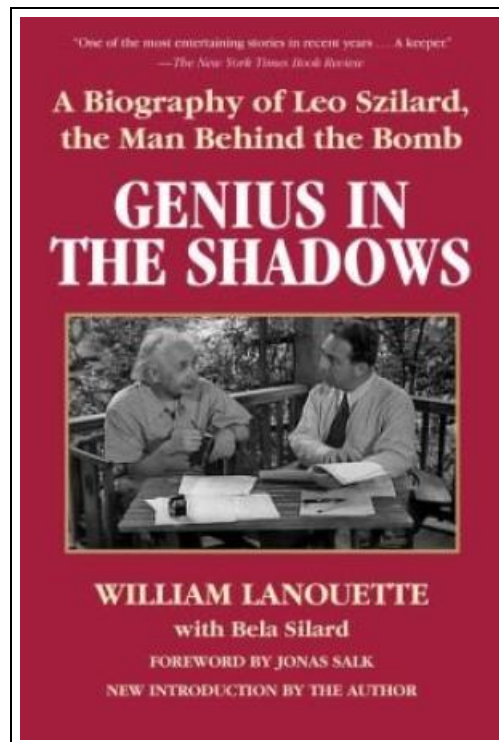


Genius in the Shadows: A Biography of Léo Szilárd, the Man Behind the Bomb



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GENIUS IN THE SHADOWS: A BIOGRAPHY OF LÉO SZILÁRD, THE MAN BEHIND THE BOMB

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Skyhorse. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. (A 1993 New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year) Virtually forgotten outside of the world of atomic physics, Leo Szilárd has long been overshadowed by figures like Albert Einstein, Enrico Fermi, and Robert Oppenheimer, yet he is perhaps more truly, if reluctantly, the "father of the atom bomb." It was Szilárd who first theorized the energy from nuclear chain reactions; he co-designed, with Fermi, the first nuclear reactor, and with Einstein drafted a warning to the U.S. government about the potential for Nazi Germany to develop an atom bomb. Yet the eccentric Szilárd often confounded his most supportive colleagues, and in 1962 he founded the first political action committee for arms control, the Council for a Livable World. With a new introduction by the author, an expert in atomic energy and arms control, this revised and updated edition is a captivating portrait of a singular scientific prophet."In this comprehensive study, science writer [William] Lanouette and [Bela] Silárd, the subject's brother, cast welcome light on the physicist's career and character. The Hungarian-born Szilárd was at the epicenter of the Manhattan Projectindeed, he patented the first reactor design with Enrico Fermibut his concern over the destructive uses of atomic power (and a degree of personal eccentricity) isolated him from the celebrity (and Nobel Prizes) that came to other founding fathers of quantum physics. Readers will find Szilárd to be a 'curious and human character' whose engagement with his work and its consequences was so profound that it can make other figures of the era seem hollow."Publishers Weekly 614.

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