



American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer

By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin

Download now

Read Online ➔

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin

J. Robert Oppenheimer is one of the iconic figures of the twentieth century, a brilliant physicist who led the effort to build the atomic bomb for his country in a time of war, and who later found himself confronting the moral consequences of scientific progress. In this magisterial, acclaimed biography twenty-five years in the making, Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin capture Oppenheimer's life and times, from his early career to his central role in the Cold War. This is biography and history at its finest, riveting and deeply informative.

↓ [Download American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of ...pdf](#)

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer

By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin

J. Robert Oppenheimer is one of the iconic figures of the twentieth century, a brilliant physicist who led the effort to build the atomic bomb for his country in a time of war, and who later found himself confronting the moral consequences of scientific progress. In this magisterial, acclaimed biography twenty-five years in the making, Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin capture Oppenheimer's life and times, from his early career to his central role in the Cold War. This is biography and history at its finest, riveting and deeply informative.

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #24846 in Books
- Brand: Bird, Kai/ Sherwin, Martin J.
- Published on: 2006-05
- Released on: 2006-04-11
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.60" w x 5.10" l, 1.78 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 721 pages

 [Download American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer* By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In *American Prometheus*, Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin delve deep into J. Robert Oppenheimer's life and deliver a thorough and devastatingly sad biography of the man whose very name has come to represent the culmination of 20th century physics and the irrevocable soiling of science by governments eager to exploit its products. Rich in historical detail and personal narratives, the book paints a picture of Oppenheimer as both a controlling force and victim of the mechanisms of power.

By the time the story reaches Oppenheimer's fateful Manhattan Project work, readers have been swept along much as the project's young physicists were by fate and enormous pressure. The authors allow the scientists to speak for themselves about their reactions to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, avoiding any sort of preacherly tone while revealing the utter, horrible ambiguity of the situation. For instance, Oppenheimer wrote in a letter to a friend, "The thing had to be done," then, "Circumstances are heavy with misgiving."

Many biographies of Oppenheimer end here, with the seeds of his later pacifism sown and the dangers of mixing science with politics clearly outlined. But Bird and Sherwin devote the second half of this hefty book to what happened to Oppenheimer *after* the bomb. For a short time, he was lionized as the ultimate patriot by a victorious nation, but things soured as the Cold War crept forward and anti-communist witchhunts focused paranoia and anti-Semitism onto Oppenheimer, destroying his career and disillusioning him about his life's work. Devastated by the atom bomb's legacy of fear, he became a vocal and passionate opponent of the Strangelovian madness that gripped the world because of the weapons he helped develop.

Twenty-five years of research went into creating *American Prometheus*, and there has never been a more honest and complete biography of this tragic scientific giant. The many great ironies of Oppenheimer's life are revealed through the careful reconstruction of a wealth of records, conversations, and ideas, leaving the clearest picture yet of his life. --*Therese Littleton*

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Though many recognize Oppenheimer (1904–1967) as the father of the atomic bomb, few are as familiar with his career before and after Los Alamos. Sherwin (*A World Destroyed*) has spent 25 years researching every facet of Oppenheimer's life, from his childhood on Manhattan's Upper West Side and his prewar years as a Berkeley physicist to his public humiliation when he was branded a security risk at the height of anticommunist hysteria in 1954. Teaming up with Bird, an acclaimed Cold War historian (*The Color of Truth*), Sherwin examines the evidence surrounding Oppenheimer's "hazy and vague" connections to the Communist Party in the 1930s—loose interactions consistent with the activities of contemporary progressives. But those politics, in combination with Oppenheimer's abrasive personality, were enough for conservatives, from fellow scientist Edward Teller to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, to work at destroying Oppenheimer's postwar reputation and prevent him from swaying public opinion against the development of a hydrogen bomb. Bird and Sherwin identify Atomic Energy Commission head Lewis Strauss as the ringleader of a "conspiracy" that culminated in a security clearance hearing designed as a "show trial." Strauss's tactics included illegal wiretaps of Oppenheimer's attorney; those transcripts and other government documents are invaluable in debunking the charges against Oppenheimer. The political drama is enhanced by the close attention to Oppenheimer's personal life, and Bird and Sherwin do not conceal their occasional frustration with his arrogant stonewalling and panicky blunders, even as they shed light on the psychological roots for those failures, restoring human complexity to a man who had been both elevated and demonized. 32

pages of photos not seen by *PW*. (Apr. 10)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [The New Yorker](#)

J. Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist who oversaw the creation of the atomic bomb, was lauded as a patriot after the United States dropped the bomb on Japan, but nine years later he was disgraced, accused of Communist sympathies and "substantial defects of character." This commanding biography, the result of twenty-five years of research, reevaluates that character, and delivers the most complex portrait of Oppenheimer to date: a brilliant but insecure child prodigy who became a charismatic leader; a polymath who learned Sanskrit just so he could read the Bhagavad Gita; an aesthete who mixed infamously strong Martinis; a one-time fellow-traveller who was almost willfully naïve about politics. Drawing on thousands of pages of F.B.I. surveillance records, the authors contend that the scientist was never a member of the Communist Party.

Copyright © 2005 *The New Yorker*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jamie Treat:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They are really reading whatever they get because their hobby is usually reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer.

Travis Hargrove:

The book American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading through a book American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer to be your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like start and read a publication American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this guide?

Catherine Stoltenberg:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer, you can enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still

would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Dwight Hancock:

With this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you should do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of several books in the top list in your reading list is American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking right up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

Download and Read Online American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin #HZKX8E9SBFY

Read American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin for online ebook

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin books to read online.

Online American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin ebook PDF download

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin Doc

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin Mobipocket

American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin EPub

HZKX8E9SBFY: American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer By Kai Bird, Martin J. Sherwin