



The Ugly American

By Eugene Burdick, William J. Lederer

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The multi-million-copy bestseller that coined the phrase for tragic American blunders abroad.

In the episode that lends the book its title, the "ugly American" is Homer Atkins, a plain and plain-spoken man, who has been sent by the U.S. government to advise the Southeast Asian country of Sarkhan on engineering projects. When Atkins finds badly misplaced priorities and bluntly challenges the entrenched interests, he lays bare a foreign policy gone dangerously wrong.

First published in 1958, *The Ugly American*? became a runaway national bestseller for its slashing exposé of American arrogance, incompetence, and corruption in Southeast Asia. In linked stories and vignettes, the book uses gripping storytelling to draw a devastating picture of how the United States was losing the struggle with Communism in Asia.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A very important bombshell.” (New York Herald Tribune)

“Not only important but consistently entertaining.” (New York Times)

“Slashing.... Draw[s] the reader into a vital subject rarely treated by fiction.” (Time)

“[A] powerful and absorbing indictment.... Should be required reading in Washington and elsewhere.” (Kirkus Reviews)

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“A delightfully readable book.” (James A. Michener)

“Both enlightening and absorbing reading, with humor and wit.” (Boston Herald)

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The New York

Times

"A Powerful, Searching Book."

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From reader reviews:

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