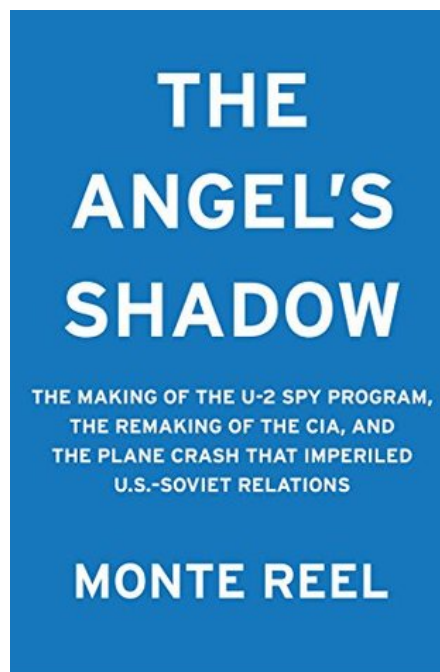




The Angel's Shadow: The Making of the U2 Spy Program, the Remaking of the CIA and the Plane Crash that Imperiled U.S.-Soviet Relations

Monte Reel

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For fans of *The Billion Dollar Spy* and *A Spy Among Friends* , a thrilling account of the CIA's Cold War-era spy plane operation and how its exposure brought U.S. and Soviet relations to the brink of disaster

On May 1, 1960, an American U2 spy plane, dubbed "The Angel" by its creators, was shot down over the Soviet Union just weeks before a peace summit between the two nations. The CIA concocted a cover-up story, assuring the Eisenhower administration that no one could have survived a fall from that altitude, and even if he had, the pilot--Francis Gary Powers--had received instructions to swallow a cyanide tablet.

But against all odds and direct orders, Powers emerged from the wreckage and was seized by the KGB. He was forced to confess to espionage charges and contradict the official statement of the plane's purpose, creating an international incident that pushed U.S. and Soviet tensions to dangerously high levels.

Using the top-secret development of the U2 as his framework, Reel digs deep into the origins of the modern mission of the CIA. Centering on the four powerful and dynamic figures of the U2 program--Edwin Land, an ingenious man of science, best known for his work on the Polaroid; Kelly Johnson, a hard-charging taskmaster from corporate America; Richard Bissell, the secretive and ambitious spymaster; and Francis Gary Powers, the pilot recruited to fly the ill-fated U2--*The Angel's Shadow* is a brilliantly reported, true-life tale full of espionage, antiheroes, and innovation that reads like a John le Carré novel with high-stakes, real-life-repercussions.

The Angel's Shadow: The Making of the U2 Spy Program, the Remaking of the CIA and the Plane Crash that Imperiled U.S.-Soviet Relations Details

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From Reader Review The Angel's Shadow: The Making of the U2 Spy Program, the Remaking of the CIA and the Plane Crash that Imperiled U.S.-Soviet Relations for online ebook

Donald says

Fantastic, engaging read. Knowing nothing other than the name Powers and that it was a public mis-step in the Cold War this book really brought to life this episode in our country's history. Highly recommended.

J.S. says

This is a fascinating and very readable account of the events surrounding the U-2 spy plane. Focusing mainly on four important characters, Monte Reel shows how the U.S. entered the world of spy-craft during an intense period of the Cold War.

In the mid 1950s, there was great concern over the perceived "missile-gap." It was believed that the USSR had developed far more nuclear missiles than the US and that America was at imminent risk. (It must be remembered that many at the time expected nuclear weapons would certainly be used.) The problem was that there was little evidence or knowledge of the actual state of things in the Soviet Union, and America didn't have a knowledgeable spy network. Instead of developing a human system of informants (which would have taken a lot of time), a technological solution was devised.

Edwin Land, the inventor of the Polaroid camera, was enlisted to develop a camera that could produce detailed photos from a great altitude, and Kelly Johnson of Lockheed came up with a very unconventional plane that would fly above 70,000 feet. Richard Bissell of the CIA was charged with overseeing the operation, which was kept out of the military to avoid the appearance of an overt act of war. It was believed that the U-2 would fly so high that it wouldn't be detected by Soviet radar.

Unfortunately, the U-2 was detected on its very first flight. And while Soviet fighter jets couldn't fly high enough to shoot them down, Nikita Khrushchev saw the invasion of Soviet airspace as an act of war. But the information gathered by the U-2 flights turned out to be a goldmine of information for the U.S. until May 1, 1960, when U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the USSR. It was believed that neither the pilot nor the plane would survive from such a height, but Powers survived relatively unhurt and many incriminating parts of the plane were recovered.

As I said before, this is a very fascinating account. I came away with an appreciation for not only the men who built and flew the U-2 (even though some of them weren't always very noble), but a better understanding of some of the pressures the leaders of both countries faced. And I especially gained a greater appreciation for the plane itself. Several years ago I saw one at an airshow at Edwards AFB (next to an SR-71 Blackbird in fact) and was stunned at what a weird-looking plane it was (both of them, actually). This is a book I highly recommend for those who enjoy reading about the Cold War. (I rec'd an advance copy of the book through Amazon Vine.)

Eric says

TL;DR

A Brotherhood of Spies is an information packed, readable history of the early days of the Cold War. 9.5/10 Highly Recommended!

Cross posted at my personal blog Primmlife.com.

A Brotherhood of Spies

The Lockheed U-2 occupies a unique spot in both aerospace and military history. Operated by the US Air Force but property of the Central Intelligence Agency, the U-2 wrested technology from the military to put it into the hands of the fledgling intelligence community. The CIA wouldn't be the lovable spy palace it is today if not for the Lockheed U-2. It's development challenged the aerospace engineering world to produce a high flying, surveillance craft so that the US could spy on the Soviet Union. In order to achieve its mission requirements, it deviated from common military design practices. Quickly the U-2 made a name for itself gathering intelligence and in its high profile crash into the Soviet Union. While the development and operation provide noteworthy stories, it's the people that drove this project who make the story great. In Monte Reel's *A Brotherhood of Spies* from Doubleday Publishing, we learn how "four men working in secret, upended the Cold War and carved a new mission for the CIA." Mr. Reel builds this well-researched, exquisitely written story around Edwin Land, Kelly Johnson, Richard Bissell, and Francis Gary Powers. I have never been as glued to a history book as I was to *A Brotherhood of Spies*. It read like a novel while being packed full of information and fascinating character sketches. I cannot recommend Mr. Reel's book enough. *A Brotherhood of Spies* satisfied on all fronts: engineering, historical, political, and personal.

A Brotherhood of Spies by Monte Reel uses the lives of four men to chart the course of the Lockheed U-2 project and also the early days of the Cold War. Each man is fascinating in his own right, but Mr. Reel delves further into the story. We get information about their families, their colleagues, their processes, their ambitions, and their preferred alcoholic drinks. The meticulous research that Mr. Reel did is evident in the sheer amount of information he provides us about each man, which made the history come alive for me. Of the four, I enjoyed reading about Edwin Land the most, but each was fascinating in his own right. Although the book focuses on these four men, the cast of characters is large but not overdone. Careful attention is paid to everyone that appears in this book. No one, even Nikita Khrushchev – who in lesser hands would have been a mustache twirling villain – got the one dimensional treatment.

Francis Gary Power

Francis Gary Powers, the downed U-2 pilot who was also jailed by the Soviet Union, receives a compassionate portrait in *A Brotherhood of Spies*. The public and the government treated Powers like a traitor after the incident, and his life never recovered. Since he didn't suicide and destroy the plane, he failed his mission according to public perception. In reality, he reacted as most people would, and the derision he received was too harsh. Mr. Reel portrayed him fairly and justly by telling Powers story with the high level of scrutiny it needed. The US traded a Soviet spy for Powers, and the movie *Bridge of Spies* starring Tom Hanks, portrayed half of the other side of Powers trade. Mr. Reel tells Powers side of the story here in *A Brotherhood of Spies* with much needed perspective.

Research

I loved this book from page one to the end. The notes are extensive and thorough, but the bibliography shines. Mr. Reel provided a bibliography that is long and filled with enticing works. In a world where I'm rich with nothing to do, I'd read through that list. It gave me a number of potential reads to scratch my Cold War itch. Because the research is so thorough, the book exudes information on each page. Before A

Brotherhood of Spies, I didn't know how the Groom Lake test facility started. Throughout the book, Mr. Reel covers the U-2s usage throughout Cold War history and under different presidents, and due to the extensive research, it feels as if Mr. Reel lived through the time itself.

Writing

At the beginning of my copy, the publisher asked that reviewers use no direct quotes until the final copy is published. This frustrated me because the book is very quotable. The writing deserves to be excerpted and shared, but I will respect the publisher's wishes. Even though this is a history book, it read like a memoir written in third person perspective. The narrative hooked me and delivered information without losing tension. I raced home from work to finish the last bits of this book, and I already placed this near the top of my re-read list. Mr. Reel didn't just convey information in *A Brotherhood of Spies*; he told the story of the aircraft and the men who brought into being. I tell anyone who enjoys fiction that this is the nonfiction book for them.

Conclusion

A Brotherhood of Spies leads the non-fiction stack for book of the year for me. It and *The Gone World* are competing for best book, and the calendar says there's nine months left in the year. Mr. Reel created a compassionate, holistic look at the America during the Cold War by focusing on the U-2 and the four men who drove its creation and notoriety. *A Brotherhood of Spies* hooked me from opening and held on till the last sentence. It scratched the itch for a spy thriller while providing historical perspective on tense times in the US's history. This highly readable account of the development of one of America's longest operating intelligence gathering aircraft should be widely read. I loved *A Brotherhood of Spies* and think you will too. Highly recommended!

9.5 out of 10

Maynard Handley says

A surprisingly good read because of the variety of material it covers.

From the title, it's natural to assume that this book will tell you something of the U2 program, and something of the CIA, and it indeed it does. But it's a broad history of the best sort, putting everything in context. For example you'll be given a lot of background into how the Soviets behaved under a variety of conditions and provocations (and can decide for yourself just how accurate were American claims regarding them). Likewise you'll get to see that the only difference between the press (and the Democratic party at the time, now it's the Republican party) and now is the speed at which lies are uncovered; certainly there wasn't any special greater love for the truth back then --- including a remarkable (and apparently totally made-up) fake news on-air claim by Walter Cronkite.

In many ways this is a deeply depressing book because it makes it clear that there never was some wonderful smarter, braver, less corrupt America to which we might return if we could only get our act together. The only difference between now and then is that the secrets get out sooner, and the primary actors care even less about the morality of what they're doing. There were, just like today, a few admirable individuals, along with a vast machinery of highly non-admirable others.

Dan says

I was initially puzzled by the polarized early ratings on this book: five "5s" and five "1s". After looking at some web sites devoted to history of aerial reconnaissance, I found that the U-2 story is one of controversy and strong opinions. My take on the book is that it is an even-handed history of the U-2 program, including the controversies associated with it and the CIA. I found it very interesting, although I am not entirely unbiased. My father's cousin Jack Gibbs was an Air Force jet pilot and aeronautical engineer whom I idolized as a kid. Not long ago I learned that from 1956 to 1958 he "served as senior Military Advisor overseeing the U-2 operations, pilot training, research , and development upgrades while reporting to former DNRO Richard Bissel." (quoted from a 2011 National Reconnaissance Office press release titled "NRO Selects 2010 Class of Pioneers." The photo below shows me with cousin Jack in 1956.

Charles says

Author Monte Reel does not specifically address the question, but after finishing this book I asked, "Did the U-2 help prevent, or did it provoke the chance of nuclear war in the 1960s?"

The Prevent Argument:

Overflights of the Soviet Union exposed the fact that the bomber and missile gap between the United States and its Cold War adversary did not exist (or was in favor of the United States). The information collected by the U-2 therefore undercut the argument of those who wanted to launch a preemptive strike against the Soviet Union and those who engaged in fear-mongering.

Flights exposed early on the actions of the Soviet Union to base nuclear missiles in Cuba and contributed to a successful resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Provoke Argument:

The decision to proceed with an overflight on a major Communist holiday, May 1, 1960, torpedoed the arms reduction talks Eisenhower and Khrushchev were scheduled to have, fueled the cold war, and led to an expensive arms race on both sides. It may have provoked Khrushchev's decision to base missiles in Cuba in the first place.

This is not, however, a book about geopolitical decisions but rather the more granular history of how the U-2 came to be, a profile of the four individuals directly involved in its funding, development, and operation, and about the nature of American espionage against the Soviet Union.

The fact is that America is not very good at spying at the "human spy" level (human intelligence) and the Soviets were (and the Russians still likely are) much better. This was and still is due to the open society of America vs. the closed society of the Soviet Union/Russia. It is also due to our lack of patience. We aren't very good at recruiting individuals with local cultural knowledge and grooming them extensively for their role as spies. We don't plant a sleeper among our adversaries and wait patiently for ten or more years for that person to embed themselves in senior levels of our adversaries' institutions. The Communists historically have been much better at that.

To overcome such an asymmetric capability, the U.S. typically falls back on technology, and thus the U-2.

The designer of the aircraft, Kelly Johnson, is credited with the U-2 and so many other legendary military and civilian aircraft at Lockheed. Much less well known was the role of Edwin Land, who developed instant photography and headed Polaroid, and who designed the lenses that took such amazing spy photos. Richard Bissell, later discredited for Bay of Pigs and other CIA controversies, got the plane funded. And Francis Gary Powers is best known of all as the pilot who got shot down and survived to be traded for a Soviet spy.

Those interested in the operational details will be fascinated by the description of how difficult this aircraft was to fly, and how the Soviets managed to shoot it down. (It was an extremely fragile aircraft and the missile probably did not achieve a direct hit which would have killed Powers instantly, only exploding near enough to sever the tail assembly from the rest of the aircraft, making it impossible to fly.) Initially, U.S. analysts concluded that Powers had carelessly descended from 70,000 feet (thought to be outside missile range) to 48,000 feet). But that was based upon interception of Soviet radio talk as they tracked the aircraft. Instead, the Soviets had managed to shoot down one of their own planes at the lower altitude, killing the pilot. Kelly Johnson had the best understanding of what had happened and defended Powers.

Intelligence gathered by the U-2 was so valuable that it rapidly led to investment in new technologies such as satellite reconnaissance, stealth aircraft technology, and the use of unmanned drones. Still, Reel tells us, the U-2 remains operational and in certain situations its capabilities exceed other, later satellite and aircraft developments.

This was a well written and well researched book that should appeal to fans of aircraft technology, those who like a good “whodunit”, and those interested in spy craft as a tool of international relations and policy.

Pamela says

GREAT READ!! A bit over-zealous in detail at times, but otherwise EXCELLENT.

Full Review to come . . .

Donna Davis says

3.5 stars rounded up. Thanks go to Net Galley and Doubleday for the DRC, which I received free and early in exchange for this honest review.

The story begins with a US spy plane being shot down over Soviet (Russian) airspace in 1960. This is embarrassing. Eisenhower’s people decide to make something up; after all, nobody survives an airplane crash over dry land. Moreover, the pilot was provided with a cyanide capsule—James Bond style—so even if he survived, he must be dead; likewise, the plane was likely blown to bits, with not much left for the Soviet investigators to learn.

Let’s say it was a weather plane. It wandered off course, and those mean Soviets shot it down.

But oh dear, this is even more embarrassing: the pilot lived, and he didn’t feel like taking the poison pill. Would you? So the Russians know what he was flying, and they know who he is. They’re telling the world.

Just reading the teaser for this book, I was hooked. But just as a brilliant writer can take dross and make a good tale of it, so can an indifferent one take compelling information and make it into a snooze. For me, this

was not an entertaining read. I had agreed to write about it, so I had to read it, and it felt like work.

I want to be fair here: there are people that will read this book and like it. There's a lot of technical information about the spy plane, and about many other spy planes, some of which were never built. Apart from the truly bizarre one that was supposed to be landed on its belly (no landing gear), or the ridiculous idea of a nuclear powered plane, I found my attention drifting during these descriptions. But I am not interested in aviation, and if you are, you may like this.

The other aspect that causes my attention to wander is the history 101 aspect of it. I'm a retired history teacher. I don't need an author to walk me through the Cuban Missile Crisis or the Bay of Pigs. However, I note that other reviewers came to this work with no knowledge of either, and they are delighted to be clued in. For newbies, count this as a win.

Finally, I have to credit the source work. Reel didn't take the easy way out. His end notes are first rate.

For those that are relatively new to this chapter of American history, this may be a compelling read. For those interested in the history of American aviation, it is recommended. For those that are well read in the field, maybe not.

This book is now for sale.

Andres Recalde says

Growing up in the sixties, this recount from declassified documents enlighten my understanding of global affairs from that era. Even more, as a Latin American, the concept of "political war" endorsed by CIA explains well many US instigated interventions in the region. How much of it is playing today?

Phrodrick says

Full disclosure first. Mine is an advanced copy of the paperback A Brotherhood of Spies: The U-2 and the CIA's Secret War. It was a prize given to me through a GoodReads give-away. Under the rules and as was explained I was not obligated to read or review the book. It was suggested that an honest review of the book would be considered the polite thing to do.

Because this is a pre-release copy: Every page number in the Table of Contents is page 123, it has no index, every foot note is numbered 000 and there are no pictures. Given the centrality of pictures in this history and the singular role of Polaroid's founder Edward Land, at least to honor him, the absence of pictures is something the final copy had better correct.

Bottom line first. While well written and thought provoking I doubt that there is much new in Monte Reel's A Brotherhood of Spies: The U-2 and the CIA's Secret War. It is likely best for the reader who needs a single book that provides this level of detail. For any number of specialists, historians, aircraft enthusiasts, even psychology students it is at best an intro.

Many of us have read somethings about the U2 shoot down and US/Soviet politics. Many remember the key role of the U2 in the Cuban missile crisis. Back in the 70's I read Francis Gary Power's: Operation Overflight: A Memoir of the U-2 Incident and the mirror book on his "trading partner" Abel: Biography of

Colonel Rudolf Abel. Besides these books and any of several period histories and biographies; I repeat that there is little new here, except that so much of 'it' is collected here.

My biggest quibble with the book is the title. We do meet a few men who as individuals and as the inner leadership of the U 2 team achieved some very great things together. There is little of anything that reads like a Brotherhood. Further it is only by playing with words that these people can be described as spies. The aforementioned Col. Rudolf Abel was a full time spy and enters the book (briefly) because he had been caught at spying against the US for his homeland, the Soviet Union.

No sense of comradery or brotherliness is developed other than among the top three people who dominate the book Very little of what the re-patriated U2 pilot would experience speaks of a brotherhood.

Of the top three, CIA man Richard Bissell is the most problematic. As the make it happen man of the U2 's design and production days he is a prodigiously effective logistician and master of all tasks. Had this program and the future CIA directorate of Science and Technology been his entire legacy, Mr. Bissell would be another example of an American Heroes none of us know about. Unfortunately he became deeply involved in many covert operations including the almost comic efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro, the Bay of Pigs and a number of other operations that today give the CIA such a mixed reputation. Bissell can be said to symbolize Mr. Reels central question. What are the moral aspects of peace time espionage?

Focusing on the U2 itself as the center of this narrative the conundrum become stark.

Absent the intel from these overflights, America would not have the hard data needed to relate Soviet intentions to Soviet capabilities. The proof of this is the fact that U2 pictures over Cuba gave America the time to change to Cold War in favor of peace. However the overflights were understood to be illegal and could have been sufficient to start the war they actually helped to prevent.

Before leaving the U2, a word about the Lockheed Skunk Works. This place is legendary. Not just because it was, in Area 51, where the U2s were built and proved, in record time, the Skunk Works and its driving chief engineer Kelly Johnson did things for this country that demand respect. In Monte Reel's book we get a few glimpses into the legitimately 'Golly Gee!' achievements of this team, but not near enough. The fact that the U2 began its service life in the 1950s and is still performing duties no drone or satellite can be trusted to achieve is an achievement with few if any parallel in aircraft history.

Almost all of us remember, if vaguely a man named Edward Land and his then ground-breaking instant cameras. Few, myself included had heard of him as an American industrial leader with more than just profits as his guide. In Brotherhood. Land stands out as a man conflicted by the duplicity his work in espionage technology entailed, but fundamentally insistent that corporations have a duty to stand for values even at the expense of profit.

The second and almost incidental hypothesis in the Brotherhood is America's emergence as a master in the technology of espionage. Classically the spy's job was to see, hear and or steal things by going in close or operating through others who would have first person access on the 'goods'. Along with the U2 and often based on the work /leadership of the same people, satellite intel and drones would get their start.

Don says

A terrific, informative, enjoyable read.

While I've always enjoyed reading about history, much of my reading has been focused on Constitutional era United States history. As such, I've read very little on 20th century U.S. history, so while I was aware of the general topics of this book - the U-2 spy plane development, Francis Gary Powers being shot down in the Soviet Union while flying, the Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis - I didn't have the detail that this book provided. Reel focuses and structures the book by primarily detailing the role of four primary individuals in the development and usage of the U-2 plane - Richard Bissell (who worked with the CIA); Edwin Land (founder of Polaroid who pushes for synergizing efforts between the government and science/technology); Kelly Johnson (the primary engineer with Lockheed responsible for designing the plane); and Frank Powers (the pilot of the plane).

Through these four individuals, Reel relays the story of the decision making to begin using technology for spying on other nations, the development of the technology, and the debates over its usage by these individuals and the various decision makers in the Eisenhower and then Kennedy administrations. In addition, as the CIA was still a fledgling agency at the time these efforts were beginning, Reel shares anecdotes of naivete that are almost incredulous to think about today, but provided moments of humor while reading.

However, Reel's book makes clear how quickly the CIA became so indispensable to administrations and foreign policy discussions. Truly, it is amazing to consider how many felt no need for the agency in the post-WWII era, and then within 15 years after the war, it was knee-deep in tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as involved in various schemes/plots/fiascos in Latin America as a result of the escalating Cold War.

Reel's writing is strong; as a reader you can't help but notice the humanity of the individuals involved, and you get a true sense of their struggles, their conflicts, their dilemmas. This is most evident in Frank Powers, who endured much in the name of a government who didn't quite know how to acknowledge and accept the spying it was doing, let alone a public that seemed tethered between outright fear of nuclear war and a moral righteousness.

There is much to unpack in Reel's work, and his writing is accessible and very readable, making the book read almost as a mystery novel, while still providing much information and historical context. A fantastic read, one of the better books I've read this year.

Paul says

A Brotherhood of Spies tells the captivating story of the "marrying of espionage with high-tech innovation." This is an essential read when trying to understand the original mission of the CIA, and the ethical and technological foundations of modern spy craft. Reel's narrative poses several questions about the modern tactics of war. An enlightening read.

Thank you to NetGalley, Doubleday Books, and Monte Reel for a copy for review.

Full review can be found here: <https://paulspicks.blog/2018/05/10/a-...>

Please check out all my reviews: <https://paulspicks.blog>

Marianne says

Excellent! A no-holds bar account of the U-2 incident and the role the CIA had ... a "for real" spy story!! Recommend for readers who like history, politics and espionage stories.

LuAnne Feik says

Readers can approach A BROTHERHOOD OF SPIES from one of two perspectives. Monte Reel's book covers development of the first U-2 plane capable of providing detailed photographs while flying, without being shot down, over enemy territory; the interception of the U-2 by the USSR and the capture, trial, captivity, and swap of U-2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers; the use of U-2 planes during the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba; and the discovery of the USSR's offensive missiles in Cuba.

Those familiar with the basic facts of this history, either because they were alive while they happened or because they picked up a few details from the movie, BRIDGE OF SPIES, will find themselves more interested in the Washington machinations involved then and now. Inter-agency competition to lead the U-2 project pitted the air force and CIA against each other the same way THE LOOMING TOWER recounts competition between the FBI and CIA prior to 9/11 and the same way President Trump vies with the Department of Justice.

Khrushchev, often portrayed to the US public in the 1960s as a "blustery clown," in reality was resourceful and a man with a "good sense of political timing...and a touch of the gambler's instinct." Might those observations also apply to both President Trump and Kim Jung-un?

While technology, as Richard Bissell, head of CIA's covert operations, said, advanced "the art of political warfare", human intelligence gathering continues to be as vital a part of espionage as it was when US Ambassador in Moscow, Llewellyn "Tommy" Thompson, overheard a conversation that disclosed Francis Gary Powers "hit the silk." In other words, he deployed his parachute and might be alive after his plane was shot down.

Finally, the media continues to play as much of a role now as it did in Eisenhower's and Kennedy's administrations. The press uncovered false cover stories floated by both presidents, the way it has uncovered President Trump's lies. A less favorable aspect of the media is the way columnists are in a position to express opinions that slant stories. Powers found himself compared unfavorably to the captured Revolutionary War spy, Nathan Hale, and all he went through as a captured U-2 pilot discounted. Also, although President Kennedy authorized the inadequate air cover that doomed the Bay of Pigs invasion, Bissell became the media's fall guy. At times, James Comey must feel like Bissell.

Erik Graff says

This is a recent, page-turning account of the Francis Gary Powers U-2 affair of the early sixties set within the context of a history of the cold war until the seventies. It also includes a review of the early history of the CIA and the biographies of Powers and his wife as well as of the creators of the spy plane, Edwin Land of Polaroid and Kelly Johnson of Lockheed.

Way back in grade school, while up at grandmother's Michigan cottage, I read another, early account of the

downing of Powers' U-2 over the Soviet Union, a copy of that book having been left behind there by some grown-up guest. This book, however, while being a refresher, is much more thorough than its predecessor, much information withheld then having been revealed since.

I strongly recommend this for anyone interested in the history and cultural climate in the United States during the cold war years.
