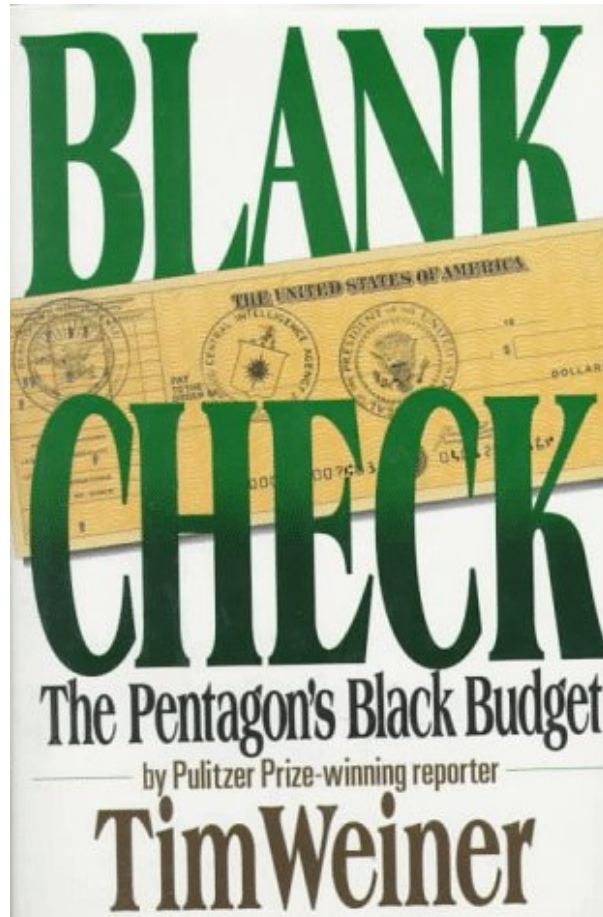
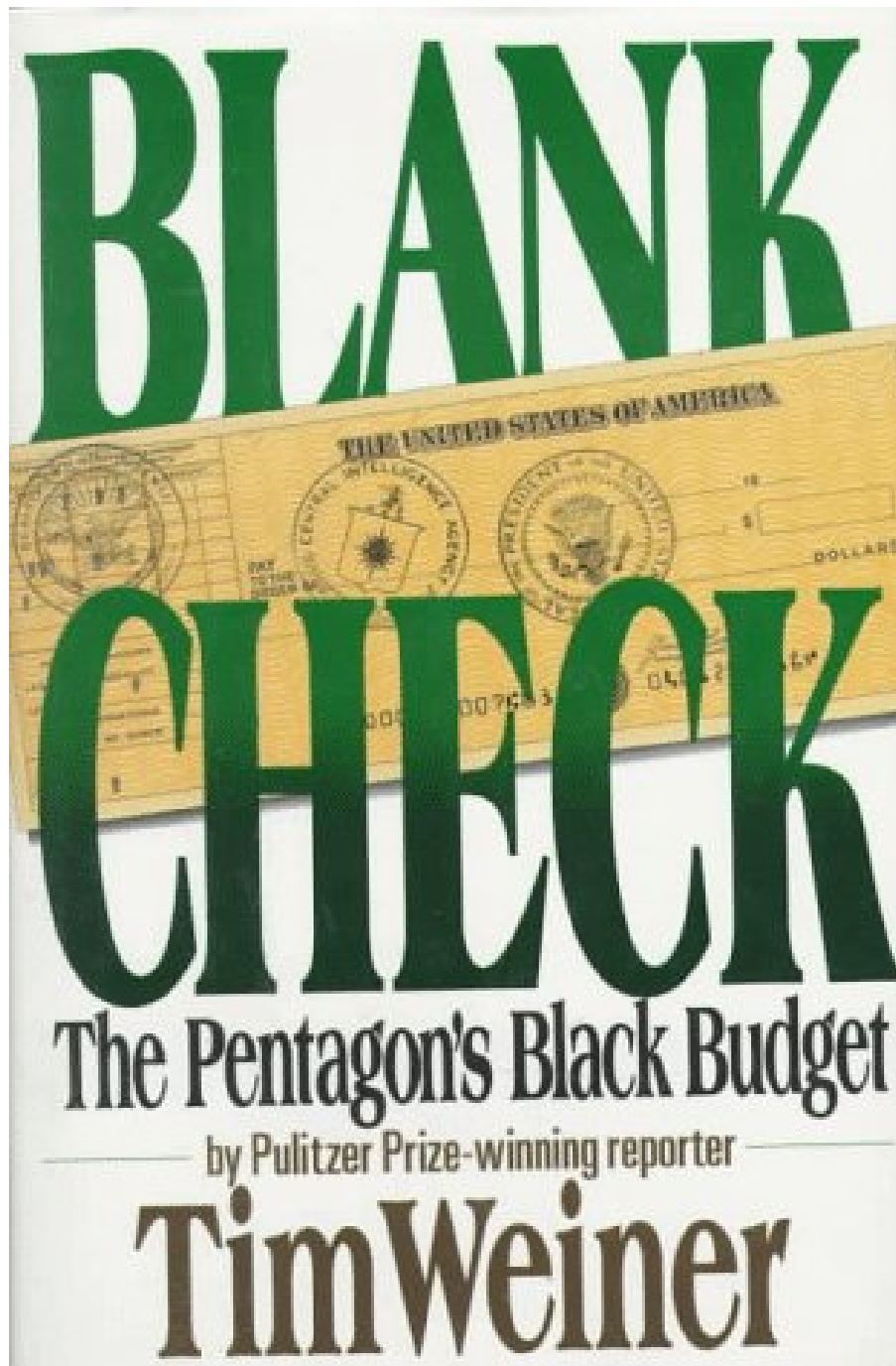


BLANK CHECK: THE PENTAGON'S BLACK BUDGET BY TIM WEINER



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From Publishers Weekly

This expanded follow-up to Weiner's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1988 Philadelphia Inquirer series exposing the Pentagon's secret treasury offers a comprehensive look at the origin and growth of this budget and the weapons and wars it has financed. Among the programs examined are the Stealth bomber (an "impossibly expensive mistake") and a satellite system called MILSTAR which is central to the plan to "win" a nuclear war that will already have been lost in the event of its activation. Weiner brings to light black-budgeted activities of a cadre of colonels, retired generals and CIA agents, a virtual hidden army within the U.S. Army that "came close to hijacking a fair amount of power" during the Reagan years. This hard-hitting expose of power out of control, immune from accountability, is well documented. It reveals how the executive office, the Pentagon and the CIA have squandered billions of dollars on useless weapons and renegade foreign policies. First serial to Rolling Stone; BOMC alternate.

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From Library Journal

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- Jennifer Scarlott, World Policy Inst., New York

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About the Author

Tim Weiner is the author of five books. "Legacy of Ashes", his history of the CIA, won the National Book Award. His journalism on secret government programs received the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting. As

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Based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of articles, this is a thorough, astonishing expose of the "Black Budget"--a 36-billion-dollar cache used by the Pentagon to fund its own agenda of top-secret weapons and wars.

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Shameful facts of secret spending of the Pentagon.

By Bernard Show

This excellent book should be read by every USA taxpayer, civilian and military. Mr. Weiner, with an excellent bibliography, tells it like it is. Without barriers, he gives historical, verifiable--if you desire--facts on the irresponsible mechanisms used by USA presidents to advance an empire through the throats of many countries--beginning with the USA itself, and justify murders, lies, frauds, thefts, violations of the USA Constitution, through the military and paramilitary civil agencies such as the CIA, based on the very doubtful and euphemistic principle that almost anything is a threat to USA national security. Excellent book. Written almost 20 years ago it is as updated as if it had been written yesterday.

15 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

Money talks! And does it have a story to tell!

By A Customer

Blank Check is a meticulously researched and chilling account of how the Cold War led the nation into a frenzy of spending based on fear and propaganda. The book spans 40 years of government development and National crises from the viewpoint of a checkbook. However, the fact that the book was published before the fall of the Soviet Union means that, to a modern reader, the stories told are a frightening look at times gone by rather than a relevant commentary on modern life. Also, with no central character to latch onto the book, while conscience stirring, is not necessarily compelling. That said, revelations in this book about the government's outright violation of the constitution in the name of National Security still have the ability to leave a reader appalled.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Relevant to Modern DoD Ethics Issues Including Private Contractors

By Ellis R. Miller

Fantastic book and interesting how useful reading an "older" investigation of the defense department black budget and associated misappropriations/abuses can be in easily tying the very same ethical/strategic defense issues to the more recent "Spies for Hire" by Tim Shorrock (also a fantastic read).

The similarities regarding decades long ethical issues with regard to the lack of oversight within black budget is almost overwhelming while simultaneously intriguing and disheartening: no concrete evidence, whatsoever, that Congressional or other government oversight of black budget operations or DoD contracting, in general, has improved. In fact, following 9/11 the situation, if anything, financial and ethical accountability has actually degraded.

This timeless, still-compelling book provides that much-needed historical perspective yet also begs the question: over the next 10 or 20 years is there any reason to believe money will be spent, appropriately, to truly and measurable advance US National Security with concrete accountability for those instances where projects and leaders fail to act responsibly...at great expense to the American taxpayers actually undermining US defense and war fighter readiness?

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