



Blank Check: The Pentagon's Black Budget

By *Tim Weiner*

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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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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The origin, growth and uses of the Pentagon's secret treasury are detailed here--Weiner examines the Stealth bomber, the MILSTAR satellite system and a virtual hidden army within the U.S. Army. "This hard-hitting expose of power out of control . . . is well documented," said PW. "It reveals how the executive office, the Pentagon and the CIA have squandered billions of dollars."

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From Library Journal

In this book based on his Pulitzer Prize-winning series of articles for the Philadelphia Inquirer, journalist Weiner probes the way the Pentagon has used secret budgets to fund huge military programs. This has grown to the point that there are now more than 100 multimillion- and multibillion-dollar weapons systems, many of them nuclear weapons designed to fight and win World Wars III and IV, built without the awareness of the public or even the Congress. Weiner takes a close look at programs such as the Stealth bomber and provides fascinating detail from Congressional testimony. The thesis of the book--that secrecy in government military programs is antithetical to democracy--is well documented and hugely important. As the Cold War draws to a close and military budgets come under attack, the public and Congress may tend to forget the defense establishment's inclination toward secrecy and self-perpetuation. Weiner's book serves as a timely reminder that this would be unwise. Highly recommended.

- 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 a correspondent for The New York Times, he covered war and terrorism in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Sudan, and other nations. He directs the Carey Institute's nonfiction residency program in upstate New York and teaches as an Anschutz Distinguished Fellow in American Studies at Princeton.

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