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**Book Catalog**

# The Making of the Atomic Bomb

By Richard Rhodes

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Simon &amp; Schuster

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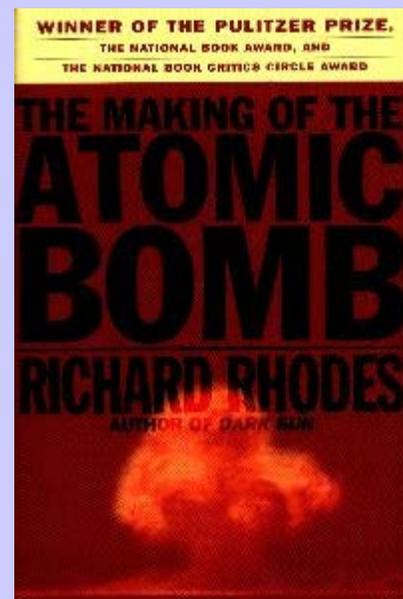
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This is the Pulitzer Prize winning history how the first atomic bomb was conceived, developed and used. At almost 900 pages, this book is surprisingly readable, and even if you don't read it cover to cover, it is useful as a ready-reference to the early atomic era. We keep it handy to look up the names of early participants in the Black World, and after getting to know the cast of characters, like Teller and Curtis

LeMay, it is easy to see where Kubrick got his inspiration for Dr. Strangelove. Rhodes covers such little known aspects as the Soviets' quite effective espionage efforts and how they were more afraid of us than we of them. As a model of secret operations, the Manhattan Project seemed to do things right, and managed to keep its huge undertaking almost completely invisible to the enemy. Somehow, the team worked together to make the bomb work, but then the dissention began as personalities clashed and some questioned the wisdom of what they had done. This is definitive reference for this aspect of American history, interesting to anyone who has lived in this century. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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### From the Book Cover

**Winner of the Pulitzer Prize,**

**The National Book Award, and**

**The National Book Critics Circle Award**

Here for the first time, in rich, human, political, and scientific detail, is the complete story of how the bomb was developed, from the turn-of-the-century discovery of the vast energy locked inside the atom to the dropping of the first bombs on Japan.

Few great discoveries have evolved so swiftly--or have been so misunderstood. From the theoretical discussions of nuclear energy to the bright glare of Trinity there was a span of hardly more than twenty-five years. What began as merely an interesting speculative problem in physics grew into the Manhattan Project, and then into the Bomb with frightening rapidity, while scientists known only to their peers--Szilard, Teller, Oppenheimer, Bohr, Meitner, Fermi, Lawrence, and von Neumann--stepped from their ivory towers into the limelight.

Richard Rhodes takes us on that journey step by step, minute by minute, and gives us the definitive story of man's most awesome discovery and invention. *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* has been compared in its sweep and importance to William L. Shirer's *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. It is at once a narrative tour de force and a document as powerful as its subject.

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"The comprehensive history of the Bomb--and also a work of literature."

--Tracy Kidder

"A stirring intellectual adventure ... clear, fast-paced, and indispensable."

--Carl Sagan

"A monumental and enthralling history ... Alive and vibrant in the book are all the scientists . . . and each human being stands vividly revealed as a man of science, of conscience, of doubts or of hubris."

--*San Francisco Chronicle*

**Richard Rhodes** is a widely published author. His articles have appeared in numerous national magazines. He graduated from Yale University and has received fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

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### PRAISE FOR THE MAKING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB

"A great book. Mr. Rhodes has done a beautiful job, and I don't see how anyone can ever top it."

--LUIS W. ALVAREZ, Nobel Laureate for Physics, 1968

". . . what I read already impressed me with the author's knowledge of much of the history of the science which led to

the development of nuclear energy and nuclear bombs and of the personalities which contributed in the U.S. to the development of these. I was particularly impressed by his realization of the importance of Leo Szilard's contributions which are almost always underestimated but which he fully realizes and perhaps even overestimates. I hope the book will find a wide readership."

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"I found *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* well written, interesting and one of the best in the great family of books on the subject. It is fascinating as a novel, and I have learned from it many things I did not know. Mr. Rhodes has done his homework conscientiously and intelligently."

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I.I. RABI, Nobel Laureate for Physics, 1944

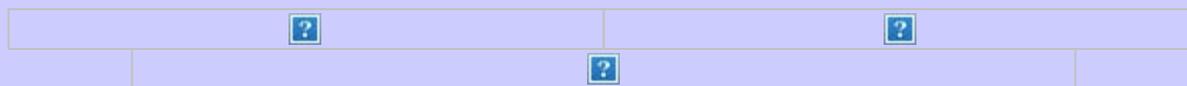
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