000 first printing.

From Publishers Weekly During the Cold War the CIA's premier agent in the Soviet Union was a high-level intelligence officer named Oleg Penkovsky. For two years in the early 1960s he supplied the CIA with highly classified information on Soviet rocket strength and strategic planning, information that assisted President Kennedy in his handling of the world's first nuclear confrontation, the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. In the author's view, no spy in history has provided more useful material or had greater impact. Granted access to transcripts of Penkovsky's debriefings in Paris and London by U.S. and British intelligence, Schechter and Deriabin bring into focus for the first time Penkovsky's character and personality, his motivations for betraying his country, and the dimensions of the risks he took. The book concludes with a gripping account of how Penkovsky was caught by the KGB, his trial and 1963 execution. The authors call Penkovsky a fearless prophet whose heroism saved the world from nuclear war. A thoroughly good read, the book is rich in details of intelligence fieldcraft and specifics on how the CIA "ran" its operatives. Schechter is a former Time-Life bureau chief in Moscow; Deriabin, a former KGB official, defected to the West in 1954. Photos. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The most dangerous time of the recently concluded Cold War was the Cuban Missile Crisis. This book claims that the secret information transmitted by Oleg Penkovsky of Soviet Military Intelligence was vital in allowing the United States to prevail in October 1962. The possibility of global conflict was very real, and Penkovsky was even plotting to blow up the Soviet General Staff in case of war. The research for this book seems fairly solid; Schechter describes how he interviewed KGB officials in Moscow, and there is a chapter on the publication of *The Penkovskiy Papers* (LJ 12/1/65), which coauthor Deriabin, himself a KGB defector, translated. The tale of Penkovsky, executed in 1963, reinforces the belief that the human factor is more important than the technological factor in espionage. This is a famous case, and there are many published sources to corroborate parts of this book. A well-organized story that is sure to fascinate those interested in intelligence activities and U.S. relations with the former Soviet Union. Recommended.- Daniel K. Blewett, Loyola Univ. Lib., Chicago. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s While Oleg V. Penkovsky may not, literally, have saved the world, this tellingly detailed saga reconfirms that the turncoat GRU colonel provided the West with priceless intelligence during the early 1960's, when the cold war very nearly turned hot. Drawing on hitherto unavailable transcripts of Penkovsky's debriefings by the CIA and the UK's MI6, Schechter (coauthor, *Back in the U.S.S.R.*, etc.) and former KGB officer Deriabin (*The KGB*, 1989, etc.) deliver a fascinating rundown on a defector in place who wreaked incalculable havoc on the Soviet regime. With his own military career stalled by dint of a White Russian father who had fought the Bolsheviks, Penkovsky offered himself to the West as a "soldier of freedom." Eventually accepted as a genuine apostate, he proved an astonishingly fertile source of accurate data on the USSR's nuclear capabilities, geopolitical aspirations, industrial priorities, and allied matters. Under his cover as a trade official, the GRU operative often traveled to London, Paris, and other points beyond the Socialist Bloc to talk with his Western contacts; otherwise, the high-ranking mole was obliged to pass on his espionage material (including exposed microfilm) at dead drops or embassy receptions in Moscow. Penkovsky's information proved invaluable to JFK in his confrontations with Khrushchev prior to the Berlin Wall, as well as during the Cuban missile crisis. In the meantime, however, Penkovsky took one risk too many and was arrested by the KGB and, following a show trial, executed in 1965. Having evaluated the theories advanced to explain Penkovsky's apprehension, the authors conclude that the truth won't be known until Kremlin files are opened. They leave little doubt, though, that their philandering, money-minded subject would probably have remained a loyal apparatchik had not his patrimony precluded his promotion to general. A fascinating portrait of a double agent whose active disaffection with the communist system helped consign it to history's dustbin. (Eight pages of photos--not seen.) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.