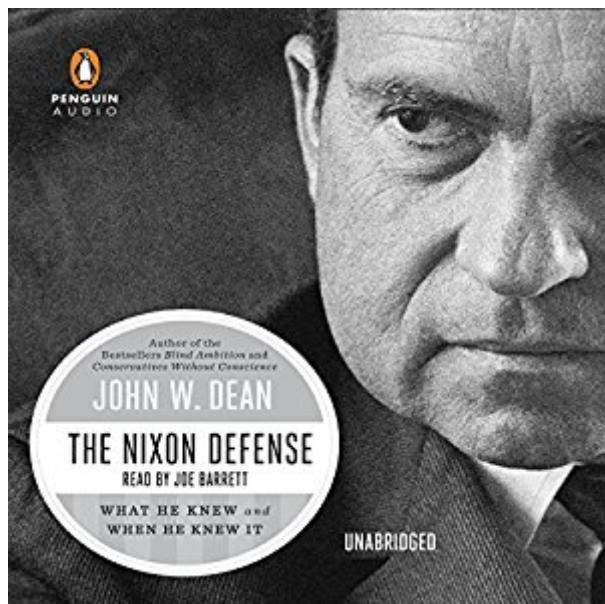


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# The Nixon Defense: What He Knew And When He Knew It



## Synopsis

Based on Nixon's previously overlooked secret recordings, a revelatory new look at Watergate by one of its key figures. Watergate forever changed American politics, and in light of the revelations about the NSA's wide- spread surveillance program, the scandal has taken on new significance. Yet remarkably, four decades after he was forced to resign, no one has told the full story of Nixon's involvement in Watergate. In *The Nixon Defense*, former White House Counsel John Dean, one of the last major surviving figures of Watergate, draws on his own transcripts of almost a thousand conversations, a wealth of Nixon's secretly recorded information, and more than 150,000 pages of documents in the National Archives and the Nixon Library to provide the definitive answer to the question: What did President Nixon know and when did he know it? Through narrative and contemporaneous dialogue, Dean connects dots that have never been connected, including revealing how and why the Watergate break-in occurred, what was on the mysterious 18.5 minute gap in Nixon's recorded conversations, and more. In what will stand as the most authoritative account of one of America's worst political scandals, *The Nixon Defense* shows how the disastrous mistakes of Watergate could have been avoided and offers a cautionary tale for our own time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just finished the Kindle version of this riveting book. As a young lawyer myself just a year younger than John Dean, I was fascinated by the Watergate hearings and all that lead up to Dean's testimony in 1973. His command of his own notes and recollection of events challenged me to

question whether he had access to tapes of the events testified about. I read his first book on the events, "Blind Ambition" and vowed that I would not be seduced by the siren song of access to power, but would stand for what is right. This book is a proper follow-up some forty year later. It shows that Dean spent a tremendous amount of time reviewing tapes and transcripts, but even then he could not always make out what was said in certain instances. Luckily, he does not overly engage in self-justification, but there are so many murky conversations in which the primary actors hinted at, but did not spell out their true intentions, that Dean had to infer from the context what was meant. Although he acknowledges lots of help, including checking for typographic errors and missing words, there are a number of such instances, particularly towards the end when editing deadlines were upon him. This is a valuable contribution to historians in the next generation who will be dissecting Nixon's legacy in American politics.

Dean has fashioned an incredibly illuminating insider's take on Nixon's myriad Watergate crimes. He has turned out an even-handed must-read book for students of Watergate and all history buffs. His astute analysis of Nixon's White House tapes is a dream-come-true for serious researchers. The footnotes alone are worth the price of this gem.

John Dean has written another tale of Watergate but this time it is supported by Nixon's own words. In getting into the detail that he has done he has made for an interesting but repetitive account. The one thing that I have come away with is a very strong dislike for Erlichman. I have never heard of a lawyer who did such a bad job of denying everything. Haldeman comes across as perhaps the most uninformed Chief of Staff in the history of the country. Then again Haldeman KNEW about the taping system while Erlichman at least for a while did not. Mr. Dean has provided an insight into this matter of history that before could only be speculated upon. He does a great job in guiding the reader to what was going on and to what extent a person will go to to try and spin something. I guess Dick Nixon just didn't do enough due diligence in hiring his staff. The reader will find the chapters repetitive and bizarre but since he is writing this verbatim from the actual tapes. It will give you a sense of what a president goes through when he is covering up something.

Not for the weekend Watergate buff. The most concise and intriguing account of the events leading to Nixon's resignation I've ever read. and I've read them all. You really need a fundamental understanding of the events and the players to fully appreciate this book. It is truly outstanding,

This book is great. It is very well done and so appropriate for this day. Thank goodness John Dean is on CNN and able to make comments about this administration.

Excellent work of extraordinary research. The book provides deep insight into not just Nixon but Erlichman, Haldeman and the other Watergate figures. A great read for political junkies and baby boomers who lived through Watergate.

What an exciting time for Watergate junkies! Tapes and records previously sealed have been made public. The information coming out regarding the back story of Watergate and who knew what when is fascinating and tragic. What an excellent, well-documented piece of history. Thank you, John Dean.

John Dean takes us through a very intimate timeline of the Watergate scandal that changed the way Americans see the presidency. This is literally a fly on the wall view of those crucial days of the cover-up. Highly recommended.

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