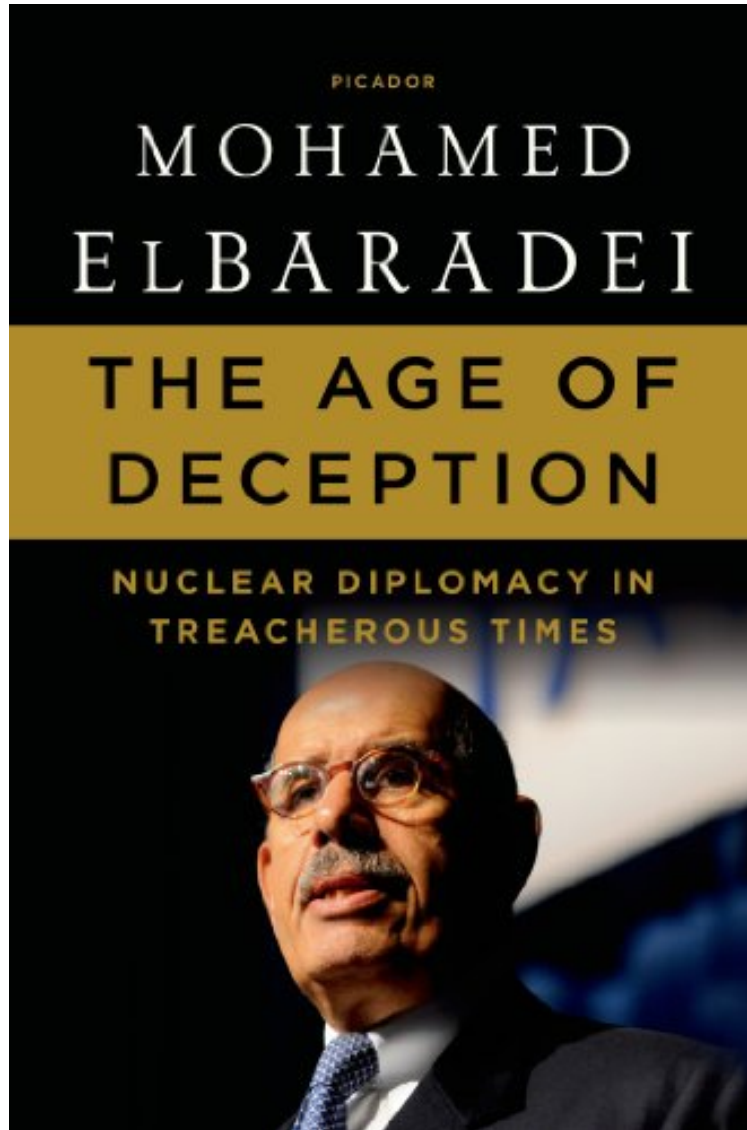


[Free] The Age of Deception: Nuclear Diplomacy in Treacherous Times

The Age of Deception: Nuclear Diplomacy in Treacherous Times

Von Mohamed ElBaradei

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Von Mohamed ElBaradei : The Age of Deception: Nuclear Diplomacy in Treacherous Times before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of Deception: Nuclear Diplomacy in Treacherous Times:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Compelling like a James Bond thrillerVon Daniel SchferAn interesting read, Mr Baradei illuminates much of the background workings of the International Atomic Energy Commission and its continuous striving for peaceful solutions to deadlocked international disputes. Compelling like a James Bond thriller, it describes the IAEAs efforts in

Iran, Iraq and North Korea and puts it into perspective to the geopolitical ambitions of the US, Russia, the EU, China and Japan. A story that long needed to be told. A bonus point is the extensive source material cited in the book.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Steadfast ElBaradei Von Hans-Peter Muller According to former UN nuclear watchdog Mohamed ElBaradeis account *The Age of Deception Nuclear Diplomacy in Treacherous Times*, there have been just a few good men who were struggling, after having had painfully experienced large-scale fabrication of evidence about Iraqs alleged WMD program in the 1990s and early 2000s, not only for nuclear non-proliferation but for preventing an imminent strike on Iran, the third war in the Middle East launched by the U.S. and its allies in not even a decade. The 2005 Nobel Peace laureate (together with his organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency) grants revealing looks behind the scenes of international diplomacy. The key players, the U.S., EU-3, Russia, China, Iraq, North Korea, Libya, the A.Q. Khan network, Israel, Syria and, of course, Iran had kept him busy during his three terms as Director General of the IAEA. Before and after having been awarded the Nobel Prize, ElBaradei had been a highly controversial figure to either side; certain rogue states, and the West. As a Muslim he had been put under general suspicion of being biased toward the numerous nuclear capability efforts in the Middle East; and hostile to Israel, the only state of the region with a huge arsenal of (undeclared) nuclear weapons. Well, after having read his book that might be true to some extent. One can easily imagine, though, what has to be expected of the new Director General of the IAEA, Yukiya Amano, who seems to be rather biased toward American demands. As regards Iran, ElBaradeis narrative reads like a crime thriller. That the December 2007 National Intelligence Estimate by Americas 16 intelligence agencies stopped, literally in the last minute, the Bush/Cheney administration of striking the country seems to be more fact than fiction. The estimate (i.e., Iran has halted, with high confidence, its military nuclear program in late 2003) seems to confirm the IAEGAs own findings which were, however, pretty uncertain due to Irans lack of full cooperation. What is quite disturbing is that the IAEA was not provided with respective intelligence by the Americans either. ElBaradei reports that he frequently is confronted with a question like this: What do you really think is Iran trying to build a nuclear weapons program? Reading his answer to that is worthwhile (p. 211f). My assessment is a gut feeling informed by historical context. First, elements of Irans nuclear procurement and research programs began in the mid-1980s, in the middle of the Iran-Iraq War. Iran was at the time under dire threat from Iraq; more than one hundred thousand Iranians, including civilians, reportedly fell victim to Iraqs chemical weapons. Faced with this extreme sense of vulnerability, the Iranians might have originally intended to develop nuclear weapons. But at some point perhaps after the war ended or in the mid-1990s, when records show abrupt adjustments to some of Irans nuclear programs, or perhaps after the Agency began its investigations Iran may well have decided to limit its program to the development of the nuclear fuel cycle, legitimately remaining a non-nuclear-weapon state party to the NPT (nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty). In any case, my belief is that Iran has not revealed the whole truth about the beginning of its nuclear program. There might have been some military involvement in nuclear procurement and nuclear experiments. However, these skeletons in the closet are, in all probability, fairly insignificant; the body of evidence would otherwise be greater and harder to conceal. My impression is that Iran might have intended finally to come clean about any past weapons ambitions during their negotiations with the Europeans, as part of a comprehensive package and a pre-agreed scenario and at a time when the worlds focus was on Irans future and not its past. But when the negotiations fell apart and the environment turned confrontational, the Iranians were left with a dilemma: any revelation of past involvement in a military nuclear program, however minor or distant, coming during a moment of confrontation, would be seen as vindication of the view that Iran was not to be trusted. But if they refrained from giving a full account, they were perpetuating the original sin of concealment. In a footnote, ElBaradei writes that, According to rumor, certain Iranian officials had admitted that Iran had appointed a special group in 1987 to look into planning a nuclear weapon option. The group allegedly had been disbanded in the early 1990s. Reportedly, Iran was divided internally about how to confess this matter to the IAEA. The Agency had heard similar intimations through intelligence channels. But we were never able to verify the truth behind these rumors. A second question frequently posed to me is why Iran has remained so intent on pursuing uranium enrichment in the face of sanctions and Western condemnation. My best reading is that the Iranian nuclear program, including enrichment, has been for Iran the means to an end. Tehran is determined to be recognized as a regional power. That recognition, in their view, is intimately linked to the achievement of a grand bargain with the West. Even if the intent is not to develop nuclear weapons, the successful acquisition of the full nuclear fuel cycle, including enrichment, sends a signal of power to Irans neighbors and to the world, providing a sort of insurance against attack. Each of the factions in Iran understands that the nuclear program is in itself a deterrent. There is a clear consensus domestically that Iran needs to maintain that deterrence. Overall, though, Irans goal is not to become another North Korea a nuclear weapon possessor but a pariah in the international community but rather Brazil or Japan, a technological powerhouse with the capacity to develop nuclear weapons if the political winds were to shift, while remaining a non-nuclear-weapon state under the NPT. The furor over Irans nuclear program cannot be understood without reference to the volatile security situation in the Middle East and the regions fiercely competing ideologies. The elephant in the room is Israels nuclear arsenal. Israel of course is not in violation of the NPT, having never joined, but that distinction does nothing to temper the anger of its neighbors

at the perceived asymmetry in treatment and the imbalance in regional security.

Kurzbeschreibung For the first time, the Nobel Prize laureate and "man in the middle" of the planet's most explosive confrontations speaks out on his dealings with America, negotiations with Iran, reform and democracy in the Middle East, and the prospects for a future free of nuclear weapons. For the past two decades, Mohamed ElBaradei has played a key role in the most high-stakes conflicts of our time. Unique in maintaining credibility in the Arab world and the West alike, ElBaradei has emerged as a singularly independent, uncompromised voice. As the director of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency, he has contended with the Bush administration's assault on Iraq, the nuclear aspirations of North Korea, and the West's standoff with Iran. For their efforts to control nuclear proliferation, ElBaradei and his agency received the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. Now, in a vivid and thoughtful account, ElBaradei takes us inside the international fray. Inspector, adviser, and mediator, ElBaradei moves from Baghdad, where Iraqi officials bleakly predict the coming war, to behind-the-scenes exchanges with Condoleezza Rice, to the streets of Pyongyang and the trail of Pakistani nuclear smugglers. He dissects the possibility of rapprochement with Iran while rejecting hard-line ideologies of every kind, decrying an us-versus-them approach and insisting on the necessity of relentless diplomacy. Above all, he illustrates that the security of nations is tied to the security of individuals, dependent not only on disarmament but on a universal commitment to human dignity, democratic values, and the freedom from want. Probing and eloquent, *The Age of Deception* is an unparalleled account of society's struggle to come to grips with the uncertainties of our age. **Pressestimmen** ElBaradei has interesting stories to tell, and he tells them with verve... Anyone wishing to glimpse some of the central tensions in 21st-century international diplomacy should read *The Age of Deception*. (Washington Post) In this spirited memoir ElBaradei recounts ferreting out the nuclear secrets of the world's most paranoid regimes, nerve-wracking adventures full of intrigue, car chases, and Pyongyang's grim hotel accommodations. ElBaradei's accounts of diplomacy are fascinating and rife with acerbic portraits of George W. Bush, Tony Blair, and other world leaders... The result is a lively, acerbic take on recent geo-political confrontations that makes an impassioned case for using persuasion rather than punishment to resolve the direst threats. (Publishers Weekly) **Pressestimmen** ElBaradei has interesting stories to tell, and he tells them with verve. . . . Anyone wishing to glimpse some of the central tensions in twenty-first-century international diplomacy should read *The Age of Deception*. The Washington Post