



The Manhattan Project: The Making of the Atomic Bomb

Al Cimino

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The ramifications of the Manhattan Project are with us to this day. The atomic bombs that came out of it brought an end to the war in the Pacific, but at a heavy loss of life in Japan and the opening of a Pandora's box that has tested international relations.

This book traces the history of the Manhattan Project, from the first glimmerings of the possibility of such a catastrophic weapon to the aftermath of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It profiles the architects of the bomb and how they tried to reconcile their personal feelings with their ambition as scientists. It looks at the role of the politicians and it includes first-hand accounts of those who experienced the effects of the bombings.

The Manhattan Project: The Making of the Atomic Bomb Details

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From Reader Review The Manhattan Project: The Making of the Atomic Bomb for online ebook

Dave says

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in return for an honest review.

I have mixed feelings about this book - it is a generally well-written primer on the topic of the Manhattan Project, which was the scientific effort during the second world war to research, and build the atomic bomb which was ultimately responsible for bringing the war to an end.

I was slightly disappointed when I saw the size of this book, as I have read much more comprehensive works which cover the same subject in a lot more detail. While Cimino does a competent job of touching on the major development milestones throughout the process, I really felt that he had dehumanised a lot of the story. He has chosen to focus on the two leaders of the project - General Groves, and Robert Oppenheimer - but I felt like he only paid lip service to many of the scientists who were involved.

As I said before, this is a good introductory piece to the Manhattan Project, and is suitable for people with a passing interest in the topic, but for people with either a deeper interest in the historical and scientific repercussions of the atomic bomb, they may wish to look elsewhere.

This review and more can be found at Book of Bogan

Craig says

Pretty self-explanatory by the title of this book, this is a pretty quick summary of the science, history and people and events behind the Manhattan Project. Unfortunately, it's a little uneven and at times, poorly written and confusing. Still I do think this short book can help AcDec students understand a little more clearly the technology behind Uranium and Plutonium atomic weapons and the roles that Hanford, Washington, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Los Alamos, New Mexico and their scientists and leaders played in the development of the nuclear age.

Judy says

Too technical but good overview

Rick Harris says

Great!

Highly informative. Enjoyed it immensely. Mr. Cimino greatly helped me realize just what a massive undertaking this was. The relationship between General Groves and Oppenheimer may never again be

duplicated, they put aside their vast differences in philosophy to get the bomb built, in today's world it's hard to picture that happening.

Manchester Military History Society (MMHS) says

Average account of the race to build the atomic bomb

Cimino is the pen name of Nigel Cawthorne, a serial author of war, true crime, art, science, history, literature, fashion, sex and humour books.

This book is described as being written for laymen, but I did find the technical detail quite hard to follow and as such I did skip some sections. Whilst it's not possible to avoid some degree of technical detail the nuances of various isotopes and neutrons went over my head.

Despite this Cimino does show some of the conflict between the academics and the military which in more detail might have made a more readable account.

For anyone interested in physics this might be a useful primer on the history of atomic development, but for me it was too technical and didn't hold my attention. It felt like a journalists effort to quickly pump out a book on the atomic bomb.

I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.
