



Crisis: The Anatomy of Two Major Foreign Policy Crises

By Henry Kissinger

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By drawing upon hitherto unpublished transcripts of his telephone conversations during the Yom Kippur War (1973) and the last days of the Vietnam War (1975), Henry Kissinger reveals what goes on behind the scenes at the highest levels in a diplomatic crisis.

The two major foreign policy crises in this book, one successfully negotiated, one that ended tragically, were unique in that they moved so fast that much of the work on them had to be handled by telephone.

The longer of the two sections deals in detail with the Yom Kippur War and is full of revelations, as well as great relevancy: In Kissinger's conversations with Golda Meir, Israeli Prime Minister; Simcha Dinitz, Israeli ambassador to the U.S.; Mohamed el-Zayyat, the Egyptian Foreign Minister; Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador to the U.S.; Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary General of the U.N.; and a host of others, as well as with President Nixon, many of the main elements of the current problems in the Middle East can be seen.

The section on the end of the Vietnam War is a tragic drama, as Kissinger tries to help his president and a divided nation through the final moments of a lost war. It is full of astonishing material, such as Kissinger's trying to secure the evacuation of a Marine company which, at the very last minute, is discovered to still be in Saigon as the city is about to fall, and his exchanges with Ambassador Martin in Saigon, who is reluctant to leave his embassy.

This is a book that presents perhaps the best record of the inner workings of diplomacy at the superheated pace and tension of real crisis.

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Crisis: The Anatomy of Two Major Foreign Policy Crises By Henry Kissinger Bibliography

- Rank: #737606 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Simon n Schuster
- Published on: 2004-08-02
- Released on: 2004-08-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 1.80" w x 6.12" l, 1.90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 576 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"Captivating ... Kissinger's book offers readers a some-times uncomfortably close look at the world of high-stakes diplomacy."

About the Author

Henry Kissinger was the fifty-sixth Secretary of State. Born in Germany, Dr. Kissinger came to the United States in 1938 and was naturalized a US citizen in 1943. He served in the US Army and attended Harvard University, where he later became a member of the faculty. Among the awards he has received are the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Medal of Liberty. Dr. Kissinger is currently Chairman of Kissinger Associates, Inc., an international consulting firm.

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