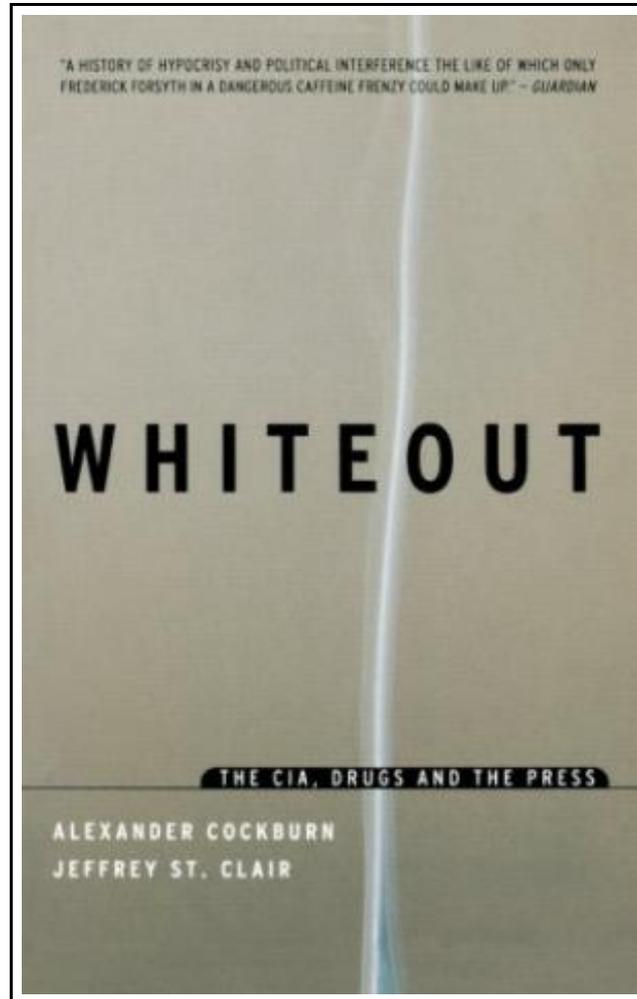


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## WHITE-OUT: CIA, DRUGS AND THE PRESS



Verso Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 418 pages. Dimensions: 7.7in. x 5.0in. x 1.2in. On March 16, 1998, the CIA's Inspector General, Fred Hitz, finally let the cat out of the bag in an aside at a Congressional Hearing. Hitz told the US Reps that the CIA had maintained relationships with companies and individuals the Agency knew to be involved in the drug business. Even more astonishingly, Hitz revealed that back in 1982 the CIA had requested and received from Reagan's Justice Department clearance not to report any knowledge it might have of drug-dealing by CIA assets. With these two admissions, Hitz definitively sank decades of CIA denials, many of them under oath to Congress. Hitz's admissions also made fools of some of the most prominent names in US journalism, and vindicated investigators and critics of the Agency, ranging from Al McCoy to Senator John Kerry. The involvement of the CIA with drug traffickers is a story that has slouched into the limelight every decade or so since the creation of the Agency. Most recently, in 1996, the San Jose Mercury News published a sensational series on the topic, Dark Alliance, and then helped destroy its own reporter, Gary Webb. In *Whiteout*, Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair finally put the whole story together from the earliest days, when the CIA's institutional ancestors, the OSS and the Office of Naval Intelligence, cut a deal with America's premier gangster and drug trafficker, Lucky Luciano. They show that many of even the most seemingly outlandish charges leveled against the Agency have basis in truth. After the San Jose Mercury News series, for example, outraged black communities charged that the CIA had undertaken a program, stretching across many years, of experiments on minorities. Cockburn and St. Clair show how the CIA imported Nazi scientists straight from their labs at Dachau and Buchenwald and set them to work developing chemical and biological weapons, tested...



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