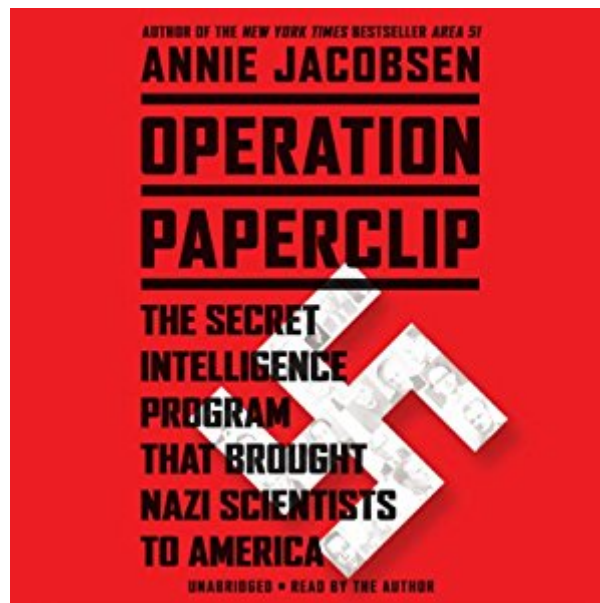




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Operation Paperclip: The Secret Intelligence Program That Brought Nazi Scientists To America



Synopsis

The explosive, dark secrets behind America's post-WWII science programs from the author of the New York Times best seller Area 51. In the chaos following WWII, some of the greatest spoils of Germany's resources were the Third Reich's scientific minds. The U.S. government secretly decided that the value of these former Nazis' knowledge outweighed their crimes and began a covert operation code-named Paperclip to allow them to work in the U.S. without the public's full knowledge. Drawing on exclusive interviews with dozens of Paperclip family members, colleagues, and interrogators, and with access to German archival documents (including papers made available to her by direct descendants of the Third Reich's ranking members), files obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and lost dossiers discovered at the National Archives and Harvard University, Annie Jacobsen follows more than a dozen German scientists through their postwar lives and into one of the most complex, nefarious, and jealously guarded government secrets of the 20th century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I especially enjoyed reading this well researched book on the US Post WWII intelligence collection operations which gave us some great benefits in exchange for the carnage and horror WWII inflicted on countless millions. Not a fair exchange I fully agree, however, obtaining this information allowed the USA to win the space race. Having worked at Redstone Arsenal (next to the Marshall Space Flight Center) where the first rockets to carry an American in space were developed, you can see Werner Von Braun's initials on every liquid fueled rocket that has come out of the USA. Without

these guys (who the the Paperclip Team offered asylum to), the USSR would have been way ahead of us. One interesting fact is that had Hitler resorted to using the nerve gas agents he had (i.e. Tabun) Germany could have won the war. Why a madman like Hitler did not use it is a mystery. One family relation (my great uncle George Lear shown below) actively participated in this operation.

Theodore Sumrall

A fascinating and very well researched book about the very difficult decisions some of our men in the military had to do. My great respect goes to them. Annie Jacobsen has done a marvelous job. I used to live in White Sand Proving Grounds and met some of this people.

A great telling of secret tales

It's almost unimaginable to see the lengths to which the military went to acquire intelligence information after the war and the ethical problems posed by those choices.

As with Area 51, Jacobsen's writing (and audio version) is a 'page turner'. Her research is thorough and well documented. Interviews with children and grandchildren make it more real and add interest. She does not tell you what to think but clearly invites you to examine your own opinion of this post WW II US secret program that brought very talented Nazi scientists to the US. Extremely thought-provoking. Great read for book group discussion.

Troubling. I was slightly familiar with the effort to prevent German scientists from working for the Soviets after WW2. However, I did not realize the extent of the questionable moral choices the US government made. What is even harder to understand is why documents are still classified. Without transparency it's impossible to learn from history.

Kinda boring. This is an important piece of American and world history. I couldn't get into it and stopped reading about half way through.

After the defeat by the Allies of Nazi Germany, our country's vital objective was to defeat Japan and to do that, we had to beat Russia in the race to produce an atomic bomb. This book details the need for the U.S. to use the brains and skills of German scientists who were in many cases loyal Nazis and followers of Hitler. How the United States succeeded in bringing so much of this brilliant

scientific brainpower to this country without incurring the wrath of the Axis-hating American citizens is a fascinating story. An education in itself.

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