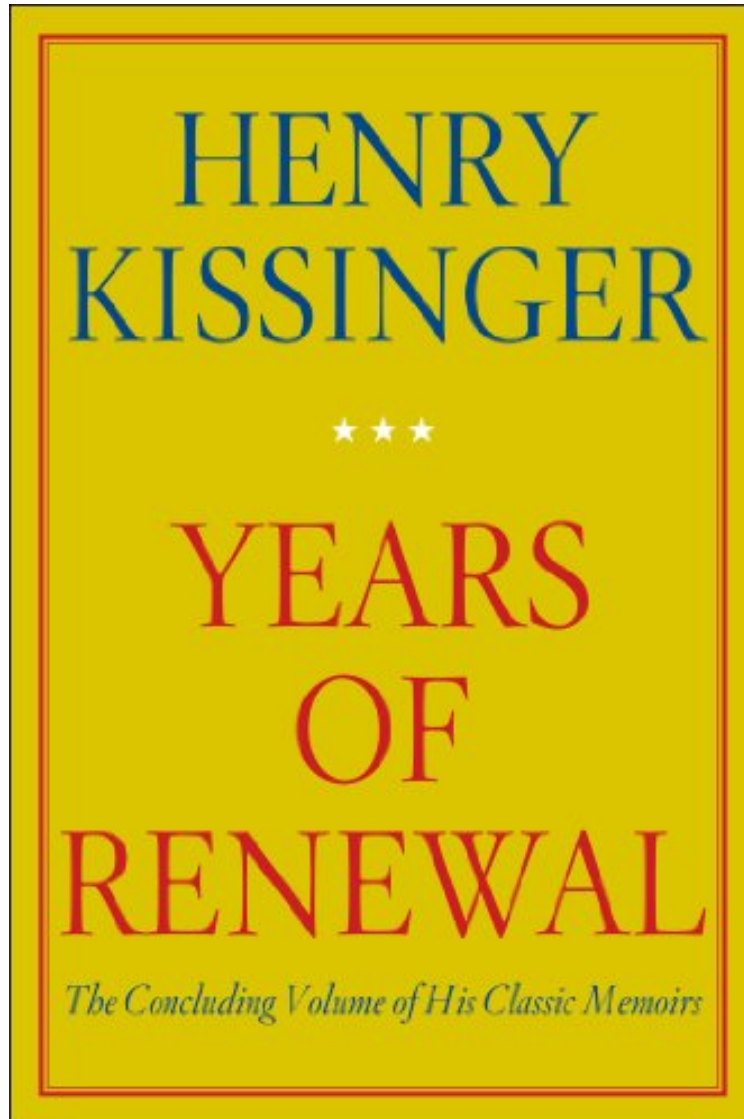


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## Years of Renewal (English Edition)

Von Henry Kissinger

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**Von Henry Kissinger : Years of Renewal (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Years of Renewal (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What's missing from Henry Kissinger's bookVon Ein KundeYEARS OF RENEWAL by Henry KissingerThe book covers Kissinger's years as Ford's Secretary of State, but contains no mention of East Timor. Indonesia invaded East Timor less than a day after President Ford and Kissinger left Indonesia after a state visit.This blatant act of aggression, which has been regularly condemned by the United Nations (UN) Security Council, the UN General Assembly, and the

International Court of Justice, resulted in the deaths of over 200,000 people, more than one third of the population. Proportionately, this ranks as one of the worst cases of genocide since World War II. As Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger, along with President Ford, was in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, literally hours before the invasion. It is now known that as early as August of 1975, Dr. Kissinger informed the rulers of Indonesia that the United States government would not object to an invasion of East Timor. In fact, the Indonesian government delayed the assault, at the request of the US government, until Ford and Kissinger had left the country. Over the next twelve months, as many as 100,000 East Timorese were killed by the Indonesian Army, according to human rights groups like Amnesty International. testimony given before Congress revealed that 90% of the weapons used by Indonesia had been supplied by the United States. This was in direct violation of a treaty that stipulated their use for defensive purposes only. So much for Dr. Kissinger's humanity. So much for his commitment to history.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hard to Know What to Believe Von olson@lafn.org It is hard to know what to believe in Henry Kissinger's book "Years of Renewal" regarding either the Vietnam War or the detente policy with the Soviets. A major problem is that the book contains only unclassified material, and Mr. Kissinger has not sought to de-classify hundreds of secret decision memoranda and rules of engagement that he generated. Without these factual records, there is no way to evaluate much of what he has written. For instance on the Vietnam War, why was the U.S. government, which had beaten two major powers in Europe and Asia in World War II in four years, unable to defeat the third rate power of North Vietnam in eleven years? Why did he keep the stalemate going so long? And how did North Vietnam come up with \$20 billion per year in cash to buy the food, equipment, and ammunition to prosecute the war? No clear answers have ever been forthcoming. Two concessionary detente projects by Mr. Kissinger continue to occupy the current State Department. In 1972 he compromised the Soviet Lend-Lease debt from World War II from its original \$11.3 billion in 1945 (\$90 billion in today's dollars) down to \$722 million, and it would become payable in installments at 3% interest only when the Soviets received most-favored-nation trade status. Twenty years later in 1992 President George Bush granted MFN to the Russians. However, the State Department refuses to collect any principal or interest on this debt, and conducts an annual renegotiation with the Russians to put off collecting for the American taxpayer. As a parting shot as Secretary of State in January 1977, Mr. Kissinger conducted a pre-emptory giveaway to the Soviets of eight Alaskan islands in the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea including the 200 nautical mile ocean zone around them with billion of dollars of fishing, petroleum, and other resources. He created a maritime boundary line that put all these on the Soviet side. No negotiations, no quid pro quo, no notification to Congress, no participation by State of Alaska, no public debate, no news release. A maritime boundary line should have been a matter of enormous historic and economic discussion. The Soviet official who received the diplomatic note was grateful, but nonplused, as reported by a telegram from the U. S. Embassy in Moscow: "He did ask, as a personal aside, whether it was not customary to negotiate or at least discuss such matters before giving notice about enforcement provisions." This detente giveaway remains today as an executive agreement with the Russians and is subject to revision at the will of the State Department. The State Legislature of Alaska has wanted to scrap the whole thing for years. Its most recent expression is HJR27 which passed the House nearly unanimously and is pending in the Senate. For the State Department's current stance, Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering is working toward conceding even more sea territory to the Russians in face of their demand for 300 million pounds per year of fishing rights to be taken from American fishermen. His most recent negotiations took place in Seattle in January, but the public, Congress, State of Alaska, and the news media were not invited. Mr. Kissinger's book has a puzzling silence or vagueness about these detente concessions. The American public deserves more openness. Sincerely, Carl Olson Chairman State Department Watch

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent! Von Ein Kunde Dr. Kissinger is without question the most regarded and respected Secretary of State in this century - if not in U.S. history. Any work by him I consider to be essential reading, and as such, this was a must-read for me. I have read the three installments of his memoirs, culminating in this one. I will concede to those who don't read a lot of history/current affairs books, this one seems a bit daunting. However, out of the three, this one is certainly quite "readable". It is the best-written of the three; Dr. Kissinger seems to exhibit a great deal more clarity and reflection in this work. Critics of Dr. Kissinger have complained that he is only writing because of some need to make excuses for his foreign policy "blunders" - namely, in regards to Vietnam and the USSR. I would argue emphatically that this book is not such a work. Dr. Kissinger presided over some of the most troubling and chaotic events of the century. While there occasionally is a hint of defense on his part for his actions, it is certainly not a "puff piece" designed to give him a favorable legacy. One must remember that Dr. Kissinger was by and large commended for his actions in the foreign policy arena. History already looks upon him favorably. He is not a monumental screw-up like Robert MacNamara, who is futilely trying to rewrite his legacy with book after book. These are Dr. Kissinger's memoirs, the purpose of which is to shed light and reflect on the events he witnessed and dealt with. Thus, he does not need to make apologies or absolve himself. He is merely writing a historical record of his service, a career that needs no bolstering or "revisionism". I recommend it strongly, not only to those readers of history and foreign policy, but to those of you tired of the incompetents now directing foreign policy for this country. Dr. Kissinger's work must be studied and

factored into current world events, because he was the grandmaster of that domain.

Kurzbeschreibung Perhaps the best-known American diplomatist of the twentieth century, Henry Kissinger is a major figure in world history, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and arguably one of the most brilliant minds ever placed at the service of American foreign policy, as well as one of the shrewdest, best-informed, and most articulate men ever to occupy a position of power in Washington. The eagerly awaited third and final volume of his memoirs completes a major work of contemporary history. It is at once an important historical document and a brilliantly told narrative of almost Shakespearean intensity, full of startling insights, unusual (and often unsparing) candor, and a sweeping sense of history. *Years of Renewal* is the triumphant conclusion of a major achievement and a book that will stand the test of time as a historical document of the first rank. There is an old joke that Henry Kissinger is so full of himself he once wrote a book called *Famous People Who Have Met Me*. That strong sense of self is on full display in this third volume of memoirs (the other two are *White House Years* and *Years of Upheaval*). Kissinger, a national security advisor and secretary of state in the Nixon and Ford administrations, is a foreign policy maestro fond of describing the difficult subtleties of his job. He is also, at times, generous with his praise--especially with this whopper: "I am certain the time will come when it is recognised that the Cold War could not have been won had not Gerald Ford, at a tragic point of America's history, been there to keep us from losing it." *Years of Renewal* begins during Nixon's final days and provides a few key insights into the man Kissinger calls "perhaps [the] most complex President of the 20th century." One eye opener is the revelation that Nixon ordered the bombing of the Damascus airport in 1969 during a hijacking incident "to impress his pals." (It was called off the next morning.) The bulk of the book (and bulk is the right word--there are nearly 1,100 pages of text before the footnotes) focuses on Ford, who comes across as much more statesmanlike than the popular image of him as a bungling caretaker. The portraits of contemporary world leaders are also valuable. Kissinger combines detail and clarity to deliver an important chronicle of American diplomacy during the 1970s. --John Miller *Pressestimmen* John Lewis Gaddis *The New York Times* Book A remarkable achievement. Josef Joffe *The Wall Street Journal* A style that simply outclasses the normal fare served up by former people of power....An engrossing book, truly hard to put down. Richard Bernstein *The New York Times* Mr. Kissinger's history of his own time in office is a work whose breadth, clarity of vision and historical scope amply justify its size. It is an event, a likely classic of its genre. Craig Eisendrath *The Philadelphia Inquirer* Kissinger's engagingly written chronicle of these years is rich in detail and insight, a "must read" for foreign policy mavens. Brian VanDeMark *The Boston Sunday Globe* Well-crafted...ambitious, all-embracing....It is a complex and human self-portrait drawn by a proud, intelligent, and reflective man.