

**Book Review: The Lumumba Plot: The Secret History of the CIA and a Cold War
Assassination**

By

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Title: The Lumumba Plot: The Secret History of the CIA and a Cold War Assassination

Author: Stuart A. Reid

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In "The Lumumba Plot," Stuart A. Reid provides a meticulously researched and engaging account of the CIA's involvement in the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the first prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This book is a significant contribution to the understanding of the Cold War's dark history and the machinations of the CIA during that era.

Reid's narrative is built on extensive archival research, including newly declassified documents, and interviews with key figures involved in the events. He skillfully weaves together the complex threads of political intrigue, espionage, and geopolitical rivalries that led to Lumumba's tragic fate. The book begins with Lumumba's rise to power in the newly independent Congo and his vision for a unified and prosperous Africa. Reid then delves into

the CIA's growing concern about Lumumba's perceived leftist leanings and his potential to become a Soviet ally in the region. The author exposes the CIA's clandestine operations to discredit and eliminate Lumumba, including the infamous "poisoned toothpaste" plot. Reid's writing is clear and concise, making the book accessible to readers without extensive knowledge of the subject. He also provides a nuanced portrayal of Lumumba, neither romanticizing nor vilifying him, but rather presenting a balanced view of his leadership and legacy.

The book's strengths lie in its:

1. Exhaustive research, which sheds new light on the CIA's activities during the Cold War.
2. Engaging narrative, which reads like a thriller without sacrificing historical accuracy.
3. Balanced analysis, which avoids simplistic or sensationalistic portrayals of the events.

However, some readers may find the book's:

1. Detailed descriptions of political manoeuvring and espionage activities challenging to follow.
2. Focus on the CIA's role, which might lead to a lack of context about the broader Congo crisis.

In conclusion, "The Lumumba Plot" is a gripping and informative book that illuminates a dark chapter in modern history. Reid's work is a must-read for anyone interested in the Cold War, African history, or the inner workings of intelligence agencies. It serves as a reminder of the devastating consequences of political machinations and the importance of understanding the complex historical context that shapes our world today. This book is recommended for readers interested in history, political science, and international relations. It will appeal to those who enjoy well-researched and engaging narratives about significant historical events.