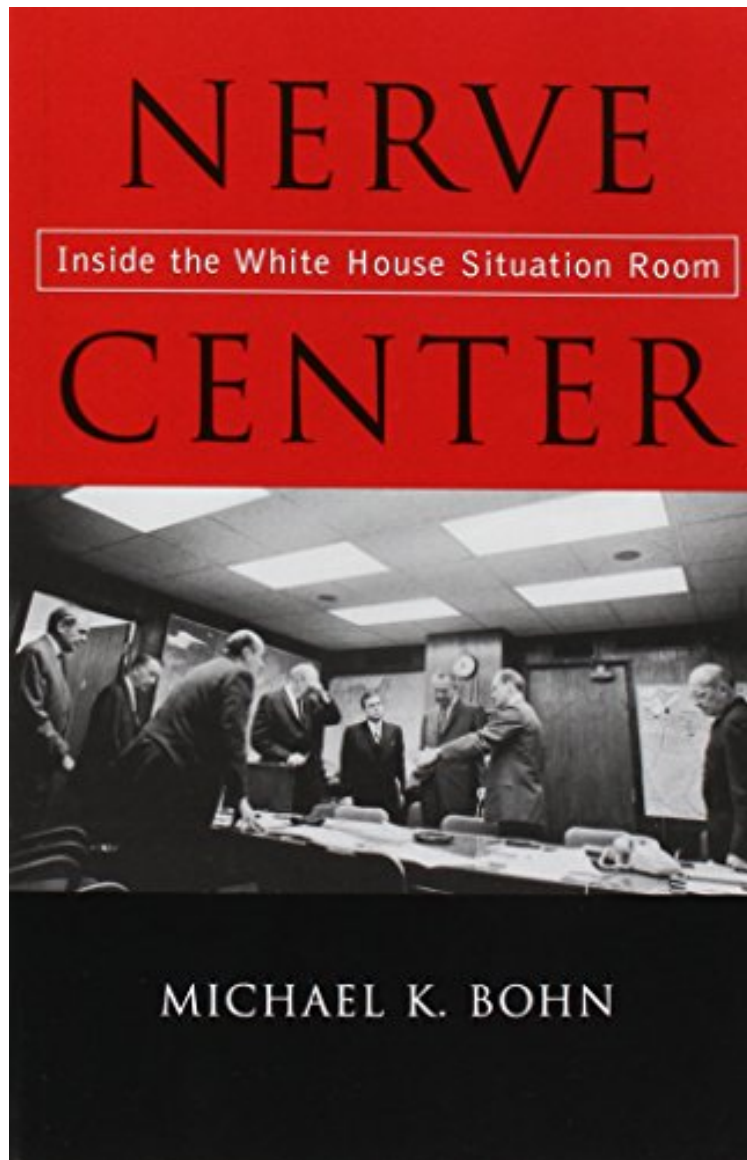


(Download ebook) Nerve Center: Inside the White House Situation Room

Nerve Center: Inside the White House Situation Room

Michael K. Bohn

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Michael K. Bohn : Nerve Center: Inside the White House Situation Room before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nerve Center: Inside the White House Situation Room:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was a good read. I'm a policy wonkBy Randall RosenbaumIt was a good read. I'm a policy wonk, so it was great to read this book right after I read Mr. Bohn's other book, Presidents in Crisis. Some duplication, but you got a deeper and richer sense of how the mechanisms of government support crisis management. There was, however, something that deeply disturbed me, and I feel I have to mention it. It influenced

my ranking of this book. There were an alarming number of misspelled words and grammatical oddities scattered throughout the book, so many in fact that they detracted from my reading. I would catch this or that error, and it would bother the heck out of me. This has to be the most poorly edited book I've read in the along time. So enjoy the stories, but if more than the expected number of typographical errors or poorly constructed sentences drive you crazy then avoid this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. very well written. I build emergency communication systems. ...By MrMatthewvery well written. I build emergency communication systems. Learning some of the unclassified technical aspects was very interesting. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not as interesting as you'd imagine from the title - but still worth a readBy J. LeeThe author, who was one of the Directors of the White House Situation Room during the Reagan era, does a good job of tracing back it's history from it's inception under Kennedy through to the GW Bush era. It's also an insightful look at the situation room's purpose, how various President's have utilized it, and the politics involved of prioritizing and accurately communicating important news to everyone who needs to know it immediately. It's particularly worthwhile if you're interested in how communications with other countries and world leaders have evolved as technology has evolved, as well as the role that CNN has historically played in the White House effort to track world events. That said, while the author has great insight and has done much research on his topic, the writing is a bit dry and laborious. A hodge-podge of anecdotal stories and research are thrown in - most of which provide little insight into any of major crisis of the day. (Partly, you realize, that's because you the Director of the Situation Room is mostly a meeting and communications coordinator. So, while it has front access to the meeting room and high-level communications, noone in that group really knows the political ins and outs of what happens with what they provide until it becomes public.) **BOTTOM LINE:** Not the interesting page-turner which you'd expect from a book titled "Nerve Center". But interesting all the same, if you want a look at how the real situation room (and not the far more exciting movie version of it) operates.

The White House Situation Room is arguably the most important facility in the most important building in the world. As the president's intelligence and alert center, it provides vital communication and crisis management capabilities to the chief executive and his advisers. It can also be "an island of calm," as a top adviser for Vice President Al Gore once described it. So little is known about the Situation Room that, until the publication of *Nerve Center*, the American public's knowledge of it is almost entirely based on its portrayal by the entertainment industry. Yet, as Michael K. Bohn points out, Hollywood has failed to capture the real drama of the Situation Room. Numerous crises come alive in *Nerve Center*, from the Vietnam War (when President Johnson made late night visits to the Situation Room wearing his pajamas and went so often that he moved his Oval Office chair there), to the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan, to today's high-tech war on terrorism. Created in the aftermath of the Bay of Pigs fiasco by advisers to President John Kennedy, presidents, cabinet members, and National Security Council staff members have all come to depend on the Situation Room. "I knew that I could always rely on the Situation Room," President Jimmy Carter recalled, "and it never let me down." Bohn, who served as director of the Situation Room for the first President George Bush, has recruited numerous officials, including former and current staff, to tell the colorful forty-year history of the Situation Room. In a final chapter, Bohn uses a fictional crisis to describe how the Situation Room will evolve to help the president meet the challenges of an increasingly dangerous future.

"I can think of no group of people who have served with as much loyalty, professionalism, and dedication as the men and women of the Situation Room. *Nerve Center* tells the story of these people and gives the reader a vivid and unprecedented tour of the fascinating world of the White House Situation Room." "The book provides a fascination insider's view of this legendary facility - truly the stuff of history." "Whether you simply appreciate a good read filled with interesting anecdotes or are a serious historian of the White House, you will enjoy this book. It both demystifies and puts a human face on the 'Sit Room,' while paying fitting tribute to the men and women who so ably have served there." **About the Author** Michael K. Bohn's latest book, *Money Golf: 600 Years of Bettin' on Birdies* (Potomac Books, Inc., 2007), was one of *Golf Digest's* top golf books of 2007. A freelance writer, Bohn is the golf reporter for nineteen weeklies in Northern Virginia. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia.