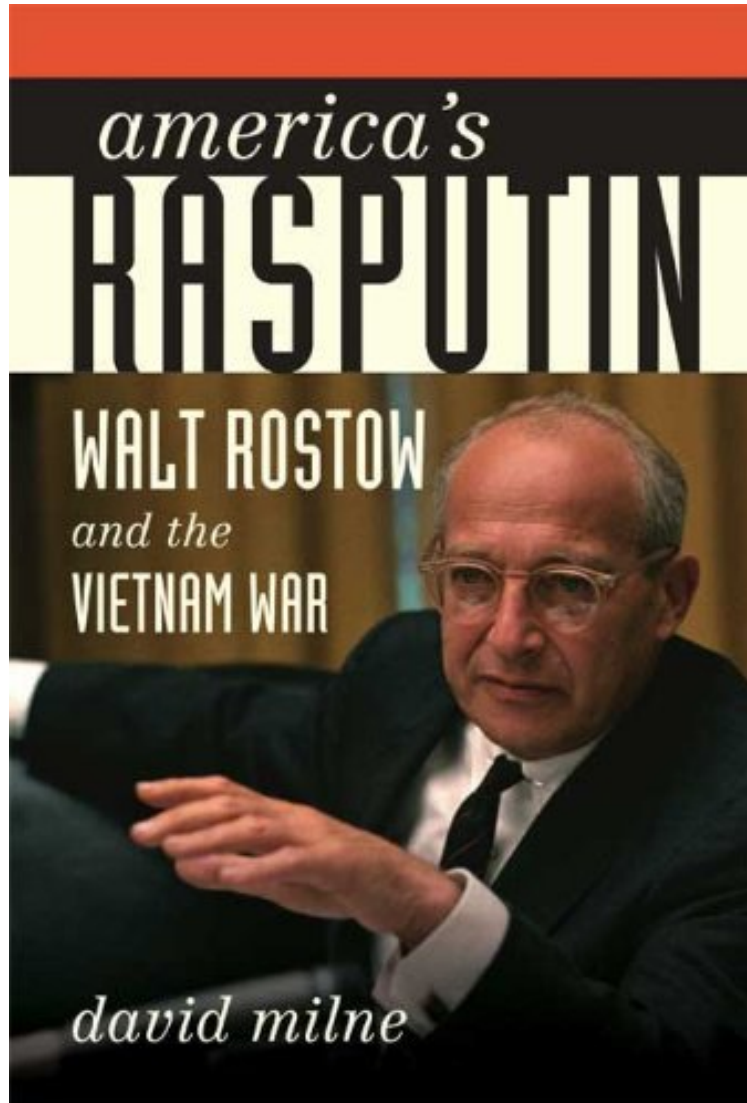


[Download free ebook] America's Rasputin: Walt Rostow and the Vietnam War

## America's Rasputin: Walt Rostow and the Vietnam War

David Milne

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1307965 in eBooks 2008-03-04 2008-03-04 File Name: B003GWX8US | File size: 64.Mb

**David Milne : America's Rasputin: Walt Rostow and the Vietnam War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America's Rasputin: Walt Rostow and the Vietnam War:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Well Researched Book On A Major Proponent of the Vietnam War By Lionel S. Taylor It took me a long time to read this book but I am glad that I finally did. Anyone interested in the Vietnam War should read this book. Walt Rostow was a fascinating person both liberal in his foreign policy while at the same time very belligerent in his dealing with Communism. What makes this book so good is that by following Rostow and his professional career one gets a lot of insight into the administration that he worked for. When I first starting reading the book I thought that the title of the book seemed a little extreme. Rasputin is not seen as the most

laudable person in World History and to refer to a national security adviser as the corrupt confidant to a dictator seemed unjustified. But as I read the book I came to realize that the title was used to reference Rostow's role as the most belligerent person in LBJ's cabinet. Even when most other cabinet members had turned on the war effort and decided that it was a bad idea and should be abandoned, Rostow continued to encourage Johnson to increase his bombing efforts in Vietnam. Throughout his time in office and all his life afterwards, Rostow never changed his opinion on the war. His opinion mirrored Johnson's and gives the reader insight into Johnson's reasoning for continuing this disastrous war. This book is a very interesting and detailed and adds more perspective to the War in Vietnam. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. High Intellect meets stubborn ignorance. By Bob Hoskins. Superbly written account of Walt Rostow's influence over President Johnson and, ultimately, the Vietnam war. Walt Rostow, undoubtedly, is a brilliant academic. His resume reads like a road map to the highest education possible within the United States and England. One prestigious university after another. Astounding appetite for learning, writing and hypothesizing. So, assuming you view his ideology as wrong; what went wrong? Walt Rostow, early in his academic career, decided to answer Karl Marx's communist manifesto with his own "Stages of development" aimed at creating democracies. His academics secured him a spot as National Security adviser under, first Kennedy then Johnson. Rostow brought brilliance to the position but, with that brilliance came rigid, unwavering thinking along with a self-assurance and comfort that his way was right. From the outset of the war, Rostow wanted to bomb, bomb and, when all the bombing was done, bomb some more. North Vietnam was the staging ground for the proof of his "stages" thesis and, no amount of public outcry, partisan shuffling or dissent was going to waver him from realizing his dream. Early in the war, Rostow, similar to Curtis LeMay, espoused massive retaliation that included invasions across the DMZ and into Laos and Cambodia. Johnson, chose to reign him in somewhat fearing Chinese intervention and possible Nuclear War. Rostow, unconcerned, sounded off again and again in favor of escalation. In some ways, Rostow has a point but, his Manichian type thinking, had no consideration for anyone or anything other than his own mindset and goals, the defeat of communism. Rostow, it appears, made many enemies (Averell Harriman, Robert McNamara) and was mollified at the higher levels of Government. Always vocal, always rigid in his thinking, he would seize any opportunity to prove his point but, would also seize any opportunity to play down opposition. Johnson, it's said, kept Rostow close to him as, Rostow never once wavered from his hawkish stance towards Vietnam. He was hawkish long after the political and popular tides turned in favor of withdrawal. His personality is fascinating inasmuch as, there was no expense in human suffering Rostow felt was too steep to achieve his goal of defeating communism. He could never see the big picture due to the myopia of his mindset. This is an excellent political book but, it's also an excellent character study. Highly recommended for historians, military buffs, Vietnam buffs and, I'd go so far as to say, the psychologically curious. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By J. C. Phillips. Many lessons for today.

Walt Rostow's meteoric rise to power—from Flatbush, Brooklyn, to the West Wing of the White House—seemed to capture the promise of the American dream. Hailing from humble origins, Rostow became an intellectual powerhouse: a professor of economic history at MIT and an influential foreign policy adviser to John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Too influential, according to some. While Rostow inspired respect and affection, he also made some powerful enemies. Averell Harriman, one of America's most celebrated diplomats, described Rostow as "America's Rasputin" for the unsavory influence he exerted on presidential decision-making. Rostow was the first to advise Kennedy to send U.S. combat troops to South Vietnam and the first to recommend the bombing of North Vietnam. He framed a policy of military escalation, championed recklessly optimistic reporting, and then advised LBJ against pursuing a compromise peace with North Vietnam. David Milne examines one man's impact on the United States' worst-ever military defeat. It is a portrait of good intentions and fatal misjudgments. A true ideologue, Rostow believed that it is beholden upon the United States to democratize other nations and do "good," no matter what the cost. America's Rasputin explores the consequences of this idealistic but unyielding dogma.