



The American Agent: My Life in the CIA

By Richard L. Holm

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Dick Holm joined the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1960s and rose rapidly through the ranks to become Bureau Chief in Paris, eventually earning the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the CIA's highest award. His first posting was in Laos, where he served in the CIA's "Secret War" against the Communists in the lead-up to the Vietnam War. He was then sent to the Congo and suffered near-fatal injuries after a plane crash in a remote jungle. Healed by local tribesmen, his horrific burns treated with snake oil and tree bark, he then spent two years in a U.S. hospital undergoing extensive surgery. Holm also worked in Hong Kong and Paris and was instrumental in anti-terrorism operations during Carlos the Jackal's international terror campaign. Having served under 13 CIA directors, Holm has firm, highly informed views on the policies—past and present, national and international—that determine how, where, and why the CIA works.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Insightful and candid memoir... The book offers a window into a life of secrets and the reader comes away with an in-depth view of a dedicated and honest man.' Good Book Guide 'A vivid reminder of how dangerous life in the CIA Directorate of Operations can be' The Times 'An extraordinarily valuable handbook for anyone interested in intelligence, recent history and the American machinery of state' Literary Review

From the Publisher

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About the Author

Richard L. Holm had a rich and varied international career as a distinguished officer of the CIA, and now lives in retirement near CIA headquarters in Virginia.

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