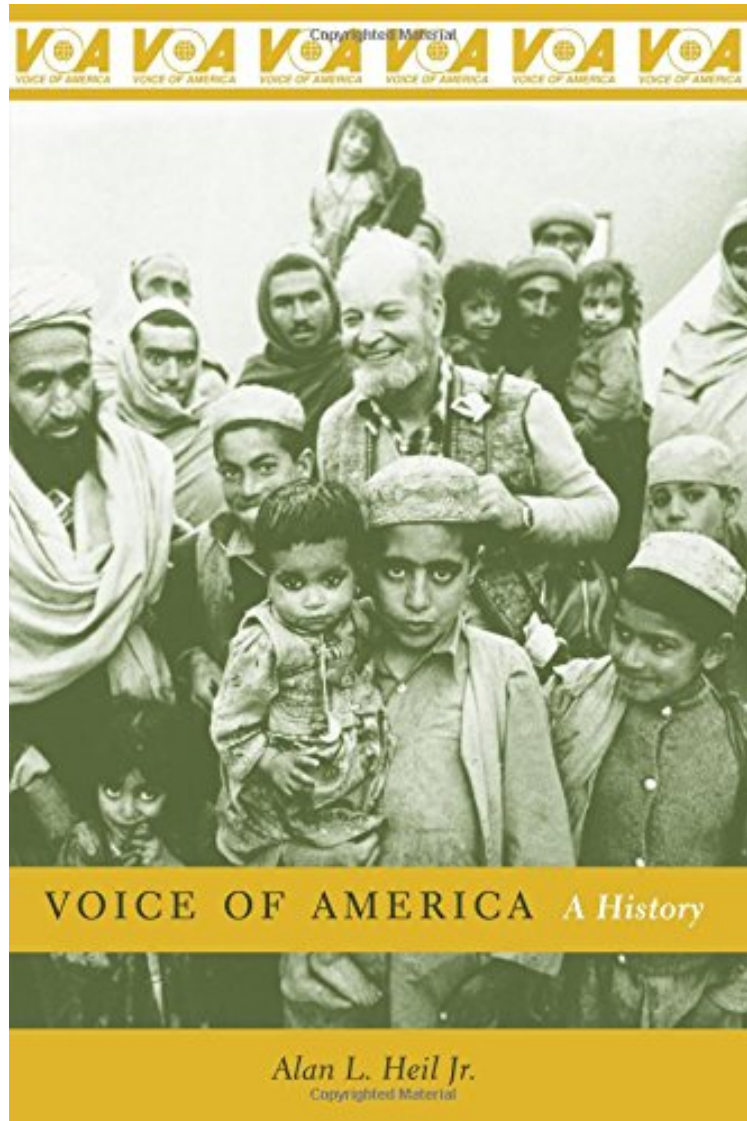


Voice of America - A History

Alan L. Heil Jr., Alan Heil
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Alan L. Heil Jr., Alan Heil : Voice of America - A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voice of America - A History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. IntenseBy Ivan HorbunUpon receiving the book i was astonished by the size of the publication,and thought to myself how and what could possibly fill such a tome.However once i started reading i could see the reason for such a large book.Starting off with the Tianamen Square episode and then proceeding through the history of VOA,and various other consequences in history the stories are well told in great detail.I found this book to be an excellent record of what VOA really stands for in the world outside of USA.To the

rest of the world the book carries the message of reliability and truthfulness. This book truly is America, it truly is the Voice Of America. It is both a history and historical record of America. There are a few photographs included portraying some of the key people and places, but this does not detract from the main purpose of the prose contained within. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. voice story By Robert C. Swanson We are using Voice of America A History to assist us in producing a Broadway musical ("voice") created by Paxton Farrar (student at NYU and playwright). Though the musical is staged in the late 40's all of the information about VOA for the decades discussed in Heil's book was tremendously useful in understanding the dedication to the Charter and to journalistic truth. Voice of America is as important to listeners all over the world today as it was to the post WWII years. Alan Heil did an incredible job of capturing the life stories of those involved with VOA and those dependent on it for truth about the value of people and their quest for freedom. Bravo! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read about U.S. international broadcasting By K. Miller Alan Heil has written a highly-readable book with excellent documentation. His keen insight into origin and development of the Voice of America was reflected in his writing -- and his numerous examples of VOA's impact upon foreign audiences was compelling. His front-row seat to the continuing challenges to VOA independence (and its integrity) make this a "must read" for any student of international communication and public diplomacy. Readers may not like the conclusions at the end of the book, but -- like the Voice itself over most of its years -- they are credible and "straight."

The Voice of America is the nation's largest publicly funded broadcasting network, reaching more than 90 million people worldwide in over forty languages. Since it first went on the air as a regional wartime enterprise in February 1942, VOA has undergone a spectacular transformation, and it now employs scores of reporters worldwide and broadcasts around the clock every day of every year, reaching listeners in the four-fifths of the world still denied a completely free press. Alan L. Heil, Jr., former deputy director of VOA, chronicles this remarkable transformation from a fledgling short wave propaganda organ during World War II to a global multimedia giant encompassing radio, the Internet, and 1,500 affiliated radio and television stations across the globe. Using transcripts of radio broadcasts and numerous personal anecdotes, Heil gives the reader a front-row seat to the greatest events of the past sixty years, from the Cold War and the Vietnam conflict to the Watergate and Lewinsky scandals, from Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon in 1969 to ethnic strife in the Balkans and Rwanda in the mid-1990s, and from the outbreak of HIV/AIDS in the 1980s to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Yet Heil also relates the story of a perennially underfunded organization struggling against the political pressures, congressional investigations, massive reorganizations, and leadership purges that have attempted to shape-and, in some instances, control-VOA programming. Reporting first hand, high-quality news is a monumental task for any network, but the Voice faces obstacles unique to an organization that stands, as former director John Chancellor once observed, at "the crossroads of journalism and diplomacy." It is for this reason that many people still perceive VOA as an instrument of American propaganda. However, as a thirty-six-year veteran of VOA and its numerous policy wars, Heil believes that the Voice has always sought to deliver accurate, objective, and comprehensive news of the highest journalistic standard, news that reflects America's diversity and dynamism, and that presents not only U.S. policies but also critical debate about those policies. This in-depth history of VOA from its founding until its sixtieth anniversary is a vivid portrait of the people who made it great, depicting a news network that has overcome enormous challenges to steadfastly and faithfully report the most important news stories of our time.

From Booklist Heil, a former correspondent and deputy director of the Voice of America, offers an inside look at the publicly funded overseas broadcasting network that is little known in the U.S. In operation for more than 60 years, heard around the world in more than 50 languages, the VOA is at the intersection of journalism and diplomacy. Heil recalls the history of VOA and its growth from a propaganda organ of the U.S. State Department to a respected news organization. Interspersed with actual transcripts of VOA broadcasts, the book offers insights into the tensions among the U.S. government, foreign nations, the independent press, and VOA in coverage of World War II, the cold war, Vietnam, and the September 11 terrorist attacks. Heil also details the challenges faced by VOA in staffing, transmission, language barriers, and maintaining a delicate balance between reporting the news objectively and remaining sensitive to U.S. foreign policy. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Here is the inside story of one of our most important government services, a history of an organization known to millions of people around the globe but to only a handful of Americans. Heil's book celebrates this nation's dedication to the practical application of its democratic foundations our freedom of speech and press. (Walter Cronkite) Voice of America: A History, the first comprehensive history of the VOA since the mid-1980s, ... is a valuable account that deserves a wide readership, both within the Foreign Service and among the general public. (Steven Alan Honley Foreign Service Journal) For those wondering why, in the presence of global commercial news networks, there is still a need for the Voice of America.... Heil's comprehensive history of America's largest publicly funded overseas broadcasting network surely provides a most comprehensive answer. (The Economist) [Heil's] familiarity with both the nitty-gritty and the larger issues surrounding "the Voice," as the VOA is commonly known, does much to make the

story come alive, as do the anecdotes and transcripts of radio broadcasts he intersperses throughout the narrative... this is a valuable account that deserves a wide readership. (Foreign Service Journal)Voice of America: A History effectively chronicles an important corner of American cultural history. (Seattle Times/Post Intelligencer)Heil's book is a must read for anyone who is interested in enhancing America's standing in the world. (Walter R. Roberts Mediterranean Quarterly)Heil, who spent 36 years at the Voice, was uniquely placed to writeVoice of America: A History, a comprehensive and captivating insight... stretching from the launch of the service in February 1942 to its 60th anniversary. (Morand Fachot DIFFUSION online)Anyone looking for a richer understanding of recent international information activities will find this work worthwhile. (Laura A. Belmont Register of the Kentucky Historical Society)The breadth and scope of this book mean it is essential reading for all those involved--or with an interest--in public diplomacy, international affairs and the media. (Morand Fachot International Affairs)Well worth a place in the library of every instructor of the history of America media. (American Journalism)Voice of America is an important contribution to the history of international broadcasting and a well-written potpourri of interesting information. (John Jenks Jhistory, H-Net)About the AuthorAlan L. Heil Jr. worked for the Voice of America from 1962 until he retired in 1998. He held various positions at VOA, including foreign correspondent, chief of news and current affairs, and deputy director.