



In der Sache J. Robert Oppenheimer

Heinar Kipphardt

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Kipphardt uses the facts taken from the published transcript to present some fundamental issues which face the world today--the conflict between the responsibility of the individual to his country and to humanity as a whole, the right of the patriot to express views at odds with those of his government without his loyalty being called into question.

In der Sache J. Robert Oppenheimer Details

Date : Published January 1st 1964 by Suhrkamp

ISBN : 9783518100646

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Format : Paperback 150 pages

Genre : Plays, Drama, European Literature, German Literature, History, Historical, Classics

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Drew says

Although based on the 3000 pages of the actual ordeal and condensed well, I'm having a hard time believing that anyone without a good amount of knowledge on the life of Oppenheimer would find this at all interesting. Having recently finished Oppenheimer's biography (American Prometheus), I liked reading the play. But even I had trouble juggling all the characters in my mind. The last couple scenes are great and raise some great questions, but getting through the first 100 pages would not be recommended without some preliminary research.

Nicholas says

"Political opinion, no matter how radical or freely expressed, does not disqualify a scientist from a high career in science; it does not impugn his integrity nor his honor. We have seen in other countries criteria of political orthodoxy applied to ruin scientists and put an end to their work. This has brought with it the attrition of science. It has been part of the destruction of inquiry, and of political freedom itself. This is no path to follow for a people determined to stay free."

Take out "in other countries", and expand the definition of science, and this chilling quote from the final scene may be said today.

Amy says

Overall, this play was interesting in terms of perspective on social situation. Beyond that, it was really kind of boring.

melanie p. says

it's a very interessting book! you learn a lot about the whole history around the nuclear weapon thing.

mOmO says

Robert Oppenheimer is the first one who made atomic bomb.After Harry S Truman ordered to drop it on Hiroshima he refused to cooperate to make hydrogen bomb which is much more destructive than atomic bomb....

Charles says

This play seems distant because of the subject matter, but it is more prescient than ever with the rise of a new American patriotism that favours the false dichotomy of "you're either with us or against us" mentality. Informative and thought-provoking.

Hasan Abbasi says

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Robert says

this was a play that attempted to consolidate the main points of the transcript put out by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1954. Oppenheimer, often called the "Father of the Atomic Bomb," was denied security clearance at the height of the McCarthy witch hunts due to his past associations with members of the Communist Party. the play tries to present an historically accurate portrait of the views expressed by Dr. Oppenheimer, the hearing committee, the prosecution, defense council and key witnesses.

the play gives some insight into how important Oppenheimer's work was to the US military and how seriously they took the threat of Communism in the 1950s. as a play it certainly doesn't contain much action or drama, so it tends to read like a trial transcript. recommended only if you find the subject interesting. I did.
