

## Witness Whittaker Chambers

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1 new york times bestseller for 13 consecutive weeks as long as humanity speaks of virtue and dreams of freedom the life and writings of whittaker chambers will ennable and inspire president ronald reagan one of the dozen or so indispensable books of the century george f will witness changed my worldview my philosophical perceptions and without exaggeration my life robert d novak from his foreward chambers has written one of the really significant american autobiographies when some future plutarch writes his american live he will find in chambers penetrating and terrible insights into america in the early twentieth century arthur schlesinger jr chambers had a gift for language to call chambers an activist or witness a political event is to say dostoevsky was a criminologist or crime and punishment a morality tract washington post chambers was not just the witness against alger hiss but was also one of the articulators of the modern conservative philosophy a philosophy that has something to do with restoring the spiritual values of politics sam tanenhaus author of whittaker chambers one of the few indispensable autobiographies ever written by an american and one of the best written too hilton kramer the new criterion first

published in 1952 witness is the true story of soviet spies in america and the trial that captivated a nation part literary effort part philosophical treatise this intriguing autobiography recounts the famous alger hiss case and reveals much more chambers worldview and his belief that man without mysticism is a monster went on to help make political conservatism a national force regnery history s cold war classics edition is the most comprehensive version of witness ever published featuring forewords collected from all previous editions including discussions from luminaries william f buckley jr robert d novak milton hindus and alfred s regnery

whittaker chambers is one of the most controversial figures in modern american history a former communist spy who left the party testified against alger hiss before the house un american activities committee and wrote a classic autobiography witness dismissed by some as a crank reviled by others as a traitor chambers still looms as a dostoevskian figure over three decades after his death in 1961 a man of profound pessimism rare vision and remarkable literary talents his continuing importance was attested to when ronald reagan posthumously awarded him the medal of freedom in 1984 ghosts on the roof originally published in 1989 brings together more than fifty short stories essays articles and reviews that originally appeared in time life national review commonweal the american mercury and the new masses included are essays on karl marx reinhold niebuhr james joyce franz kafka george santayana dame rebecca west ayn rand and greta garbo these show chambers at his best as a peerless historian of ideas

why have so many figures throughout american history proclaimed their life stories when confronted by great political problems the claims of experience provides a new theory for what makes autobiography political throughout the history of the united states and today across five chapters nolan bennett examines the democratic challenges that encouraged a diverse cast of figures to bear their stories benjamin franklin amid the revolutionary era frederick douglass in the antebellum and abolitionist movements henry adams in the gilded age and its anxieties of industrial change emma goldman among the first red scare and state opposition to radical speech and whittaker chambers amid the second red scare that initiated the anticommunist turn of modern conservatism these historical figures made what bennett calls a claim of experience by proclaiming their life stories these authors took back authority over their experiences from prevailing political powers and called to new community among their audiences their claims sought to restore to readers the power to remake and make meaning of their own lives whereas political theorists and activists have often seen autobiography to be too individualist or a mere documentary source of evidence this theory reveals the democratic power that life narratives have offered those on the margins and in the mainstream if they are successful claims of experience summon new popular authority to surpass what their authors see as the injustices of prevailing american institutions and identity bennett shows through historical study and theorization how this renewed appreciation for the politics of life writing elevates these authors distinct democratic visions while drawing common themes across them this book offers both a method for understanding the politics of life narrative and a call to anticipate claims of experience as they appear today

armed with a wealth of new information craig examines the controversial 1948 allegations that communist spies had penetrated the american government and explores the ambiguities that have haunted it for more than half a century

whittaker chambers is the first biography of this complex and enigmatic figure drawing on dozens of interviews and on materials from forty archives in the united states and abroad including still classified kgb dossiers tanenhaus traces the remarkable journey that led chambers from a sleepy long island village to center stage in america s greatest political trial and then in his last years to a unique role as the godfather of post war conservatism this biography is rich in startling new information about chambers s days as new york s hottest literary bolshevik his years as a communist agent and then defector hunted by the kgb his conversion to quakerism his secret sexual turmoil his turbulent decade at time magazine where he rose from the obscurity of the book review page to transform the magazine into an oracle of apocalyptic anti communism but all this was a prelude to the memorable events that began in august 1948 when chambers testified against alger hiss in the spy case that changed america whittaker chambers goes far beyond all previous accounts of the hiss case re creating its improbably twists and turns and disentangling the motives that propelled a vivid cast of characters in unpredictable directions a rare conjunction of exacting scholarship and narrative art whittaker chambers is a vivid tapestry of 20th century history

ralph de toledano the newsweek reporter covering the hiss trial technically for perjury quickly became close friends with chambers the two men began exchanging letters in 1949 and continued for the rest of chambers s life

the most detailed study of soviet military industrial espionage during the 1930s 1940s and 1950s spying aimed specifically at acquiring restricted information and materials relating to american industry technology and science

a retelling of the hiss chambers episode taken as far as possible from transcriptions of the hiss trial records

the author makes an argument for clemency in judging hollywood s interpretations of history and thoroughly investigates its serious limitations and opportunities to construe history

the first biography of pat nixon in 25 years moves beyond the over simplified appraisals of this oft misunderstood first lady offers a far more complex interpretation than the standard plastic pat caricature and depicts a complicated conflicted but ultimately effective first lady who balanced public responsibilities and private pain

in this enlightening volume brownell the man dwight d eisenhower said would make an outstanding president recounts his achievements and trials as the gop s most successful presidential operative of the 1940s and 50s and as attorney general at a crucial time in american history political science professor an coauthor burke is the author of the institutional presidency 26 photographs

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