



# **Freedom Betrayed: Herbert Hoover's Secret History of the Second World War and Its Aftermath**

*George H. Nash (Editor) , Herbert C. Hoover*

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Herbert Hoover's "magnum opus"—at last published nearly fifty years after its completion—offers a revisionist reexamination of World War II and its cold war aftermath and a sweeping indictment of the "lost statesmanship" of Franklin Roosevelt. Hoover offers his frank evaluation of Roosevelt's foreign policies before Pearl Harbor and policies during the war, as well as an examination of the war's consequences, including the expansion of the Soviet empire at war's end and the eruption of the cold war against the Communists.

## **Freedom Betrayed: Herbert Hoover's Secret History of the Second World War and Its Aftermath Details**

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# **From Reader Review Freedom Betrayed: Herbert Hoover's Secret History of the Second World War and Its Aftermath for online ebook**

## **Jon says**

Oh my goodness, why does it cost so much?!!! Lot's of money for a book that was written 50 years ago.

Written by Hoover himself.

Heard about it on <http://www.lewrockwell.com/lewrockwel...>

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## **Perry Andrus says**

This is a very entertaining book. While Hoover presents his case that war never should have come to the USA, some of his writing is rather deceptive.

Ch 41 really bother me. Hoover mentions Pearl Harbor, the date the USA declared war on Japan and the date the USA declared war on Germany. But he left out a key date, Germany declared war on the USA before we declared war on Germany. He also presents counts for Allied naval ships sunk by July 1942 yet there is NO mention of Midway and he says the Japanese losses were trivial up to that date. How can the sinking of 4 IJN fleet carriers become trivial losses?

Hoover is a strident anti-Communist and has major problems with the USA and UK allying with the USSR. He states many times that the western democracies should have let the Nazis and Communists fight it out with winner take all. Why? Because he somehow feels that Germany dominating all of Europe and USSR could not hurt the USA across the wide oceans. Some of this is down right scary given that Germany controlling all those resources could have developed an atomic bomb and eventually delivered it to the USA.

He does make it very clear the FDR talked non-intervention prior to the 1940 election and then did a lot of things to get the USA into the war. Some of them were illegal but Congress appeared to look the other way.

Another area where his statements actually made me laugh out loud is his talk of "Free China" as if the Nationalists were magically a good government just because they opposed the "hated" communists.

Hoover also gives all credit for advances in the Pacific to MacArthur, no the USN, perhaps because Mac was another strident anticommunist.

After reading the book, I understand why it was not published during Hoover's lifetime. Far too much of the contents are poor history.

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## **William says**

A long time goal of the communist is to infiltrate the education system. Read this book and ask why you were never taught the context of events that led up to what we know as WWII. The proof is in the outcome. The war was fought in defense of communism. The cost was born by taxpayers of the United States. Hoover lays it out how it all happened.

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## **Paul Froehlich says**

Human beings are far better at identifying mistakes in our opponents than in ourselves. Herbert Hoover exemplifies this tendency in his final book, *Freedom Betrayed*, which he wrote over two decades. He finished it in 1963 and intended to publish it, but died in 1964 at age 90. His heirs decided to put the manuscript in storage for nearly half a century until 2011.

The 900-page tome covers familiar history, and defends Hoover's positions at the time, such as his opposition to FDR's 1933 recognition of the USSR. I don't recall any place in the book, however, where Hoover reassesses his anti-interventionist position, recognizing where he might have been even slightly off base. On the other hand, he gives Roosevelt little credit for doing anything well, instead devoting most of the book to critiquing FDR's foreign policy as well as Truman's.

Hoover's views on FDR and our entry into WWII will be familiar to those who have read the revisionist historians who critiqued Roosevelt's leadership decades ago. Hoover marshals considerable evidence for assertions that aren't that controversial:

- 1) Our war with Japan could have been avoided.
- 2) FDR's unconditional surrender policy prolonged the war.
- 3) Concessions to Stalin to get the USSR to declare war on Japan proved unnecessary.

Hoover also believed Britain and France would've stayed out of the war but for London's blunder of guaranteeing Poland, which FDR urged Chamberlain to do, per Ambassador Kennedy, while Amb. Bullitt, US ambassador to France, discouraged the Poles from negotiating with the Germans.

Hoover calls the guarantee "probably the biggest blunder in the whole history of European power diplomacy. Britain and France were helpless to save Poland. By this act, they threw the bodies of democracy between Hitler and Stalin."

It's remarkable that more than 60 years after the attack on Pearl Harbor, most Americans have little understanding about why the smaller Asian nation would've launched a war they had little hope of winning, and whether the war was unnecessary. Hoover was positive that the war in the Pacific could've been averted had it not been for FDR's "lost statesmanship" in deliberately provoking the war. He quotes extensively from diplomatic dispatches and the diary of Joseph Grew, the U.S. Ambassador to Japan prior to Pearl Harbor.

As the dispatches make clear, Ambassador Grew made every effort to seek a diplomatic resolution of disagreements with Tokyo. Grew nearly begged Washington to respond to the unprecedented offer to personally meet with FDR to reach agreement from Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoye in 1941.

The British Ambassador to Japan, Sir Robert Craigie, sent London a strong recommendation for the meeting as the last best chance for peace. The offer was rejected, with the predictable consequence of the fall of the Konoye government and its replacement by the militarists.

Hoover makes a persuasive, though hardly original, case that the Roosevelt administration scapegoated Admiral Kimmel and General Short, the commanders at Pearl Harbor, for our huge losses in the attack.

FDR's performance at the Teheran and Yalta conferences come under the well worn criticism for purportedly giving major concessions to Stalin.

Hoover contends it was not necessary to drop the atomic bombs. He points out that Truman had been repeatedly urged to guarantee the emperor would be protected to hasten Japanese surrender.

That advice came from Hoover himself during a meeting with Truman at the end of May 1945.

Under Secretary of State Joseph Grew likewise urged Truman to make a public statement about preserving the Imperial House, and had the support of General Marshall, Secretary Forrestal, and Secretary Stimson.

Truman rejected this advice, however, and at the end of the Potsdam Conference issued an ultimatum calling for unconditional surrender, promising "stern justice" to war criminals. "We finally conceded this (the Emperor's survival) after hundreds of thousands of human lives had been sacrificed."

General MacArthur said "the imminent collapse of Japan was clearly apparent several months before Yalta when we seized the Philippines. Gen. Curtis LeMay said on Sept. 25, 1945, "The atomic bomb had nothing to do with the end of the war. The war would have been over in two weeks without the Russians coming in and without the atomic bomb." On Oct. 5, 1945, Admiral Nimitz said, "The atomic bomb did not win the war. The Japanese had, in fact, already sued for peace before the destruction of Hiroshima."

This book is interesting because of its author and because of its delayed publication, not because of its new interpretations and insights. It nevertheless invites readers to consider what mistakes the United States made in a war that we won. ###

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## **ELB says**

Wow! What a book, I had read "FDR's Folly," by Jim Powell, "The Forgotten Man," by Amity Shlaes, "New Deal or Raw Deal," by Burton Folsom, Jr. So, I knew that FDR was right at the top of a list of the worst presidents this country has ever elected. But, reading "Freedom Betrayed, Herbert Hoover's Secret History of the Second World War and Its Aftermath," edited by George H. Nash, convinced me that he and Obama share the number one spot!

To learn that the Japanese attack could have been avoided but wasn't, because FDR wouldn't meet with numerous Japan's peace delegates sent to Washington.

To learn that FDR, knew about the attack hours before it was to take place, yet he never sent word to the military.

To learn that he made Secret deals with the Soviets, to give them half of Europe including Poland if only Stalin would wait until after his election.

To learn that his White House, State Department, War Department, etc were infiltrated with Soviet agents.

To learn that he was a compulsive liar, and used every means to lie to the American people in order to get into WWII.

To learn that there was a large underground of German resistance to the war and Hitler, including high ranking military officers that ask for assistance to turn Hitler over to the allies but FDR would not meet with them, it would have ended the war two years earlier but the Soviets were against that idea so was FDR.

To learn that the second front (D-Day) that the Soviets continued to ask for it and the British continued to fight against it, until finally giving in to FDR, only benefited the Soviets. It gave the Soviets time to break out and enclose half of Europe, it also cost a terrible price in American and British lives that was

unnecessary.

To learn that we left 20,000 Americans and about 80,000 British troops in Soviet hands and they never allowed us to bring home.

To learn that Roosevelt had bought the Lend-Lease idea from Armand Hammer (Soviet agent) and that FDR, had declared USSR and "Top Priority" even after Pearl Harbor, while MacArthur was begging for planes.

To learn that FDR, used lend-lease to furnish Russia with plans and materials for the atomic bomb. To learn that Truman dropped two atomic bombs on Japan after they were requesting peace with the United States.

I will stop now, I'm getting my reviews mixed up, I just finished reading "American Betrayal" by Diana West. Her book continues the history where Hoover stopped because there was so much more of this deception that came to light, after the USSR fell in 1991. So if you want to learn more after reading "Freedom Betrayed," by sure to continue with "American Betrayal."

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### **Nathan Kitzke says**

I highly recommend this book. It is the memoirs of Herbert Hoover. In the book, he covers another side to the events leading up to World War II and our nation's time throughout the 1940s and early 1950s. It is remarkable to note the spread of communism detailed within the book from before WWII to the end of the Korean War. It also addresses the relationships and meetings between FDR, Churchill, Stalin, and Chiang Kai-shek. It discusses the many charters that we created to thwart the Nazi party and it's Nationalistic ways. It also goes on to talk about how some of those charters magically disappeared once Communism started gaining power. History drives so much our today's National Security. This is a great book to read before heading to Stanford at the end of this month. -Nate

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### **Mike Smith says**

I read about a 1/3 of this book a couple of years ago. Hoover does not give much background to World War II he dives right into his analysis. I picked this book up after having a broader knowledge of World War II and its causes and was able to quickly digest it. Hoover's premise is that FDR's statesmanship not only entered us into a unnecessary war but allying with the Soviet Union was the wrong thing to do. Hoover puts forth the idea that the US should have stayed out of the European War and let the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany fight it out. Then the USA and Britain could have easily handled the winner. His conclusion is that by fighting alongside Stalin we sacrificed a 1/3 of the population to live under Communist rule. He was disgusted by Soviet appeasement after the Tehran and Yalta conferences. Hoover does not put forth that World War II was the good fight that most Roosevelt supporters like to put forward but contends that Roosevelt's poor statesmanship lost us the peace.

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### **Jim says**

If you want an alternate (revisionist) view of the run up to WWII, and the debris that came in its wake, you'll find this book worth the effort -- if only to get Hoover's take on things, circa the early '60's.

Hoover was raised a Quaker, and his anti-war instincts serve him well in this, his magnum opus (the term he used to described this effort). The book is meant to supply 11 theses (from document 8 in the appendix):

1. War between Germany and Russia was inevitable.
2. Hitler's attack on Western Democracies was only to brush them out of his way.
3. There would have been no attack on the Western Democracies had they not supplied the guarantee to Poland in March of 1939.
4. This Poland guarantee was the greatest blunder in British diplomatic history.
5. There was no sincerity on either side of the Stalin-Hitler non-aggression pact made in August, 1939.
6. Neither the US nor any part of the Western Hemisphere was ever in danger of invasion by Hitler.
7. The danger of US invasion was lessened further by Hitler's invasion of Russia.
8. FDR, knowing 6 and 7 by November 1940 (election time), had no reason to put the US in the war to 'save Britain' or to save the US from invasion.
9. The use of the US Navy for undeclared war on Germany (in 1940 and 1941) was unconstitutional.
10. There were secret military agreements with Britain possibly as early as January, 1940.
11. The war with Japan was deliberately provoked.

He has few good things to say about FDR, Churchill, or Stalin, and wanted us to stay out of the war. He saw FDR as incompetent at best. Because of Hoover's position, he had access to a number of 'insiders' who shared with him details of what was really going on.

I confess there were parts of the book that I skimmed through, as it was repetitious in places. It does supply adequate documentation (much of it based on diplomatic papers) to support his theses... this is much more a diplomatic history, than a military one.

Those that propose WWII as the 'Good War' need to supply extraordinary evidence to justify the slaughter that left 50 to 70 million dead. This book shows that Hoover sided with those who wanted nothing to do with that slaughter.

Having read Rothbard's 'The Great Depression', I had earlier formed a negative opinion of Hoover. This book redeems him.

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### **Al Lock says**

Great piece of work documenting a view of WWII that isn't commonly taught.

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### **Bob says**

A well written book that remained hidden in Hoover's Library for almost 50 years. I'm not sure why Hoover spent so many years writing something that he didn't want read. I'm not sure I agree with Hoover that if we had stayed out of the war, Germany would have only moved East and avoided a western war with England and France. Hitler, I believe wanted all of Europe.

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### **Sarah says**

This book is a tome! I highly doubt I will finish this book, but I'll still learn a great deal. I'm very interested in Hoover because he seems a mysterious figure, not much is known about him, but I've already learned that

after his presidency he was very involved in public life and heartily disapproved of Roosevelt's policies. He was also great friends with Rose Wilder Lane and discussed politics for several decades. Because of this relationship her papers are kept with his at the Hoover Library in Iowa.

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## **Ben says**

The last mention of Herbert Hoover in most history textbooks is his defeat at the hands of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1932 presidential election. For as little attention as Hoover's post-presidential career receives, he may as well have died quietly the day after his electoral defeat. But he didn't. Rather, Hoover spent the remaining 32 years of his life actively involved in humanitarian work, domestic politics and international relations. Already a critic of FDR's New Deal, Hoover recognized in the late 1930s that Europe was on the path to war, a war that Hoover argued the United States should stay out of. Although Hoover failed in his endeavor to keep the U.S. out of World War II, he immediately began to document FDR's failed diplomacy in Europe and the Pacific leading up to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. As the war progressed, he continued to document the diplomatic failures of first Roosevelt's administration, and then Harry Truman's. The result of all this work was Hoover's multi-volume history of World War II and its aftermath, *Freedom Betrayed*. Hoover worked on the book for over 20 years, beginning immediately after Pearl Harbor and lasting until his death in 1962. It would take another 49 years, and a dedicated scholar named George Nash, for Hoover's book to be published. But it was worth the wait. With meticulous documentation, Hoover shows how the U.S. first botched multiple chances to avoid the war and then emboldened communists in Russia and China with its diplomacy during it. For anyone interested in a fuller understanding of World War II and the origins of the Cold War, *Freedom Betrayed* is an invaluable resource.

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