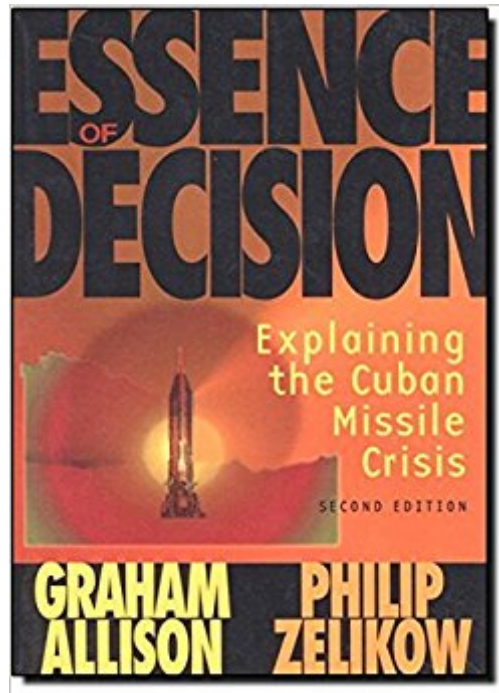




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# Essence Of Decision: Explaining The Cuban Missile Crisis (2nd Edition)



## Synopsis

One of the most influential political science works written in the post World War II era, the original edition of *Essence of Decision* is a unique and fascinating examination of the pivotal event of the cold Cold War. Not simply revised, but completely re-written, the Second Edition of this classic text is a fresh reinterpretation of the theories and events surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis, incorporating all new information from the Kennedy tapes and recently declassified Soviet files. *Essence of Decision Second Edition*, is a vivid look at decision-making under pressure and is the only single volume work that attempts to answer the enduring question: how should citizens understand the actions of their government?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A lively updating of a classic, in many ways superior to the original." -- Richard K. Betts, Columbia University  
"A page turner-the review of relevant literature is comprehensive, thoughtful, and original."  
-- Diane Vaughan, Boston College  
"More than a revised edition, this is a new book, with the most recent empirical material and sophisticated theorizing. Important as it was, the original *Essence of Decision* now appears to have been a first draft; this version was worth waiting for." -- Robert Jervis, Columbia University  
"The revised edition updates both the theory and the history in a compelling manner. It is an impressive achievement." -- Scott Sagan, Stanford University

I cannot think of a single more important book, in any discipline, that has helped me understand

another party's point of view and decision-making. Its application to real-world situations is almost without limit: incredible that even a topic as important as the Cuban Missile Crisis is almost pushed to the background. Oddly, the models of decision-making are so universal, the extra historical information added to the earlier edition, which I read decades ago, are almost a distraction. If that is a "criticism" of the book, then you can take it that way, but it is only when compared to the universality of the principles of decision-making stated.

Great book - I learned a lot about the players and times. The authors evaluate three decisions (to place missiles in Cuba, to blockade and to withdraw the missiles) in terms of three theories of decision making (individual actor, as an organization and as a political outcome) all of which have implications for current issues. I would highly recommend this for both students of history and decision-making.

Exactly the product I ordered for great price.

I read this book for a class and was really dreading having to read about the Cuban missile crisis...I was pleasantly surprised. *Essence of Decision* is really well written. It very much discusses a lot of theory yet is easy to understand and enjoy! I read it in a hurry for class, but I think I'm now going to go back and read it again for fun.

This is the exact book I needed for my Political Science class this fall. The book is required. It was much cheaper online rather than buying from the bookstore. The book itself can be rather boring. It seems like they could have made a chapter about 10 pages, but they are more like 45 pages a chapter. Rather long-winded overall.

One of the seminal books in International Relations/Public Administration/Political Science. Illustrates how different perceptions of similar events are created by positions/locations in government. Illustrates limitations of different levels of analysis. Underscores the roots of bureaucratic behavior.

This is not a detailed history of the Cuban Missile Crisis; it is an overview of the Crisis from a leadership standpoint. Nevertheless, it is an excellent companion volume to any detailed history of the event you choose to read. I read this book during a grad school leadership course and

thoroughly enjoyed it.

Another great book for history buffs, and those who lived through the Cuban missile crisis, where we came within inches of the 'war to end all wars' as well as the human race ... World War III ...

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