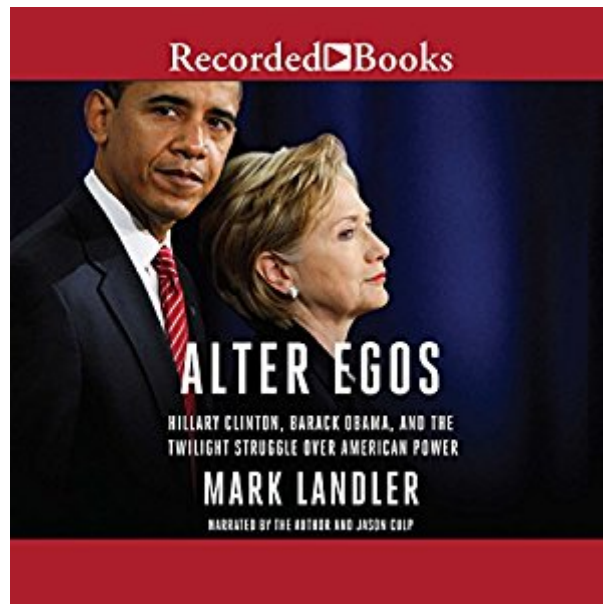


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Alter Egos: Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, And The Twilight Struggle Over American Power



Synopsis

A deeply-reported, firsthand account of how Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have come to embody two competing visions for the role of the United States in the world - and what that means for the 2016 presidential election. New York Times White House correspondent Mark Landler takes us behind the speeches and press conferences, to the Situation Room debates and picnic-table lunches, where Obama and Clinton honed their two competing worldviews: his, cautious, inward-looking, suffused with a sense of limits; hers, muscular, optimistic, unabashedly old-fashioned. *Alter Egos* is about two ambitious political archrivals from very different backgrounds who became partners for a time, trailblazers who share a common sense of their historical destiny but who hold fundamentally different beliefs about how to project American power. With all the sweep of a grand history - and enlivened by an insider's access and plenty of news - Landler digs deep into the complex relationship between these two leaders and gives us a different way to think about Obama's legacy and Clinton's promise.

Book Information

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Political History & Theory #252 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government >

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Customer Reviews

This extremely well-written and interesting book is a terrific combination of page-turning readability and in-depth foreign policy expertise. I thoroughly enjoyed getting a behind-the-scenes (and behind the headlines) view of the inner workings of the Obama White House and Hillary Clinton's State Department. More importantly, I came away feeling that I had learned a great deal from this

well-researched and well-documented analysis of U.S. foreign policy. (Full disclosure: I worked at the State Department for thirteen years, which I suppose qualifies me as a wonk, but this book is so engaging that I am sure a wide array of readers, from novices to experts, will find it worthwhile.) It's a rare treat to hear from a writer who has been both diplomatic and White House correspondent for the "New York Times." However, unlike many "Washington insider" books, "Alter Egos" avoids being fawning or partial, and does not indulge in the self-promoting eyewitness to history blather that can make some books of this genre unbearable. This book never strikes a false note. Landler describes policy, politics and personalities insightfully and often wittily. "Alter Egos" sparkles with memorable quotes about people and places ranging from Benjamin Netanyahu ("a skilled, bare-knuckles bargainer with a cast-iron backside") to the U.S. Ambassador to Syria (a genteel but adventurous, Lawrence of Arabia with the voice of a librarian) to San Pedro Sula, Honduras (a mangy industrial city known for clothing factories, rampant drug violence, and a string of strip malls pocked with American fast-food franchises). In spite of writing about events that happened as long as eight years ago, Landler brings a freshness and immediacy to this material.

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