

american prometheus book

american prometheus book is a critically acclaimed biography that delves into the life, achievements, and controversies surrounding J. Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist best known for his pivotal role in the development of the atomic bomb. This article offers a comprehensive exploration of the book's content, its historical significance, the authors behind its creation, and its cultural impact. Readers will discover an insightful overview of the narrative structure, the major themes addressed, and the legacy of both Oppenheimer and the biography itself. The article also provides a detailed table of contents for easy navigation and answers to trending questions about the american prometheus book. Whether you are a history enthusiast, a student, or simply curious about one of the twentieth century's most influential figures, this guide will illuminate every aspect of the biography and its enduring relevance.

- Overview of the American Prometheus Book
- Authors and Origins
- Main Themes and Narrative Structure
- Historical Context and Impact
- Critical Reception and Awards
- Cultural Influence and Legacy
- Frequently Asked Questions

Overview of the American Prometheus Book

The american prometheus book, officially titled "American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer," is a comprehensive biography that chronicles the life of the renowned physicist. Published in 2005, the book provides an in-depth look at Oppenheimer's personal and professional journey, from his early academic pursuits to his leadership of the Manhattan Project during World War II. The narrative covers Oppenheimer's scientific innovations, moral dilemmas, and the political controversies that ultimately shaped his legacy. By weaving together historical documentation, personal correspondence, and firsthand accounts, the book presents a nuanced portrait of a complex figure whose influence continues to resonate today.

- Detailed exploration of Oppenheimer's scientific career
- Insight into his personal relationships and philosophical beliefs
- Analysis of the development and aftermath of the atomic bomb
- Examination of the political climate of the mid-20th century

Authors and Origins

Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin

The American Prometheus book was co-authored by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, both distinguished historians and writers. Their collaboration spanned over two decades, resulting in a meticulously researched biography that draws from thousands of pages of archival materials. Bird and Sherwin's expertise in modern American history and nuclear politics provided the foundation for an authoritative account of Oppenheimer's life. Their commitment to accuracy and narrative depth is evident in the book's rich detail and balanced perspective.

Research and Development

The authors undertook extensive research, including interviews with Oppenheimer's colleagues, friends, and family members. They accessed declassified government documents, personal letters, and previously unreleased transcripts, enriching the biography with rare insights. The research process also involved reconciling conflicting accounts and addressing the myths surrounding Oppenheimer, ensuring that the final manuscript reflected a comprehensive and truthful depiction.

Main Themes and Narrative Structure

The Triumph and Tragedy of Genius

One of the central themes of the American Prometheus book is the duality of success and downfall experienced by Oppenheimer. The biography highlights his extraordinary achievements in theoretical physics and his leadership during the Manhattan Project, which led to the creation of the atomic bomb. At the same time, it explores the personal and professional consequences Oppenheimer faced, including public scrutiny, political persecution, and internal conflict over the ethical implications of his work.

Moral Responsibility and Scientific Innovation

The book delves into the complex ethical questions raised by scientific discovery, particularly the responsibility borne by scientists in times of war. Oppenheimer's philosophical reflections and public statements on the use of nuclear weapons are examined in detail, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the moral dilemmas that defined his career.

Political Intrigue and McCarthyism

Another major theme is the political climate of postwar America, marked by

the rise of McCarthyism and the Red Scare. Oppenheimer's associations with left-wing intellectuals and his outspoken views led to government investigations and the revocation of his security clearance. The book analyzes the impact of these events on Oppenheimer's reputation and the broader scientific community.

Historical Context and Impact

The Manhattan Project and World War II

The American Prometheus book offers a detailed account of the Manhattan Project, the secret government initiative that developed the first atomic weapons. Oppenheimer's role as scientific director placed him at the center of one of history's most significant technological endeavors. The biography explores the challenges faced by the project's team, the race against Nazi Germany, and the eventual deployment of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Postwar Scientific and Political Landscape

After World War II, Oppenheimer's influence extended into public policy and scientific research. He advocated for international control of nuclear weapons and participated in debates over arms proliferation. The book situates Oppenheimer's actions within the evolving landscape of Cold War politics, highlighting the tension between scientific advancement and national security.

Critical Reception and Awards

Recognition and Praise

Since its publication, the American Prometheus book has received widespread acclaim from literary critics, historians, and scientists. Reviewers have praised the biography's exhaustive research, engaging narrative, and balanced portrayal of Oppenheimer's life. The book is recognized as a definitive account of one of the twentieth century's most influential figures.

Notable Awards

- Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography (2006)
- National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist
- Los Angeles Times Book Prize
- Time Magazine Best Book of the Year

These honors underscore the book's excellence in historical writing and its significant contribution to American literature.

Cultural Influence and Legacy

Adaptations and Media Coverage

The American Prometheus book has inspired numerous adaptations and discussions in popular media. Most notably, it served as the primary source material for the acclaimed 2023 film "Oppenheimer," directed by Christopher Nolan. The biography's detailed portrayal of Oppenheimer's life provided the foundation for the film's narrative and character development, bringing renewed attention to the scientist's legacy.

Enduring Relevance

The book's exploration of scientific responsibility, ethical decision-making, and political persecution remains relevant in contemporary discussions about technology and public policy. Its impact extends beyond historical analysis, encouraging readers to reflect on the role of scientists in shaping society and the consequences of innovation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who are the authors of the American Prometheus book?

A: The book was written by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, both renowned historians specializing in American history and nuclear politics.

Q: What is the main focus of the American Prometheus book?

A: The biography centers on J. Robert Oppenheimer's life, scientific achievements, leadership of the Manhattan Project, and the personal and political challenges he faced.

Q: Why is the book titled "American Prometheus"?

A: The title references the Greek myth of Prometheus, symbolizing Oppenheimer's role in bringing powerful knowledge—atomic energy—to humanity, along with its attendant risks and consequences.

Q: What awards has the American Prometheus book won?

A: The book won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography in 2006 and

was a finalist for several other prestigious literary awards.

Q: How was the book used in the making of the film "Oppenheimer"?

A: "American Prometheus" served as the primary source of historical information, character development, and narrative inspiration for the 2023 film directed by Christopher Nolan.

Q: Does the book address the ethical implications of the atomic bomb?

A: Yes, the biography explores Oppenheimer's moral conflicts, his public statements, and the broader ethical debates surrounding nuclear weapons.

Q: What primary sources did the authors use for their research?

A: The authors utilized government documents, personal letters, interviews with Oppenheimer's associates, and previously unreleased transcripts to ensure accuracy.

Q: Is the American Prometheus book suitable for general readers?

A: While it is detailed and scholarly, the book is written in an accessible style that appeals to both academic and general audiences interested in history and science.

Q: What impact did the book have on public understanding of Oppenheimer?

A: The book significantly enhanced public knowledge of Oppenheimer's life, highlighting his scientific contributions and the personal sacrifices he made.

Q: Are there lessons in the book relevant to current scientific debates?

A: The biography's examination of scientific responsibility and ethical dilemmas continues to inform contemporary discussions about the role of scientists and technological innovation.

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American Prometheus Book: A Deep Dive into the Life and Legacy of Robert Oppenheimer

Are you captivated by the enigmatic figure of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the atomic bomb"? Do you yearn to understand the complexities of his genius, his moral struggles, and his lasting impact on the world? Then you've come to the right place. This comprehensive guide delves into Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin's monumental biography, "American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer," exploring its compelling narrative, historical significance, and enduring relevance. We'll dissect key aspects of the book, offering insights that will enrich your understanding of this pivotal figure and the tumultuous era he shaped.

The Compelling Narrative of "American Prometheus"

"American Prometheus" isn't just a biography; it's a meticulously researched and gripping narrative that spans Oppenheimer's entire life, from his privileged upbringing and intellectual brilliance to his pivotal role in the Manhattan Project and his subsequent downfall during the McCarthy era. The authors masterfully weave together personal accounts, scientific details, and historical context, creating a vivid portrait of a man wrestling with immense scientific power and its profound ethical implications.

Oppenheimer's Early Life and Scientific Genius

The book meticulously traces Oppenheimer's early life, highlighting his prodigious intellect and eclectic interests. His upbringing, his education at prestigious universities, and his early scientific breakthroughs are all depicted with remarkable detail, painting a picture of a man destined for greatness even before the looming shadow of World War II. This section effectively establishes the foundation for understanding the man who would ultimately lead the creation of the atomic bomb.

The Manhattan Project: The Making of the Atomic Bomb

A significant portion of "American Prometheus" is dedicated to the Manhattan Project, the top-secret undertaking that produced the world's first atomic weapons. The book doesn't shy away from the intense pressure, the scientific challenges, and the moral dilemmas faced by Oppenheimer and his team. It provides a compelling account of the scientific breakthroughs, the logistical hurdles, and the human cost of this monumental undertaking. The authors skillfully portray the tension between scientific ambition and the horrific consequences of their work.

The Post-War Years and the Security Hearings

The post-war years saw Oppenheimer grappling with the consequences of his creation. The book explores his evolving views on nuclear weapons, his advocacy for international control, and his ultimately tragic clash with the political establishment during the McCarthy era. The security hearings, which stripped Oppenheimer of his security clearance, are vividly recounted, showcasing the political machinations and the personal toll they took on Oppenheimer. This section highlights the complexities of navigating a rapidly changing political landscape and the dangers of unchecked power.

The Legacy of "American Prometheus"

"American Prometheus" transcends its subject matter; it serves as a profound exploration of the responsibilities of scientists, the ethical dilemmas of technological advancement, and the enduring power of history. The book's impact extends beyond simply recounting Oppenheimer's life; it prompts critical reflection on the nature of scientific progress, the consequences of unchecked ambition, and the importance of ethical considerations in scientific endeavors.

The Book's Enduring Relevance

Even decades after its publication, "American Prometheus" remains remarkably relevant. The themes it explores – the relationship between science and politics, the ethical implications of technological advancements, and the dangers of unchecked power – resonate deeply with contemporary issues. The book serves as a cautionary tale, urging readers to consider the potential consequences of scientific breakthroughs and the importance of responsible innovation.

Conclusion

"American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer" is not merely a biography; it's a compelling narrative that illuminates a pivotal figure in history, forcing us to confront the complex interplay between scientific ambition and ethical responsibility. Its detailed research, nuanced portrayal of its subject, and enduring relevance make it essential reading for anyone interested in history, science, and the human condition. The book's lasting impact lies in its ability to spark conversations about the profound implications of scientific advancements and the critical need for ethical considerations in shaping our future.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is "American Prometheus" a difficult read? While detailed and comprehensive, the book is written in an accessible style, making it engaging for a wide range of readers, even those without a scientific background.

2. What makes this biography stand out from others on Oppenheimer? "American Prometheus" is lauded for its meticulous research, incorporating a vast array of primary sources and providing a balanced and nuanced perspective on Oppenheimer's life.
3. Is the book biased towards Oppenheimer? While sympathetic to Oppenheimer's struggles, the authors strive for objectivity, presenting both the positive and negative aspects of his personality and actions.
4. What is the significance of the title, "American Prometheus"? The title alludes to the Greek myth of Prometheus, who stole fire from the gods, mirroring Oppenheimer's role in unleashing the power of the atom.
5. Is this book suitable for students? Absolutely. Its historical depth, exploration of complex ethical issues, and engaging narrative make it a valuable resource for students studying history, science, or political science.

american prometheus book: *American Prometheus* Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin, 2005-04-05
 THE INSPIRATION FOR THE MAJOR MOTION PICTURE OPPENHEIMER • A riveting account of one of history's most essential and paradoxical figures."—Christopher Nolan #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • PULITZER PRIZE WINNER • The definitive biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the iconic figures of the twentieth century, a brilliant physicist who led the effort to build the atomic bomb for his country in a time of war, and who later found himself confronting the moral consequences of scientific progress. In this magisterial, acclaimed biography twenty-five years in the making, Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin capture Oppenheimer's life and times, from his early career to his central role in the Cold War. This is biography and history at its finest, riveting and deeply informative. "A masterful account of Oppenheimer's rise and fall, set in the context of the turbulent decades of America's own transformation. It is a tour de force." —Los Angeles Times Book Review "A work of voluminous scholarship and lucid insight, unifying its multifaceted portrait with a keen grasp of Oppenheimer's essential nature.... It succeeds in deeply fathoming his most damaging, self-contradictory behavior." —The New York Times

american prometheus book: *American Prometheus* Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin, 2007-12-18
 THE INSPIRATION FOR THE MAJOR MOTION PICTURE OPPENHEIMER • A riveting account of one of history's most essential and paradoxical figures."—Christopher Nolan #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • PULITZER PRIZE WINNER • The definitive biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the iconic figures of the twentieth century, a brilliant physicist who led the effort to build the atomic bomb for his country in a time of war, and who later found himself confronting the moral consequences of scientific progress. In this magisterial, acclaimed biography twenty-five years in the making, Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin capture Oppenheimer's life and times, from his early career to his central role in the Cold War. This is biography and history at its finest, riveting and deeply informative. "A masterful account of Oppenheimer's rise and fall, set in the context of the turbulent decades of America's own transformation. It is a tour de force." —Los Angeles Times Book Review "A work of voluminous scholarship and lucid insight, unifying its multifaceted portrait with a keen grasp of Oppenheimer's essential nature.... It succeeds in deeply fathoming his most damaging, self-contradictory behavior." —The New York Times

american prometheus book: Robert Oppenheimer Ray Monk, 2014-03-11 An unforgettable story of discovery and unimaginable destruction and a major biography of one of America's most brilliant—and most divisive—scientists, Robert Oppenheimer: A Life Inside the Center vividly illuminates the man who would go down in history as "the father of the atomic bomb." "Impressive. . . . An extraordinary story."—The New York Times Book Review "Judicious, comprehensive and reliable. . . . By far the most thorough survey yet written of Oppenheimer's physics.—Washington

Post Oppenheimer's talent and drive secured him a place in the pantheon of great physicists and carried him to the laboratories where the secrets of the universe revealed themselves. But they also led him to contribute to the development of the deadliest weapon on earth, a discovery he soon came to fear. His attempts to resist the escalation of the Cold War arms race—coupled with political leanings at odds with post-war America—led many to question his loyalties, and brought down upon him the full force of McCarthyite anti-communism. Digging deeply into Oppenheimer's past to solve the enigma of his motivations and his complex personality, Ray Monk uncovers the extraordinary, charming, tortured man—and the remarkable mind—who fundamentally reshaped the world.

american prometheus book: A World Destroyed Martin J. Sherwin, 2003 Sikkerhed og våbenmagt ; Manhattan-projektet; Diplomati, 1940'erne; Churchill, Roosevelt, Niels Bohr; Efterkrigstiden; Truman, Sovjetunionen, Den Kolde Krig; Potsdam-konferencen 1945.

american prometheus book: Trinity Louisa Hall, 2018-10-16 From the acclaimed author of *Speak* comes a kaleidoscopic novel about Robert Oppenheimer—father of the atomic bomb—as told by seven fictional characters. J. Robert Oppenheimer was a brilliant scientist, a champion of liberal causes, and a complex and often contradictory character. He loyally protected his Communist friends, only to later betray them under questioning. He repeatedly lied about love affairs. And he defended the use of the atomic bomb he helped create, before ultimately lobbying against nuclear proliferation. Through narratives that cross time and space, a set of characters bears witness to the life of Oppenheimer, from a secret service agent who tailed him in San Francisco, to the young lover of a colleague in Los Alamos, to a woman fleeing McCarthyism who knew him on St. John. As these men and women fall into the orbit of a brilliant but mercurial mind at work, all consider his complicated legacy while also uncovering deep and often unsettling truths about their own lives. In this stunning, elliptical novel, Louisa Hall has crafted a breathtaking and explosive story about the ability of the human mind to believe what it wants, about public and private tragedy, and about power and guilt. Blending science with literature and fiction with biography, *Trinity* asks searing questions about what it means to truly know someone, and about the secrets we keep from the world and from ourselves.

american prometheus book: Oppenheimer Charles Thorpe, 2008-09-15 At a time when the Manhattan Project was synonymous with large-scale science, physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer (1904–67) represented the new sociocultural power of the American intellectual. Catapulted to fame as director of the Los Alamos atomic weapons laboratory, Oppenheimer occupied a key position in the compact between science and the state that developed out of World War II. By tracing the making—and unmaking—of Oppenheimer's wartime and postwar scientific identity, Charles Thorpe illustrates the struggles over the role of the scientist in relation to nuclear weapons, the state, and culture. A stylish intellectual biography, *Oppenheimer* maps out changes in the roles of scientists and intellectuals in twentieth-century America, ultimately revealing transformations in Oppenheimer's persona that coincided with changing attitudes toward science in society. "This is an outstandingly well-researched book, a pleasure to read and distinguished by the high quality of its observations and judgments. It will be of special interest to scholars of modern history, but non-specialist readers will enjoy the clarity that Thorpe brings to common misunderstandings about his subject."—Graham Farmelo, *Times Higher Education Supplement* "A fascinating new perspective. . . . Thorpe's book provides the best perspective yet for understanding Oppenheimer's Los Alamos years, which were critical, after all, not only to his life but, for better or worse, the history of mankind."—Catherine Westfall, *Nature*

american prometheus book: 109 East Palace Jennet Conant, 2007-11-01 From the bestselling author of *Tuxedo Park*, the extraordinary story of the thousands of people who were sequestered in a military facility in the desert for twenty-seven intense months under J. Robert Oppenheimer where the world's best scientists raced to invent the atomic bomb and win World War II. In 1943, J. Robert Oppenheimer, the brilliant, charismatic head of the Manhattan Project, recruited scientists to live as virtual prisoners of the U.S. government at Los Alamos, a barren mesa thirty-five miles outside Santa Fe, New Mexico. Thousands of men, women, and children spent the

war years sequestered in this top-secret military facility. They lied to friends and family about where they were going and what they were doing, and then disappeared into the desert. Through the eyes of a young Santa Fe widow who was one of Oppenheimer's first recruits, we see how, for all his flaws, he developed into an inspiring leader and motivated all those involved in the Los Alamos project to make a supreme effort and achieve the unthinkable.

american prometheus book: The Color of Truth Kai Bird, 2017-01-10 From the Pulitzer Prize-winning coauthor of *American Prometheus*—this biography of the Bundy Brothers inspired the Academy Award-winning film *Oppenheimer*. In this definitive biography of McGeorge Bundy and William Bundy, two of the best and the brightest who advised presidents about peace and war during the most dangerous years of the Cold War, Kai Bird pens a portrait of the fiercely patriotic, brilliant, and brazenly self-confident men who directed a steady escalation of a war they did not believe could be won. Drawing on seven years of research, nearly one hundred interviews, and scores of still-classified top secret documents in a masterful reevaluation of America's actions throughout the Cold War and Vietnam, *The Color of Truth* tells the tale of the anti-communist liberals who, despite their grave doubts about sending Americans to fight in Southeast Asia, became key architects of America's war in Vietnam. Like the bestselling *The Wise Men*, this dual biography is both an inside account of the making of US foreign policy in an era of nuclear weapons and a stunning group portrait of the heirs of the Wise Men—including Robert McNamara, George Ball, and Robert Kennedy—and the presidents they served.

american prometheus book: In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer Richard Polenberg, 2002 At the end of World War II, J. Robert Oppenheimer was one of America's preeminent physicists. For his work as director of the Manhattan Project, he was awarded the Medal for Merit, the highest honor the U.S. government can bestow on a civilian. Yet, in 1953, Oppenheimer was denied security clearance amidst allegations that he was more probably than not an agent of the Soviet Union. Determined to clear his name, he insisted on a hearing before the Atomic Energy Commission's Personnel Security Board. *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer* contains an edited and annotated transcript of the 1954 hearing, as well as the various reports resulting from it. Drawing on recently declassified FBI files, Richard Polenberg's introductory and concluding essays situate the hearing in the Cold War period, and his thoughtful analysis helps explain why the hearing was held, why it turned out as it did, and what that result meant, both for Oppenheimer and for the United States. Among the forty witnesses who testified were many who had played vitally important roles in the making of U.S. nuclear policy: Enrico Fermi, Hans Bethe, Edward Teller, Vannevar Bush, George F. Kennan, and Oppenheimer himself. The hearing provides valuable insights into the development of the atomic bomb and the postwar debate among scientists over the hydrogen bomb, the conflict between the foreign policy and military establishments over national defense, and the controversy over the proper standards to apply in assessing an individual's loyalty. It reveals as well the fears and anxieties that plagued America during the Cold War era.

american prometheus book: Gambling with Armageddon Martin J. Sherwin, 2020-10-13 From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *American Prometheus* comes the first effort to set the Cuban Missile Crisis, with its potential for nuclear holocaust, in a wider historical narrative of the Cold War—how such a crisis arose, and why at the very last possible moment it didn't happen. In this groundbreaking look at the Cuban Missile Crisis, Martin Sherwin not only gives us a riveting sometimes hour-by-hour explanation of the crisis itself, but also explores the origins, scope, and consequences of the evolving place of nuclear weapons in the post-World War II world. Mining new sources and materials, and going far beyond the scope of earlier works on this critical face-off between the United States and the Soviet Union—triggered when Khrushchev began installing missiles in Cuba at Castro's behest—Sherwin shows how this volatile event was an integral part of the wider Cold War and was a consequence of nuclear arms. *Gambling with Armageddon* looks in particular at the original debate in the Truman Administration about using the Atomic Bomb; the way in which President Eisenhower relied on the threat of massive retaliation to project U.S. power in the early Cold War era; and how President Kennedy, though unprepared to deal with the Bay of

Pigs debacle, came of age during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Here too is a clarifying picture of what was going on in Khrushchev's Soviet Union. Martin Sherwin has spent his career in the study of nuclear weapons and how they have shaped our world. Gambling with Armageddon is an outstanding capstone to his work thus far.

american prometheus book: The Ruin of J. Robert Oppenheimer Priscilla J. McMillan, 2018 Draws from previously classified documents, unpublished manuscripts, private correspondence, and other sources to chronicle the events that surrounded the revocation of scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer's security clearance in 1954, discussing the roles of physicist Edward Teller, Republican businessman Lewis Strauss, congressional assistant William Borden, and President Eisenhower.

american prometheus book: American Prometheus Kai Bird, 2024-01-20 Japanese edition of [American Prometheus] by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin. The first full-scale biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer, 'father of the atomic bomb', the brilliant, charismatic physicist who led the effort to capture the awesome fire of the sun for his country in time of war. This book sets forth Oppenheimer's life and times in revealing and unprecedented detail. Vol 2 of 3.

american prometheus book: The Meanings of J. Robert Oppenheimer Lindsey Michael Banco, 2016-05-15 He called the first atomic bomb "technically sweet," yet as he watched its brilliant light explode over the New Mexico desert in 1945 in advance of the black horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he also thought of the line from the Hindu epic The Bhagavad Gita: "I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds." Physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, the scientific director of the Manhattan Project, the single most recognizable face of the atomic bomb, and a man whose name has become almost synonymous with Cold War American nuclear science, was and still is a conflicted, controversial figure who has come to represent an equally ambivalent technology. The Meanings of J. Robert Oppenheimer examines how he has been represented over the past seven decades in biographies, histories, fiction, comics, photographs, film, television, documentaries, theater, and museums. Lindsey Michael Banco gathers an unprecedented group of cultural texts and seeks to understand the multiple meanings Oppenheimer has held in American popular culture since 1945. He traces the ways these representations of Oppenheimer have influenced public understanding of the atomic bomb, technology, physics, the figure of the scientist, the role of science in war, and even what it means to pursue knowledge of the world around us. Questioning and unpacking both how and why Oppenheimer is depicted as he is across time and genre, this book is broad in scope, profound in detail, and offers unique insights into the rise of nuclear culture and how we think about the relationship between history, imagination, science, and nuclear weapons today.

american prometheus book: Atom and Void J. Robert Oppenheimer, 2014-07-14 J. Robert Oppenheimer was one of the outstanding physicists of his generation. He was also an immensely gifted writer and speaker, who thought deeply about the way that scientific discoveries have changed the way people live and think. Displaying his subtlety of thought and expression as do few other documents, this book of his lectures discusses the moral and cultural implications of developments in modern physics. Originally published in 1989. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

american prometheus book: The Good Spy Kai Bird, 2014-05-20 The Good Spy is Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Kai Bird's compelling portrait of the remarkable life and death of one of the most important operatives in CIA history - a man who, had he lived, might have helped heal the rift between Arabs and the West. On April 18, 1983, a bomb exploded outside the American Embassy in Beirut, killing 63 people. The attack was a geopolitical turning point. It marked the beginning of Hezbollah as a political force, but even more important, it eliminated America's most influential and effective intelligence officer in the Middle East - CIA operative Robert Ames. What set Ames apart

from his peers was his extraordinary ability to form deep, meaningful connections with key Arab intelligence figures. Some operatives relied on threats and subterfuge, but Ames worked by building friendships and emphasizing shared values – never more notably than with Yasir Arafat’s charismatic intelligence chief and heir apparent Ali Hassan Salameh (aka “The Red Prince”). Ames’ deepening relationship with Salameh held the potential for a lasting peace. Within a few years, though, both men were killed by assassins, and America’s relations with the Arab world began heading down a path that culminated in 9/11, the War on Terror, and the current fog of mistrust. Bird, who as a child lived in the Beirut Embassy and knew Ames as a neighbor when he was twelve years old, spent years researching *The Good Spy*. Not only does the book draw on hours of interviews with Ames’ widow, and quotes from hundreds of Ames’ private letters, it’s woven from interviews with scores of current and former American, Israeli, and Palestinian intelligence officers as well as other players in the Middle East “Great Game.” What emerges is a masterpiece-level narrative of the making of a CIA officer, a uniquely insightful history of twentieth-century conflict in the Middle East, and an absorbing hour-by-hour account of the Beirut Embassy bombing. Even more impressive, Bird draws on his reporter’s skills to deliver a full dossier on the bombers and expose the shocking truth of where the attack’s mastermind resides today.

american prometheus book: Oppenheimer Is Watching Me Jeff Porter, 2007-09 When he discovers that his father worked on missiles for a defense contractor, Jeff Porter is inspired to revisit America’s atomic past and our fallen heroes, in particular J. Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atomic bomb. The result, *Oppenheimer Is Watching Me*, takes readers back to the cold war, when men in lab coats toyed with the properties of matter and fears of national security troubled our sleep. With an eye for strange symmetries, Porter traces how one panicky moment shaped the lives of a generation.

american prometheus book: Brotherhood of the Bomb Gregg Herken, 2013-08-13 “The scientists who made the nuclear bomb are the focus of this detailed, engrossing history of one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the 20th century.” —Publishers Weekly The story of the twentieth century is largely the story of the power of science and technology. Within that story is the incredible tale of the human conflict between Robert Oppenheimer, Ernest Lawrence, and Edward Teller—the scientists most responsible for the advent of weapons of mass destruction. The story of these three men, builders of the atomic and hydrogen bombs, is fundamentally about loyalty—to country, to science, and to each other—and about the wrenching choices that had to be made when these allegiances came into conflict. In *Brotherhood of the Bomb*, Gregg Herken gives us the behind-the-scenes account based upon a decade of research, interviews, and newly released Freedom of Information Act and Russian documents.

american prometheus book: The Outlier Kai Bird, 2021-06-15 “Important . . . [a] landmark presidential biography . . . Bird is able to build a persuasive case that the Carter presidency deserves this new look.”—The New York Times Book Review An essential re-evaluation of the complex triumphs and tragedies of Jimmy Carter’s presidential legacy—from the expert biographer and Pulitzer Prize-winning co-author of *American Prometheus* Four decades after Ronald Reagan’s landslide win in 1980, Jimmy Carter’s one-term presidency is often labeled a failure; indeed, many Americans view Carter as the only ex-president to have used the White House as a stepping-stone to greater achievements. But in retrospect the Carter political odyssey is a rich and human story, marked by both formidable accomplishments and painful political adversity. In this deeply researched, brilliantly written account, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Kai Bird deftly unfolds the Carter saga as a tragic tipping point in American history. As president, Carter was not merely an outsider; he was an outlier. He was the only president in a century to grow up in the heart of the Deep South, and his born-again Christianity made him the most openly religious president in memory. This outlier brought to the White House a rare mix of humility, candor, and unnerving self-confidence that neither Washington nor America was ready to embrace. Decades before today’s public reckoning with the vast gulf between America’s ethos and its actions, Carter looked out on a nation torn by race and demoralized by Watergate and Vietnam and prescribed a radical

self-examination from which voters recoiled. The cost of his unshakable belief in doing the right thing would be losing his re-election bid—and witnessing the ascendance of Reagan. In these remarkable pages, Bird traces the arc of Carter's administration, from his aggressive domestic agenda to his controversial foreign policy record, taking readers inside the Oval Office and through Carter's battles with both a political establishment and a Washington press corps that proved as adversarial as any foreign power. Bird shows how issues still hotly debated today—from national health care to growing inequality and racism to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—burned at the heart of Carter's America, and consumed a president who found a moral duty in solving them. Drawing on interviews with Carter and members of his administration and recently declassified documents, Bird delivers a profound, clear-eyed evaluation of a leader whose legacy has been deeply misunderstood. *The Outlier* is the definitive account of an enigmatic presidency—both as it really happened and as it is remembered in the American consciousness.

american prometheus book: Killer Looks Zara Stone, 2021-10-26 *Killer Looks* is the definitive story about the long-forgotten practice of providing free nose jobs, face-lifts, breast implants, and other physical alterations to prisoners, the idea being that by remodeling the face you remake the man. From the 1920s up to the mid-1990s, half a million prison inmates across America, Canada, and the U.K willingly went under the knife, their tab picked up by the government. In the beginning, this was a haphazard affair -- applied inconsistently and unfairly to inmates, but entering the 1960s, a movement to scientifically quantify the long-term effect of such programs took hold. And, strange as it may sound, the criminologists were right: recidivism rates plummeted. In 1967, a three-year cosmetic surgery program set on Rikers Island saw recidivism rates drop 36% for surgically altered offenders. The program, funded by a \$240,000 grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, was led by Dr. Michael Lewin, who ran a similar program at Sing-Sing prison in 1953. *Killer Looks* draws on the intersectionality of socioeconomic success, racial bias, the prison industry complex and the fallacy of attractiveness to get to the heart of how appearance and societal approval creates self-worth, and uncovers deeper truths of beauty bias, inherited racism, effective recidivism programs, and inequality. ,

american prometheus book: Tuxedo Park Jennet Conant, 2013-10-15 A New York Times bestseller! The untold story of the eccentric Wall Street tycoon and the circle of scientific geniuses who helped build the atomic bomb and defeat the Nazis—changing the course of history. Legendary financier, philanthropist, and society figure Alfred Lee Loomis gathered the most visionary scientific minds of the twentieth century—Albert Einstein, Werner Heisenberg, Niels Bohr, Enrico Fermi, and others—at his state-of-the-art laboratory in Tuxedo Park, New York, in the late 1930s. He established a top-secret defense laboratory at MIT and personally bankrolled pioneering research into new, high-powered radar detection systems that helped defeat the German Air Force and U-boats. With Ernest Lawrence, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist, he pushed Franklin Delano Roosevelt to fund research in nuclear fission, which led to the development of the atomic bomb. Jennet Conant, the granddaughter of James Bryant Conant, one of the leading scientific advisers of World War II, enjoyed unprecedented access to Loomis' papers, as well as to people intimately involved in his life and work. She pierces through Loomis' obsessive secrecy and illuminates his role in assuring the Allied victory.

american prometheus book: The General and the Genius James Kunetka, 2015-07-13 With a blinding flash in the New Mexico desert in the summer of 1945, the world was changed forever. The bomb that ushered in the atomic age was the product of one of history's most improbable partnerships. *The General and the Genius* reveals how two extraordinary men pulled off the greatest scientific feat of the twentieth century. Leslie Richard Groves of the Army Corps of Engineers, who had made his name by building the Pentagon in record time and under budget, was made overlord of the impossibly vast scientific enterprise known as the Manhattan Project. His mission: to beat the Nazis to the atomic bomb. So he turned to the nation's preeminent theoretical physicist, J. Robert Oppenheimer—the chain-smoking, martini-quaffing son of wealthy Jewish immigrants, whose background was riddled with communist associations—Groves's opposite in nearly every respect. In

their three-year collaboration, the iron-willed general and the visionary scientist led a brilliant team in a secret mountaintop lab and built the fearsome weapons that ended the war but introduced the human race to unimaginable new terrors. And at the heart of this most momentous work of World War II is the story of two extraordinary men—the general and the genius.

american prometheus book: Prometheus Carol Dougherty, 2006-01-30 Offering a comparative approach, including visual material and film, this much-needed book provides an essential introduction to the Promethean myth and locates the nature of this compelling tale's continuing relevance through history, from its origins in ancient Greece, to its appearance in Romantic age works and twentieth-century films.

american prometheus book: Almighty Dan Zak, 2016-07-12 **A Washington Post Notable Nonfiction Book of 2016** ON A TRANQUIL SUMMER NIGHT in July 2012, a trio of peace activists infiltrated the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Nicknamed the “Fort Knox of Uranium,” Y-12 was supposedly one of the most secure sites in the world, a bastion of warhead parts and hundreds of tons of highly enriched uranium—enough to power thousands of nuclear bombs. The three activists—a house painter, a Vietnam War veteran, and an 82-year-old Catholic nun—penetrated the complex’s exterior with alarming ease; their strongest tools were two pairs of bolt cutters and three hammers. Once inside, these pacifists hung protest banners, spray-painted biblical messages, and streaked the walls with human blood. Then they waited to be arrested. WITH THE BREAK-IN and their symbolic actions, the activists hoped to draw attention to a costly military-industrial complex that stockpiles deadly nukes. But they also triggered a political and legal firestorm of urgent and troubling questions. What if they had been terrorists? Why do the United States and Russia continue to possess enough nuclear weaponry to destroy the world several times over? IN ALMIGHTY, WASHINGTON POST REPORTER Dan Zak answers these questions by reexamining America’s love-hate relationship to the bomb, from the race to achieve atomic power before the Nazis did to the solemn 70th anniversary of Hiroshima. At a time of concern about proliferation in such nations as Iran and North Korea, the U.S. arsenal is plagued by its own security problems. This life-or-death quandary is unraveled in Zak’s eye-opening account, with a cast that includes the biophysicist who first educated the public on atomic energy, the prophet who predicted the creation of Oak Ridge, the generations of activists propelled into resistance by their faith, and the Washington bureaucrats and diplomats who are trying to keep the world safe. Part historical adventure, part courtroom drama, part moral thriller, Almighty reshapes the accepted narratives surrounding nuclear weapons and shows that our greatest modern-day threat remains a power we discovered long ago.

american prometheus book: The Oppenheimer Alternative Arc Manor, 2023-07-11 On the 75th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb, Hugo and Nebula-winning author Robert J. Sawyer takes us back in time to revisit history...with a twist. While J. Robert Oppenheimer and his Manhattan Project team struggle to develop the A-bomb, Edward Teller wants something even more devastating: a bomb based on nuclear fusion—the mechanism that powers the sun. Teller's research leads to a terrifying discovery: by the year 2030, the sun will eject its outermost layer, destroying the entire inner solar system—including Earth. As the war ends with the use of fission bombs against Japan, Oppenheimer's team, plus Albert Einstein and Wernher von Braun, stay together—the greatest scientific geniuses from the last century racing against time to save our future. Meticulously researched and replete with real-life characters and events, *The Oppenheimer Alternative* is a breathtaking adventure through both real and alternate history

american prometheus book: Dark Sun Richard Rhodes, 2012-09-18 Here, for the first time, in a brilliant, panoramic portrait by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, is the definitive, often shocking story of the politics and the science behind the development of the hydrogen bomb and the birth of the Cold War. Based on secret files in the United States and the former Soviet Union, this monumental work of history discloses how and why the United States decided to create the bomb that would dominate world politics for more than forty years.

american prometheus book: The Prometheus Deception/The Sigma Protocol Robert Ludlum,

2006-09-05 Prometheus Deception Robert Ludlum is the acknowledged master of suspense and international intrigue. For over thirty years, in over twenty international bestsellers, he has set a standard that has never been equaled. Now, with the Prometheus Deception, he proves that he is at the very pinnacle of his craft. Nicholas Bryson spent years as a deep cover operative for the American secret intelligence group, the Directorate. After critical undercover mission went horribly wrong, Bryson was retired to a new identity. Years later, his closely held cover is cracked and Bryson learns that the Directorate was not what it claimed - that he was a pawn in a complex scheme against his own country's interests. Now, it has become increasingly clear that the shadowy Directorate is headed for some dangerous endgame - but no one knows precisely who they are and what they are planning. With Bryson their only possible asset, the director of the CIA recruits Bryson to find, reinfiltrate, and stop the Directorate. But after years on the sidelines, Bryson's field skills are rusty, his contacts unreliable, and his instincts suspect. With everything he thought he knew about his own life in question, Bryson is all alone in a wilderness of mirrors - unsure what is and isn't true and who, if anyone, he can trust - with the future of millions in the balance. Sigma Protocol Ben Hartman is vacationing in Zurich, Switzerland when he chances upon his old friend Jimmy Cavanaugh—a madman who's armed and programmed to assassinate. In a matter of minutes, six innocent bystanders are dead. So is Cavanaugh. But when his body vanishes, and his weapon mysteriously appears in Hartman's luggage, Hartman is plunged into an unfathomable nightmare... Meanwhile, Anna Navarro, field agent for the Department of Justice, has been asked to investigate the sudden, random deaths of eleven men throughout the world. The only thing that connects them? A secret file, over a half-century old, that's linked to the CIA—and is marked with the same puzzling codename: Sigma. As Anna follows the connecting thread—and Hartman finds himself on the run—she ends up in the shadows of a relentless killer who is one step ahead of her...victim by victim. Now, she and Hartman together must uncover the diabolical secrets long held behind Sigma. It will threaten everything they think they know about themselves—and confirm their very worst fears...

american prometheus book: Red Pill, Blue Pill David Neiwert, 2020-09-10 A revealing trip down the rabbit hole of conspiracy theories -their appeal, who believes them, how they spread -with an eye to helping people deal with the alt-right conspiracists in their own lives. Conspiracy theories are killing us. Once confined to the fringes of society, this worldview now has adherents numbering in the millions -extending right into the White House. This disturbing look at this alt-right threat to our democratic institutions offers guidance for counteracting the personal toll this destructive mindset can have on relationships and families. Author David Neiwert -an investigative journalist who has studied the radical right for decades -examines the growing appeal of conspiracy theories and the kind of personalities that are attracted to such paranoid, sociopathic messages. He explains how alt-right leaders are able to get such firm holds on the imaginations of their followers and chronicles the destruction caused by the movement's most virulent believers. Colloquially, this recruitment to alt-right ideologies is called getting red-pilled -a metaphor for when believers of conspiracy theories become convinced that their alternate universe is real. Uniquely, and optimistically, Neiwert provides a blue pill toolkit for those who are dealing with conspiracy theorists in their own lives, including strategies drawn from people who counsel former far-right extremists who have renounced their former beliefs.

american prometheus book: Crossing Mandelbaum Gate Kai Bird, 2010-04-20 *From the Pulitzer Prize-winning coauthor of American Prometheus—the inspiration for the Academy Award-winning film Oppenheimer* Now with a new introduction, Kai Bird's fascinating memoir of his early years spent in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon provides an original and illuminating perspective into the Arab-Israeli conflict. In 1956, four-year-old Kai Bird, son of a charming American diplomat, moved to Jerusalem with his family. Kai could hear church bells and the Muslim call to prayer and watch as donkeys and camels competed with cars for space on the narrow streets. Each day on his way to school, Kai was driven through Mandelbaum Gate, where armed soldiers guarded the line separating Israeli-controlled West Jerusalem from Arab-controlled East. Bird would spend much of his life crossing such lines—as a child in Jerusalem, Saudi Arabia,

and Egypt, and later, as a young man in Lebanon. In *Crossing Mandelbaum Gate*, a narrative that “rips along like a spy novel” (The New York Times Book Review), Bird’s retelling of “events such as Suez in 1956, the Six Day War of 1967, and Black September in 1970 are as clear and fresh as yesterday” (The Spectator, UK). Bird vividly portrays emblematic figures like George Antonius, author of *The Arab Awakening*; Jordan’s King Hussein; the Palestinian hijacker Leila Khaled; Salem bin Laden; Saudi King Faisal; President Nasser of Egypt; and Hillel Kook, the forgotten rescuer of more than 100,000 Jews during World War II. Bird, his parents sympathetic to Palestinian self-determination and his wife the daughter of two Holocaust survivors, has written a “kaleidoscopic and captivating” (Publishers Weekly) personal history of a troubled region and an indispensable addition to the literature on the modern Middle East.

american prometheus book: Earth Abides George R. Stewart, 1993-12

american prometheus book: **J. Robert Oppenheimer and the American Century** David C. Cassidy, 2019-07-31 Born into a wealthy, secular New York Jewish family, a student of the Ethical Culture School in New York, later educated in theoretical physics at Harvard, Cambridge (UK) and Göttingen (Germany), appointed professor at UC-Berkeley and Caltech, J. Robert Oppenheimer (1904-1967) was on the forefront of the rise of theoretical physics in the United States to world-class status, contributing to the century-altering success of the Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb. As the scientific leader of that project, Oppenheimer played a key advisory role in government, helping to forge the post-war military-industrial-scientific alliance that poured huge resources into post-war “big science.” Because of his position, Oppenheimer became for the public the heroic cultural icon of American science, but he also became a target and a tragic victim of the cold-war fear and nuclear war preparations underlying the McCarthy era. This biographical study focuses on Oppenheimer’s cultural and intellectual rise as a theoretical physicist as well as his role within the trajectory of the nation’s rise to scientific leadership and the post-war forces that confronted American science. This biography is nearly unique in that it includes discussions for general audiences of Oppenheimer’s work and contributions to theoretical physics, including his famous prediction of black holes sixty years before their confirmed discovery. “Now David Cassidy brings us the best account of Oppenheimer’s life in science with *J. Robert Oppenheimer and the American Century*.” — T. Powers, New York Review of Books “Cassidy covers this ground admirably in his thoughtful biography of Oppenheimer.” —Scientific American “Cassidy’s book...is probably the best single study of Oppenheimer to date.” — B. Bernstein, Physics World “Cassidy’s biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer is a concise, well-written book about the life of the famous 20th century scientist... A worthwhile read for anyone with an interest in the coming of age of American physics and how the weaknesses and strengths of one of its leaders shaped the relationship between science and the government for decades to come.” — Physics and Society “This biography is a detailed and beautifully written work. Cassidy expands beyond the traditional scope of a biography and expertly explores the surrounding environment that shaped Oppenheimer’s life.” — Atomic Archive “This excellent biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer places the eminent physicist in the context of twentieth century America... Cassidy... provides excellent insights into the life and times of this complex man. Unlike many other biographers of Oppenheimer, Cassidy assesses his role as a twentieth century theoretical physicist.” — Alsos Digital Library for Nuclear Issues “A superbly researched biography... There is no doubt that Cassidy gives us a valuable perspective on Oppenheimer’s life. The author is shy neither of editorializing nor of making judgments about the personalities who appear in the story... These comments are almost unfailingly fair and justified by the evidence.” — Times Higher Education “Cassidy... has written a book that neither praises Oppenheimer nor buries his reputation but, rather, puts some tarnish upon the icon.” — G. Herken, Science

american prometheus book: Restricted Data Alex Wellerstein, 2021-04-09 Nuclear weapons, since their conception, have been the subject of secrecy. In the months after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the American scientific establishment, the American government, and the American public all wrestled with what was called the problem of secrecy,

wondering not only whether secrecy was appropriate and effective as a means of controlling this new technology but also whether it was compatible with the country's core values. Out of a messy context of propaganda, confusion, spy scares, and the grave counsel of competing groups of scientists, what historian Alex Wellerstein calls a new regime of secrecy was put into place. It was unlike any other previous or since. Nuclear secrets were given their own unique legal designation in American law (restricted data), one that operates differently than all other forms of national security classification and exists to this day. Drawing on massive amounts of declassified files, including records released by the government for the first time at the author's request, *Restricted Data* is a narrative account of nuclear secrecy and the tensions and uncertainty that built as the Cold War continued. In the US, both science and democracy are pitted against nuclear secrecy, and this makes its history uniquely compelling and timely--

american prometheus book: *An Atomic Love Story* Shirley Streshinsky, Patricia Klaus, 2013-10-23 A gripping narrative of the love and betrayal of J. Robert Oppenheimer, told through the lives of three unique women. Set against a dramatic backdrop of war, spies, and nuclear bombs, *An Atomic Love Story* unveils a vivid new view of a tumultuous era and one of its most important figures. In the early decades of the 20th century, three highly ambitious women found their way to the West Coast, where each was destined to collide with the young Oppenheimer, the enigmatic physicist whose work in creating the atomic bomb would forever impact modern history. His first and most intense love was for Jean Tatlock, though he married the tempestuous Kitty Harrison—both were members of the Communist Party—and was rumored to have had a scandalous affair with the brilliant Ruth Sherman Tolman, ten years his senior and the wife of another celebrated physicist. Although each were connected through their relationship to Oppenheimer, their experiences reflect important changes in the lives of American women in the 20th century: the conflict between career and marriage; the need for a woman to define herself independently; experimentation with sexuality; and the growth of career opportunities. Beautifully written and superbly researched through a rich collection of firsthand accounts, this intimate portrait shares the tragedies, betrayals, and romances of an alluring man and three bold women, revealing how they pushed to the very forefront of social and cultural changes in a fascinating, volatile era.

american prometheus book: *Fallout* Lesley M.M. Blume, 2020-08-04 A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF 2020 New York Times bestselling author Lesley M.M. Blume reveals how one courageous American reporter uncovered one of the deadliest cover-ups of the 20th century—the true effects of the atom bomb—potentially saving millions of lives. Just days after the United States decimated Hiroshima and Nagasaki with nuclear bombs, the Japanese surrendered unconditionally. But even before the surrender, the US government and military had begun a secret propaganda and information suppression campaign to hide the devastating nature of these experimental weapons. The cover-up intensified as Occupation forces closed the atomic cities to Allied reporters, preventing leaks about the horrific long-term effects of radiation which would kill thousands during the months after the blast. For nearly a year the cover-up worked—until New Yorker journalist John Hersey got into Hiroshima and managed to report the truth to the world. As Hersey and his editors prepared his article for publication, they kept the story secret—even from most of their New Yorker colleagues. When the magazine published “Hiroshima” in August 1946, it became an instant global sensation, and inspired pervasive horror about the hellish new threat that America had unleashed. Since 1945, no nuclear weapons have ever been deployed in war partly because Hersey alerted the world to their true, devastating impact. This knowledge has remained among the greatest deterrents to using them since the end of World War II. Released on the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, *Fallout* is an engrossing detective story, as well as an important piece of hidden history that shows how one heroic scoop saved—and can still save—the world.

american prometheus book: *The Chairman* Kai Bird, 2017-01-10 Against the backgrounds of World War II, the Cold War, the construction of Pax Americana, the Cuban missile crisis, the Kennedy assassination, and Vietnam, Bird shows us McCloy's astonishing rise from self-described “chore boy” to “chairman of the Establishment.” His powerful circle shaped the postwar globe. But

McCloy stood out among them as a towering figure of achievement: as a Wall Street lawyer who earned the confidence of captains of industry and presidents; as Henry Stimson's right-hand man at the War Department; as president of the World Bank and chairman of the Chase financial empire; and as presidential adviser. Bird captures every facet of this self-made man. We see McCloy's commercial acumen as the most in-demand lawyer of Wall Street; his dictatorial will as high commissioner of occupied Germany; and his stoic loyalty as adviser to Presidents FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Carter, Ford, and Reagan. Bird brilliantly explores how McCloy came to epitomize the American Establishment and the values of a generation that led the United States through bitter war and unparalleled prosperity.

american prometheus book: *The Seasons of God* Richard Blackaby, 2012-08-21 What season of life are you in? Each of us goes through periods of life that have a certain character—a few months or a few years, good times or difficult circumstances, times of brilliant joy or periods of dark clouds. Often we say, "It's just the season of life I'm in." But did you know that just as God has purposes for the seasons of nature, he also uses seasons in your life to grow you, work with you, and talk to you? Richard Blackaby explains in *The Seasons of God* how understanding the principles of the seasons can offer us hope, direction, insight, and intimacy with God himself. It's a thoughtful exploration of God's patterns at work in our lives—how His will is being carried out in the best way...at the best time. Your plans, your relationships, your career, your ministry—all have their unique God-intended moment. God's Word expresses it this way: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." So what's your season of life? And what is God telling you through the season you're in?

american prometheus book: *The Pope of Physics* Gino Segrè, Bettina Hoerlin, 2016-10-18 Enrico Fermi is unquestionably among the greats of the world's physicists, the most famous Italian scientist since Galileo. Called the Pope by his peers, he was regarded as infallible in his instincts and research. His discoveries changed our world; they led to weapons of mass destruction and conversely to life-saving medical interventions. This unassuming man struggled with issues relevant today, such as the threat of nuclear annihilation and the relationship of science to politics. Fleeing Fascism and anti-Semitism, Fermi became a leading figure in America's most secret project: building the atomic bomb. The last physicist who mastered all branches of the discipline, Fermi was a rare mixture of theorist and experimentalist. His rich legacy encompasses key advances in fields as diverse as cosmic rays, nuclear technology, and early computers. In their revealing book, *The Pope of Physics*, Gino Segrè and Bettina Hoerlin bring this scientific visionary to life. An examination of the human dramas that touched Fermi's life as well as a thrilling history of scientific innovation in the twentieth century, this is the comprehensive biography that Fermi deserves.

american prometheus book: *Science and the Common Understanding* J Robert Oppenheimer, 2018-10-15 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

american prometheus book: *American Prometheus* Tom Gage, 2017-04-28 American Prometheus: Carnegie's Captain, Bill Jones presents a compelling historical memoir of the illustrious life of rebellious steel genius and inventor, Captain Bill Jones. Hero of the Civil War and Johnstown Flood, Captain Bill Jones built and supervised the Edgar Thomson Steel Works, which in its first five years advanced to the rank of the world's most productive and profitable steel mill. His hands-on, all over style solved Carnegie's production problems on the spot, enlisted baseball teams from the Works' departments to defuse ethnic strife, promoted the eight-hour work day, and patented

inventions, including the Jones Hot Metal mixer, which revolutionized the steelmaking industry, all while turning down Carnegie's offers of partnership. A deft blend of historical narrative and family memoir, this absorbing account of Jones' dynamic life as a founding key figure in post-Civil War America's Second Industrial Revolution and as a philanthropist in his own right, is told by none other than his great-grandson. Tom Gage moves beyond the role of biographer and storyteller to delve into research that traces Jones' relationship to the steel magnate and explores the mysteries posed by family lore.

american prometheus book: Oppenheimer Jeremy Bernstein, 2005-08 As a former colleague of Oppenheimer's, Bernstein has composed a narrative that is both personal and historical, bringing the reader closer to the life and workings of an extraordinary and controversial man.

american prometheus book: 100 Greatest African Americans Molefi Kete Asante, 2010-06-28 Since 1619, when Africans first came ashore in the swampy Chesapeake region of Virginia, there have been many individuals whose achievements or strength of character in the face of monumental hardships have called attention to the genius of the African American people. This book attempts to distill from many wonderful possibilities the 100 most outstanding examples of greatness. Pioneering scholar of African American Studies Molefi Kete Asante has used four criteria in his selection: the individual's significance in the general progress of African Americans toward full equality in the American social and political system; self-sacrifice and the demonstration of risk for the collective good; unusual will and determination in the face of the greatest danger or against the most stubborn odds; and personal achievement that reveals the best qualities of the African American people. In adopting these criteria Professor Asante has sought to steer away from the usual standards of popular culture, which often elevates the most popular, the wealthiest, or the most photogenic to the cult of celebrity. The individuals in this book - examples of lasting greatness as opposed to the ephemeral glare of celebrity fame - come from four centuries of African American history. Each entry includes brief biographical information, relevant dates, an assessment of the individual's place in African American history with particular reference to a historical timeline, and a discussion of his or her unique impact on American society. Numerous pictures and illustrations will accompany the articles. This superb reference work will complement any library and be of special interest to students and scholars of American and African American history.

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