Borstelmann

Apartheid's Reluctant Uncle

The United States and Southern Africa in the Early Cold War

Borstelmann's book has a controversial thesis that impinges greatly on the nature of USA anti-communist foreign policy in the years after the Second World War. Borstelmann makes a persuasive argument that the United States aided and abetted the establishment of the apartheid regime in South Africa because - despite reservations about Nationalist racial policies - it viewed South Africa as a vital ally in the Cold War. Exceptionally well-written and substantively strong, the book is diplomatic history in a broad context. Eschewing the reductionist, economic-determinist view that characterizes many critical accounts of US policy toward South Africa, and stressing broader strategic and ideological considerations, Borstelmann provides a rich and sophisticated account of American policy-making in that era.

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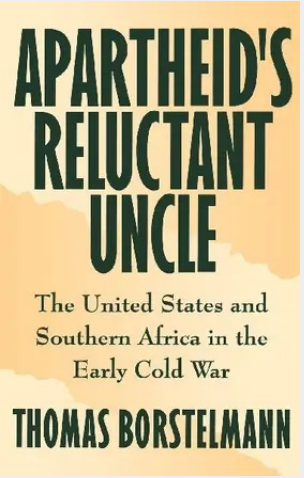

146,00 €
146,00 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780195079425
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-0-19-507942-5
Verlag: Oxford University Press
Erscheinungstermin: 24.06.1993
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 1993
Produktform: Gebunden
Gewicht: 618 g
Seiten: 320
Format (B x H): 157 x 235 mm

Kundenservice Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt KG
Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | kundenservice@otto-schmidt.de | 0221-93738-997 (Inland)