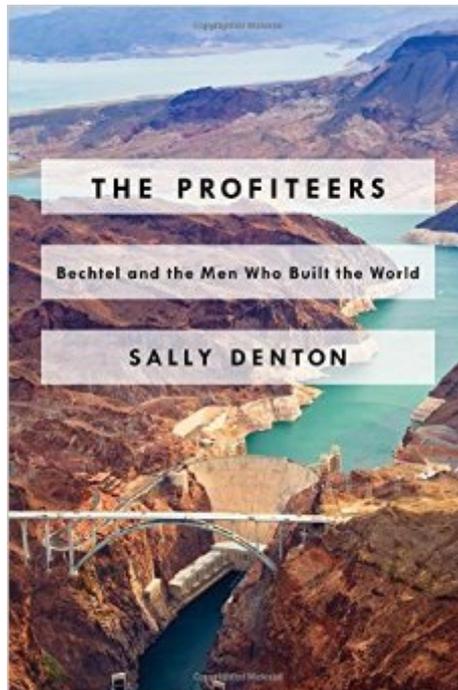


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The Profiteers: Bechtel And The Men Who Built The World



Synopsis

From the bestselling coauthor of *The Money and the Power* (which the Los Angeles Times called "one of the most important nonfiction books published in a half century") the inside story of the Bechtel family and the empire they've controlled since the construction of the Hoover Dam. The tale of the Bechtel family dynasty is a classic American business story. It begins with Warren A. "Dad" Bechtel, who led a consortium that constructed the Hoover Dam. From that auspicious start, the family and its eponymous company would go on to "build the world," from the construction of airports in Hong Kong and Doha, to pipelines and tunnels in Alaska and Europe, to mining and energy operations around the globe. Today Bechtel is one of the largest privately held corporations in the world, enriched and empowered by a long history of government contracts and the privatization of public works, made possible by an unprecedented revolving door between its San Francisco headquarters and Washington. Bechtel executives John McCone, Caspar Weinberger, and George P. Shultz segued from leadership at the company to positions as Director of the CIA, Secretary of Defense, and Secretary of State, respectively. Like all stories of empire building, the rise of Bechtel presents a complex and riveting narrative. In *The Profiteers*, Sally Denton, whom The New York Times called "a wonderful writer," exposes Bechtel's secret world and one of the biggest business and political stories of our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love investigative reporting especially when authors take an unusually in depth look at things

we might otherwise consider mundane. Jon Krakauer is one of my favorites. Also, I work for Bechtel (full disclosure here: I only work on a contract; so I can't accurately speak to or profess to know to what goes on in the inner circles – they are a private organization, and I am not in the know – so, take my opinions with a grain of salt). So, when I saw this book, I was pretty excited to read it. Right off the bat, I could tell I was not a fan of Sally Denton's reporting style. This book is very dry, very meandering, hard to follow, and about as boring as a group of clustered conspiracy theories can get. I pushed through hoping it would get better, but it didn't. About a third of the book is a convoluted list of references (presumably in an attempt to lend credence to the conspiracy theory); however, for the most part, the book is not cross-referenced, thus giving the author freedom to say anything under the guise of "it is referenced" but not really because the reader can't pull the string on most of her outlandish claims. At the beginning of *Braveheart* there is an introduction when the narrator says, "Historians from England will say I am a liar, but history is written by those that hang heroes." This common literary device is seen in works of historical fiction that allow the author to move away from documented facts and instead make an entertaining story out of rumors and folklore. But, it is the last thing you would want to see in an investigative reporting piece. However, Sally deploys it liberally telling many tall tales that seem outlandish and then ending them with, "the people involved will deny this ever happened."

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