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978-0-521-58800-3 - J. William Fulbright, Vietnam, and the Search for a
Cold War Foreign Policy

Randall Bennett Woods

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J. William Fulbright was the longest-serving and most powerful chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Both an intellectual and an internationalist, Fulbright struggled ceaselessly against domestic anticommunism, the military–industrial complex, and a globalist foreign policy during the 1960s and 1970s.

Fulbright was also the most prominent, and the most effective, of the first American critics of the Vietnam War. Fulbright’s criticism was particularly galling and damning to Lyndon Johnson because Fulbright was, like George Kennan, a principled internationalist who could not be dismissed as an ideologue. Fulbright used hearings by the Foreign Relations Committee as a forum in which to advance his powerful critique of the war. His books – which constitute an ongoing, comprehensive analysis of American foreign policy – sold hundreds of thousands of copies and together with the exchange program made him one of the best-known Americans of his time both at home and abroad.

This book is an abridgement of Randall Woods’s prize-winning biography of J. William Fulbright. This edition presents the full story of Fulbright’s role as one of the leading congressional opponents of the Vietnam War, and the author of an alternative approach to the cold war.

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RANDALL BENNETT WOODS

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