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By William E. Burrows

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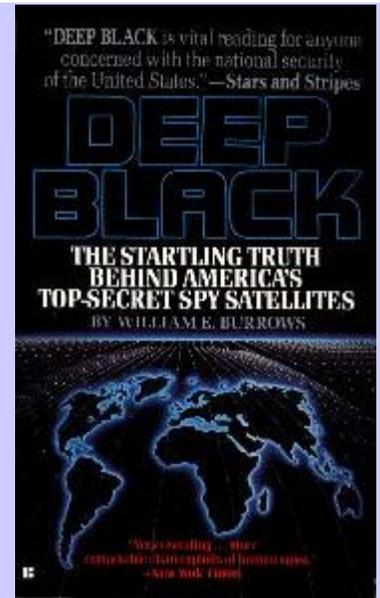
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Credibility	Research Value	Cultural Interest	Visual Information	Style	Silliness	Wow Factor	Bargain
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Very High	Very High	Moderate	None	Not Rated	Very Low	Interesting	High

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Credibility = Very High: In general, this category is a rating of the author's intellectual discipline and the strength of his argument (which are very high), not the veracity of his claims (which could be false in spite of the strong argument).

This is THE reference on spy satellites, a must for anyone who's interested in knowing about things our government would prefer you didn't know about. Although suffering a little from the swift transformation of the world since it was first published in 1986 (Uh, anyone see where the Evil Empire wandered off to?), it remains the best treatment on just what our spy satellites are capable of, how they are controlled, both technically and politically, and how the very black security blanket wrapped around them works. Meticulously researched and footnoted, this is a serious book and not a light read. In many ways it is a good compliment to Bamford's *The Puzzle Palace*. -- tm

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From the Book Cover

A tenth of the way to the moon, in the icy blackness of space, a U.S. reconnaissance satellite pointed toward earth eavesdrops on a telephone conversation between two Soviet generals. Another spacecraft photographs a Soviet aircraft carrier under construction at a distance of 504 miles with such clarity that windows in the shipyard are easily discernible. Still another, racing 24,000 miles over Siberia in eight hours, measures the pulse of Soviet ABM radar while pretending to be a mere communication relay satellite...

They are the cutting edge of aerospace technology - the top-secret billion dollar instruments of superpower espionage.

They are sentinels in space, hightech spy satellites code-named ARGUS, MAGNUM and KEYHOLE. They are the method by which Washington keeps tabs on the world while coming to grips with the most important question of our time: Can the United States adequately verify arms control agreements? And even more staggering: What's in store for the future?

DEEP BLACK

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About the Author

WILLIAM E. BURROWS has written about aviation and space for more than two decades. He has reported for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, and is the author of three previous books: *Richthofen*, *Vigilante*, and *On Reporting the News*. Mr. Burrows's articles have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, *The Sciences*, and *Harvard Magazine*.

Mr. Burrows holds two degrees in international relations from Columbia University and is at present a professor of journalism and director of the Science and Environmental Reporting Program at New York University.

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