Shadow Flights: America's Secret Air War Against the Soviet Union; 2000; 322 pages; Curtis Peebles; Presidio Press, 2000; 9780891417002

Shadow Flights: America's Secret Air War Against the Soviet Union: A Cold War History. by Curtis Peebles. See Customer Reviews. Shadow Flights provides a treatise on America's secret air war against the Soviets during the Cold War, documenting top secret intelligence gathering missions largely unknown to the world. Previously top secret Soviet and U.S. documents are used to explore the history of the secret U-2 program's flights in this intriguing survey. These flights consisted of border shadowing, shallow penetration, deep penetration, and cross-county overflight missions over East Europe, the Soviet Union, China, and other countries to gather daytime photographic, nighttime radarscope photographic, and signal intelligence. Reconnaissance balloon operations, such as Operation Genetrix, are not ignored. Peebles is commended for discussing the results of reconnaissance operations. The study is informative on the risks involved in carrying out these missions with the threat of anti-aircraft fire, MiG interceptors, and later surface-to-air missile. Shadow Flights is an intriguing look at Cold War strategic reconnaissance. It uses the many sources now available that were previously classified for national security purposes. An edition of Shadow Flights: America's Secret Air War Against the Soviet Union (2001). Shadow Flights: America's Secret Air War Against the Soviet Union. A Cold War History. New Ed edition. by Curtis Peebles. The beginnings of the early covert overflights of the USSR date to the period immediately following the end of World War II. Peebles draws on previously top secret documents from both countries and the recollections of participants on both sides to recount the US spy plane program against the Soviet Union after World War II. The lid was blown off and the program ended with the downing of Francis Gary Powers in his U-2 spyplane. Annotation copyrighted by Book News Inc., Portland, OR.