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Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace (Paperback)

By Ira Chernus

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Brand New Book. On July 16, 1945, the United States set off the world's first atomic explosion. In his Atoms for Peace speech of 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower captured the tensions and the ironies of the atomic age. While nuclear devastation threatened all nations, Eisenhower believed only nuclear preparedness offered protection; while nuclear weapons loomed as the ultimate war cloud, nuclear power offered progress and hope. In this consideration of Eisenhower's speech and others leading up to it, Ira Chernus views the Atoms for Peace speech, presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations, not merely as a legitimization of American foreign policy but as itself an act of policy. Indeed, he frames the policy in a new interpretation of Eisenhower's broad discursive goal, which he calls apocalypse management, a plan to allow the United States to manage threats and crises around the world. The full text of Eisenhower's speech is presented in this volume. Chernus sheds new light on the internal consistency of Eisenhower's thought, which many observers have found inconsistent, as...



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