

## II. RECENZJE

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**Review: Diana West, „Wielkie kłamstwa Ameryki: Tłumienie niewygodnej prawdy historii”, AMF Plus Group, Warszawa 2014, pp. 464**

After the Cold War had ended, many, though not by any means all, remarkably valuable from the historians' standpoint documents were revealed and made accessible to the public. Unclassified sources enabled to revise some of the common, but not necessarily correspondent to truth, opinions. For instance, thanks to declassified documents of the U.S. counterintelligence concerning “Venona” operation historians were able to study more scrupulously and credibly the Soviet espionage infiltration of the United States of America over Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. The new book of the American conservative journalist and publicist – Diana West – is bringing up this particular issue.

The book consists of twelve untitled chapters. In every of them the author broaches some topic regarding the communist infiltration of America in times of F.D. Roosevelt. The main thesis set out constantly in the book is that communist infiltration of the highest political circles at the time was so enormous and pervasive that, as a matter of fact, Washington regularly took decisions and actions that were inspired somehow by powerful and astute Soviet intelligence. The author extensively presents how Harry Hopkins, the closest aide of the then U.S. president, that in the light of the newest findings of historians was a Soviet agent, was inducing him to making decisions in favor of the Stalinist Soviet Union and, concurrently, in the detriment of the U.S. national interests. The West's argumentation, usually, is quite convincing. Furthermore, she refers to plenty of sources, which is a proof that she unquestionably did her homework making a scrupulous query before writing the book.

From the perspective of Polish reader, it is of particular importance that Diana West dedicated in her book a lot of pages to the problem of Katyń forest massacre. She extensively describes how Roosevelt's White House consequentially covered up the Soviet responsibility for this horrible war crime. American journalist staunchly deprecates president Roosevelt for this and other similar lamentable deeds. Similarly, she raised the theme of the tragic fate of America prisoners of war that were unlucky to be lost in Soviet-controlled territories and

that never were to return to their homes. She basically argues that Washington betrayed these people leaving them to their fate and not pressing Moscow enough to let them out from Gulag. D. West also took up the theme of Soviet POWs that were immorally given back by Washington and London in the hands of infamous Soviet secret services which either instantly executed them or let them die slowly in Soviet concentration camps.

The author attributes culpability of Holodomor to the West due to the fact that it remained silent when this diabolic genocide took place. Even worse, many U.S. propagandists at that time lied to Americans convincing them that there was no famine in the U.S.S.R. whilst in fact millions were starving to death. D. West de facto tears Roosevelt administration's foreign policy to shreds giving many convincing arguments in support of her critical appraisal. She gives the example of how Washington squandered an occasion for faster putting an end to the war with giving support to conservative anti-Nazi opposition that had reached to the United States for help. But for Stalin such a course of events was undesirable, therefore he commanded his Soviet agents to foil this burgeoning alliance between anti-Hitler opposition in the Third Reich and Western powers. Similarly, West shows how Roosevelt resigned from arranging a military offensive on the Balkan Peninsula, to which he firmly was encouraged by British prime minister Winston Churchill, giving preference to advice of Harry Hopkins and other Soviet spies to invade France. She also describes how supplies to the Soviet Union within the Lend-Lease program were given preference at the expense of British troops desperately trying to defend Singapore from advancing Imperial Japan's army. All the above mentioned instances are just a tip of an iceberg in West's overwhelming reasoning.

Irritatingly, the author at times weaves in the principal book's theme secondary and unnecessary threads regarding Islam, which according to her conviction is a belligerent religion threatening America and the whole Western world. With such irrelevant and, mostly, unwise remarks she only proves a lack of knowledge and respect of other religions and cultures. Likewise, D. West sometimes criticizes the incumbent president of the United States – Barack Obama – for purported socialism, which in her eyes is a very serious accusation. Nevertheless, these passages in the book are like a fly in the ointment – they do not change the fact that West's work is good overall. To summarize, the book is interesting and worth reading, especially for the people who want to widen their knowledge on the U.S. foreign policy over the Second World War and the Soviet espionage penetration of America in the 1930s and 1940s.