



Brainwash: The Secret History of Mind Control

By Dominic Streatfeild

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What would it take to turn you into a suicide bomber?

How would you interrogate a member of Al Qaeda?

With access to formerly classified documentation and interviews from the CIA, the U.S. Army, MI5, MI6, and the British Intelligence Corps, acclaimed journalist Dominic Streatfeild traces the history of the world's most secret psychological procedure.

From the cold war to the height of today's war on terror, groups as dissimilar as armies, religious cults, and advertising agencies have been accused of brainwashing. But what does this mean?

Is it possible to erase memories or to implant them artificially? Do heavy-metal records contain subliminal messages? Do religious cults brainwash recruits? What were the CIA and MI6 doing with LSD in the 1950s? How far have the world's militaries really gone?

From the author of the definitive history of cocaine, *Brainwash* is required reading in an era of cutting-edge and often controversial interrogation practices. More than just an examination of the techniques used by the CIA, the KGB, and the Taliban, *it* is also a gripping, full history of the heated efforts to master the elusive, secret techniques of mind control.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Streatfeild, a documentary film producer and author of a social history of cocaine use (*Cocaine: An Unauthorized Biography*, 2001), offers an expansive and multifaceted exploration of brainwashing in its multitude of forms. With chapters on hypnosis, sensory deprivation, subliminal messages, religious indoctrination, and a variety of truth serums, this account chronicles the many ways psychology and pharmacology have been enlisted in people's apparently perennial effort to control the minds of other people. Steeped in cold war intrigue, Streatfeild's narrative features the CIA and other intelligence agencies heavily; tales oscillate between the absurdly hilarious (CIA director Allen Dulles dispatching two agents to Switzerland in 1953 to buy up the world's entire supply of LSD for "research") and the profoundly disturbing (CIA agents secretly dosing civilians and analyzing the results). Although the author includes some lengthy jaunts into popular culture to examine films and song lyrics, his core concern is the deadly serious business of mental torture as practiced by today's intelligence services. Sprawling, accessible, and at times quite casual, this book will attract a diverse readership. *Brendan Driscoll*

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Review

Praise for *Brainwash*

"Meticulously researched and superbly readable . . . acutely observed . . . evenhanded and even-tempered."--*The Daily Telegraph* (UK)

"A gripping survey of the post-war history of interrogation techniques."--*Telegraph on Sunday* (UK)

"Vivid . . . Streatfeild does an important service by bringing [brainwashing] to our attention again. It is especially relevant in the light of Abu Ghraib and the war on terror."--*Financial Times* (UK)

"Breathless . . . reads like a spy thriller."--*The Guardian* (UK)

"Gripping."--*Time Out* (UK)

"Marvelously engrossing. This book is a series of wonderfully detailed and cleverly told stories, each of which debunks the brainwashing myth. Streatfeild's narrative control cannot be faulted. His research is formidable."--*Sunday Times* (UK)

From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andy Breaux:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book allowed Brainwash: The Secret History of Mind Control? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have other opinion?

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