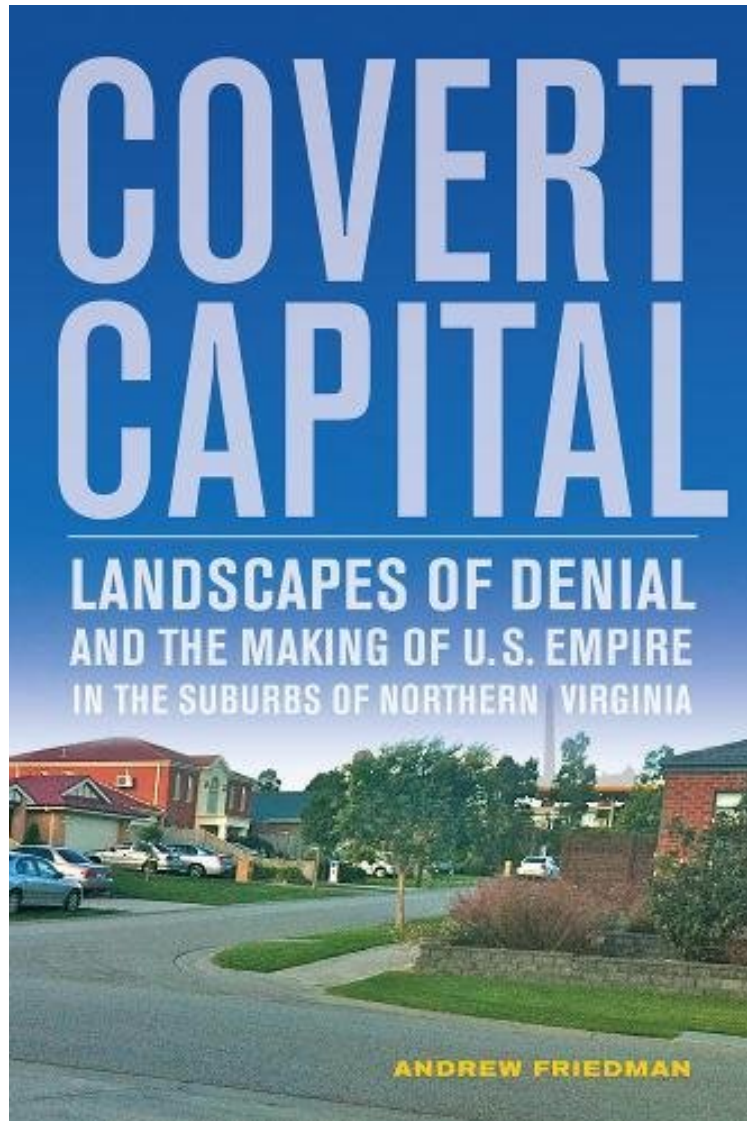


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## Covert Capital: Landscapes of Denial and the Making of U.S. Empire in the Suburbs of Northern Virginia

*Andrew Friedman*

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#854663 in Books 2013-08-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 6.25 x 1.001, 1.30 #File Name: 0520274652432 pages | File size: 32.Mb

**Andrew Friedman : Covert Capital: Landscapes of Denial and the Making of U.S. Empire in the Suburbs of Northern Virginia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Covert Capital: Landscapes of Denial and the Making of U.S. Empire in the Suburbs of Northern Virginia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What vivid memories I have of this period.. ...By Anne G.

Anderson What vivid memories I have of this period.....as a NOVA CIA wife. The book captures the sentiments and issues of those years and stirs old emotions. For those reading of this era for the first time, this truly is "the rest of the story". 1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. the rest of the book is so laden with academic jargon and odd analyses that I felt like one of the 49ers during the Gold Rush trBy Tom Devereaux The book contains a lot of historical detail about the development of the intelligence community in Northern Virginia and its growth over the years, including the growth of communities from countries affected by US overseas wars, all of which were fascinating. Unfortunately, the rest of the book is so laden with academic jargon and odd analyses that I felt like one of the 49ers during the Gold Rush trying to pick out the pieces of gold from a river of mud. This could have been a great book but sadly fell short for me. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. One of the best social geographies--in league with Mike Davis's City of Quartz By L. Kim Covert Capital is a really engrossing read. Like City of Quartz, it mines the deep history of a region (encompassing the colonial and Confederate context of northern Virginia), while, in the tradition of Fast Food Nation, it investigates how a specific industry--security, in this case--shaped a landscape. All of this in rapid-fire, breathless prose, and filled with a wealth of details (did you know the Pentagon has 600 drinking fountains?). People interested in the history of American wars, especially as they impact the homefront, will find new revelations and models for thinking about American engagement in the Vietnam War and Iran crisis. Feminists, in particular, will find Friedman's analysis of the wives of diplomats and bureaucrats, and how they parlayed influence through personal networks and leisure activities, such as dinner parties, fascinating. Friedman's account of Eleanor Dulles's power brokering read like histories of Renaissance autocrats Catherine de Medici or Lucretia Borgia! Design buffs will appreciate Friedman's analysis of the architecture of institutions (CIA headquarters at Langley and Dulles Airport) and domestic structures (the suburban fortresses of Dulles and his relocated Vietnamese and Iranian strongmen), as well as the descriptions of the layout of entire cities (Washington, D.C., Edge City) and the infrastructure, such as highways and airports, built to service these cities. Familiar names such as Philip Johnson and Eero Saarinaan appear in very unfamiliar contexts--the construction of our nation's paranoid security complex. I found Friedman's sharp, unmitigated prose the most exciting aspect of the book. Gone are the tired euphemisms--he uses "torturer" instead of "interrogation expert" and "colonial independence" for what Americans call Vietnamese "recalcitrance", making a small but significant reparation for the first casualty of war, language.

The capital of the U.S. Empire after World War II was not a city. It was an American suburb. In this innovative and timely history, Andrew Friedman chronicles how the CIA and other national security institutions created a U.S. imperial home front in the suburbs of Northern Virginia. In this covert capital, the suburban landscape provided a cover for the workings of U.S. imperial power, which shaped domestic suburban life. The Pentagon and the CIA built two of the largest office buildings in the country there during and after the war that anchored a new imperial culture and social world. As the U.S. expanded its power abroad by developing roads, embassies, and villages, its subjects also arrived in the covert capital as real estate agents, homeowners, builders, and landscapers who constructed spaces and living monuments that both nurtured and critiqued postwar U.S. foreign policy. Tracing the relationships among American agents and the migrants from Vietnam, El Salvador, Iran, and elsewhere who settled in the southwestern suburbs of D.C., Friedman tells the story of a place that recasts ideas about U.S. immigration, citizenship, nationalism, global interconnection, and ethical responsibility from the post-WW2 period to the present. Opening a new window onto the intertwined history of the American suburbs and U.S. foreign policy, Covert Capital will also give readers a broad interdisciplinary and often surprising understanding of how U.S. domestic and global histories intersect in many contexts and at many scales. American Crossroads, 37

"The book's detailed case studies are compelling reading as the author deconstructs the secret world of the American intelligence community, public and private. Recommended."