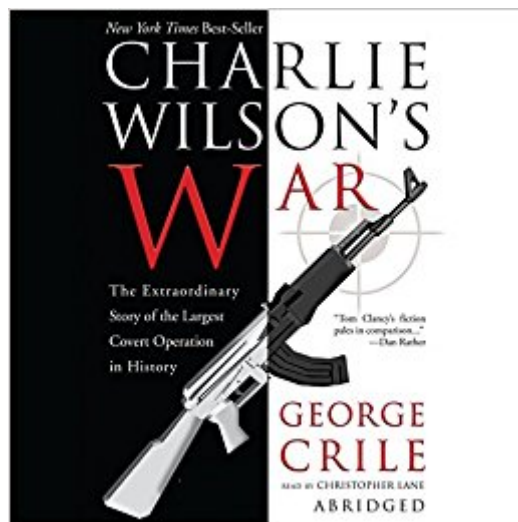




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Charlie Wilson's War: The Extraordinary Story Of How The Wildest Man In Congress And A Rogue CIA Agent Changed The History Of Our Times (ABRIDGED Edition)



Synopsis

[ABRIDGED Edition - Read by Christopher Lane] A detailed and brilliantly reported account of the inside workings of the CIA. *Charlie Wilson's War* is the untold story of the last battle of the Cold War and how it fueled the rise of militant Islam. Charlie Wilson, a maverick congressman from east Texas, conspired with a rogue CIA operative to launch the biggest, meanest, and most successful covert operation in the Agency's history. In the early 1980s, after a Houston socialite turned Wilson's attention to the ragged Afghan freedom fighters who continued to fight the Soviet invaders despite overwhelming odds, the congressman became passionate about their cause and procured hundreds of millions of dollars to support the mujahideen. The arms were secretly procured and distributed with the help of an out-of-favor CIA operative, Gust Avrokotos, whose working-class Greek-American background made him an anomaly among the Ivy League world of American spies. Avrakotos handpicked a staff of CIA outcasts to run his operation and, with their help, continually stretched the Agency's rules to the breaking point. Moving from the back rooms of the Capitol, to secret chambers at Langley, to arms-dealers conventions, to the Khyber Pass, *Charlie Wilson's War* is a detailed and brilliantly reported account of the inside workings of the CIA.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"(Audiobook) Narrator Christopher Lane affects an even tone and pace, allowing the events of the story to carry the listener to the extraordinary highs and sickening lows of the flawed but heroic Wilson. Thankfully, Lane takes it easy on the accents and shines brightest when allowing a tinge of cynicism in his delivery. Winner of the Audie Award." --AudioFile "An engaging, well-written,

newsworthy study of practical politics and its sometimes unlikely players, and one with plenty of implications." --Kirkus Reviews "Charlie Wilson's War is an amazing tale . . . with a breathtaking cast of characters worthy of a Le Carré novel. Only it's all true. And just as vivid." --Ken Auletta, New York Times bestselling author "Tom Clancy's fiction pales in comparison with the amazing, mesmerizing story told by George Crile." --Dan Rather, New York Times bestselling author "Crile has raised the bar on books of this sort. It has more political intrigue, more suspense, more intense psychological analysis, and more technological know-how than anything Tom Clancy or Robert Ludlum could fantasize about. And it has something else besides: It's true." --Charleston Gazette "Put the Tom Clancy clones back on the shelf; this covert-ops chronicle is practically impossible to put down." --Publishers Weekly

George Crile (1945-2006) was an award-winning documentary filmmaker and veteran producer for 60 Minutes and 60 Minutes II. Charlie Wilson's War began as a 60 Minutes profile in 1988.

Don't be misled by the movie. The movie is a well acted and fun flick but is in and of itself a separate entity. While it contains the gist, the general story, it can be misleading and trite compared to the book. The book contains the full, shocking story. I still have to do research to check details. Is, for example, the "Rock" in Maryland? I thought it was in Virginia. However, I suspect this is well researched and the crucial facts are accurate. If so, it is a shocking story that all Americans should read; perhaps parts would be good assignments for students in high school government classes. As citizens who have an influence on our government (or voting for those who do), we need to be informed! The book details how just a few men (in this case, men) can operate and manipulate foreign policy. For this kind of responsibility to be carried out by a few rogue people with their backgrounds forming limited human rights and world views, unchecked, with lack of transparency of what our government is doing, is dangerous. Our country is responsible for the loss of many lives - some innocent. Should these decisions be left in the hands of a few? Charlie Wilson may have meant well but his intervention may have led to 9-11. Crucial reading. I found the book gripping. Yes, a lot of detail but it is all clearly presented and written. Very much worth reading. I gave it only four stars as there are times when I think the author, perhaps facetiously, writes some comments bordering on editorializing. But for the rest, it is a must read.

George Crile's Charlie Wilson's War is a well written and meticulously researched account of how a scandal plagued, rule bending East Texas Congressman teamed up with an unorthodox CIA

operative to deliver US military aid and assistance to the Afghans fighting the Red Army after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979. This is really fascinating stuff. If this was fiction it would probably be dismissed as unrealistic, improbable fantasy. But it's all true. Great book. Highly recommended. The author is a good writer with a style that lends itself to the spoken word. The narrator of this audio book has a very good narrative style that is easy to listen to and follow along with. That's a real plus since this audio book abridgement of Crile's book is still longer than most unabridged audio books. I have a 40 minute highway commute to and from work and I generally pass the time listening to audio books. I thoroughly enjoyed this one.

I can't follow it. Maybe it's just me. After five discs, I quit.

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