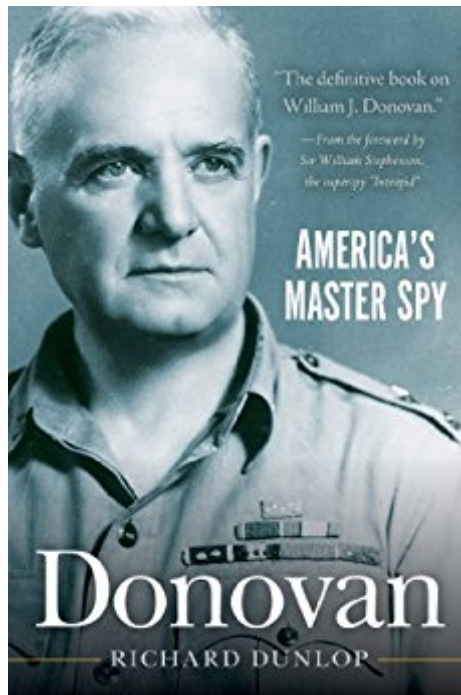




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Donovan: America's Master Spy



Synopsis

One of the most celebrated and highly decorated heroes of World War I, a noted trial lawyer, presidential adviser and emissary, and chief of America's Office of Strategic Services during World War II, William J. Donovan was a legendary figure. Donovan, originally published in 1982, penetrates the cloak of secrecy surrounding this remarkable man. During the dark days of World War II, 'Wild Bill' Donovan, more than any other person, was responsible for what William Stevenson, author of *A Man Called Intrepid*, described as 'the astonishing success with which the United States entered secret warfare and accomplished in less than four years what it took England many centuries to develop.' Drawing upon Donovan's diaries, letters, and other papers; interviews with hundreds of the men and women who worked with him and spied for him; and declassified and unpublished documents, author Richard Dunlop, himself a former member of Donovan's OSS, traces the incredible career of the man who almost single-handedly created America's central intelligence service. The result is the definitive biography that Donovan himself had always expected Dunlop would write. Skyhorse Publishing, along with our Arcade, Good Books, Sports Publishing, and Yucca imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Our list includes biographies on well-known historical figures like Benjamin Franklin, Nelson Mandela, and Alexander Graham Bell, as well as villains from history, such as Heinrich Himmler, John Wayne Gacy, and O. J. Simpson. We have also published survivor stories of World War II, memoirs about overcoming adversity, first-hand tales of adventure, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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Customer Reviews

I like to go to bed at 8 and read for a couple of hours before going to sleep. I got this and it was so good that I found myself staying up later because the well-written book just was so engrossing. I knew who Donovan was, but I didn't know the specifics of his life and contribution to the development of the civilian side of intelligence gathering. This book is informative and well written, and is great for those of us who are not professional historians. I especially liked the chapters on Donovan's early life, especially his contributions and activities in World War I. I had no idea how highly decorated he was - including the Congressional Medal of Honor. All in all, this was a great book! Highly recommended!

This is an excellent book for several reasons. First, it is readable, which means the language is both clear and sequential in the time frame that is covered. Second, the current understandings and perceptions of INTELLIGENCE as a function of government need to be considered in terms of the history of both the OSS and the CIA which this book provides. Third, the relationship between a function of government (Intelligence) and politics is another crucial component for understanding where the United States has been in the past, is today, and will be influenced tomorrow. Finally, the author provides enough commentary on the character and behavior of William J. Donovan as a human being, both his strengths and weaknesses, to help the reader have a realistic view of this part of his life.

Donovan was a great man, brave soldier, and a brilliant spy. Unfortunately, to get to the heart of his story in this book, you must plow through innumerable pages describing America's wartime bureaucracy. Instead of secret information, spy missions, and plots against enemies, this books

goes on and on, at unbearable length, to detail the organization of the intelligence community, its members, committees, and their infighting. So-and-so was against making so-and-so his subordinate; committees met to discuss who was going to be in charge; the president decided to appoint this guy to supervise that guy. It often reads like an insurance company's board minutes.

The story of General Donovan should be taught to all Americans as an example to what a true patriot is. Hero is to weak a word to describe his achievements to his country and the free world. He saw things as they where and did what others either lacked in courage or character.

I am now almost 80% done. It is a great book about someone I had never heard of before. It is much better written than the kindle book onthe man called "Intrepid", which prompted me to get this book. I gives a history of the OSS (formerly COI and subsequently the CIA) in WWII. Most of the book as titled is about the life of Donovan. It spends a good deal of the time about the politics in the WA bureaucracy and alsothe interplay with the British. It really is an amazing story. If you're like me & had not heard of Donovan, then this is the book for you. I does give a flavor of some of the operations, but if this is what you are looking for then there are probably better books.

The story of wild bill Donavan reads like a suspenseful novel. I knew little of this man -the father of our intelligence services- until I read this book. The author has done a remarkable job in bringing an important part of history to life. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who loves historical novels tho this is a true and riveting story. I gave it five stars because it it written in a clear and concise manner. Found that I had trouble putting it down and read far into the night on many occasions.

Informative, but one sided review of the amazing life of William Donovan. A detailed look at the travels of "Wild Bill" during the OSS days, but not the even handed, objective, 30,000 foot level review that the biography reader always hopes for. The writer clearly "worships" Donovan, and he is no doubt an extraordinary man of amazing talents, but sometimes the obvious questions about his actions that might expose an error in judgement are simply not asked or answered.

General Donovan lived in an earlier period of history but still, or already, had to fight the political battles of the Washington swamp. He just possessed all of the postive adjectives that you can think for a man to succeed in countless ways that probably are not possible now or ever again. I can't say

enough about this man that I never knew or met. Great book! The research to assemble Donovan's life in such detail is unimaginable.

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