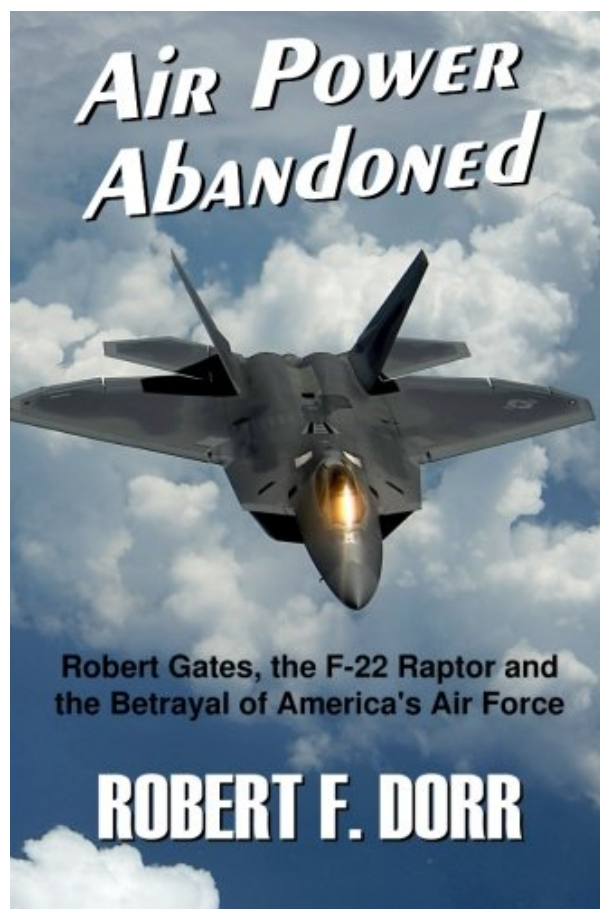
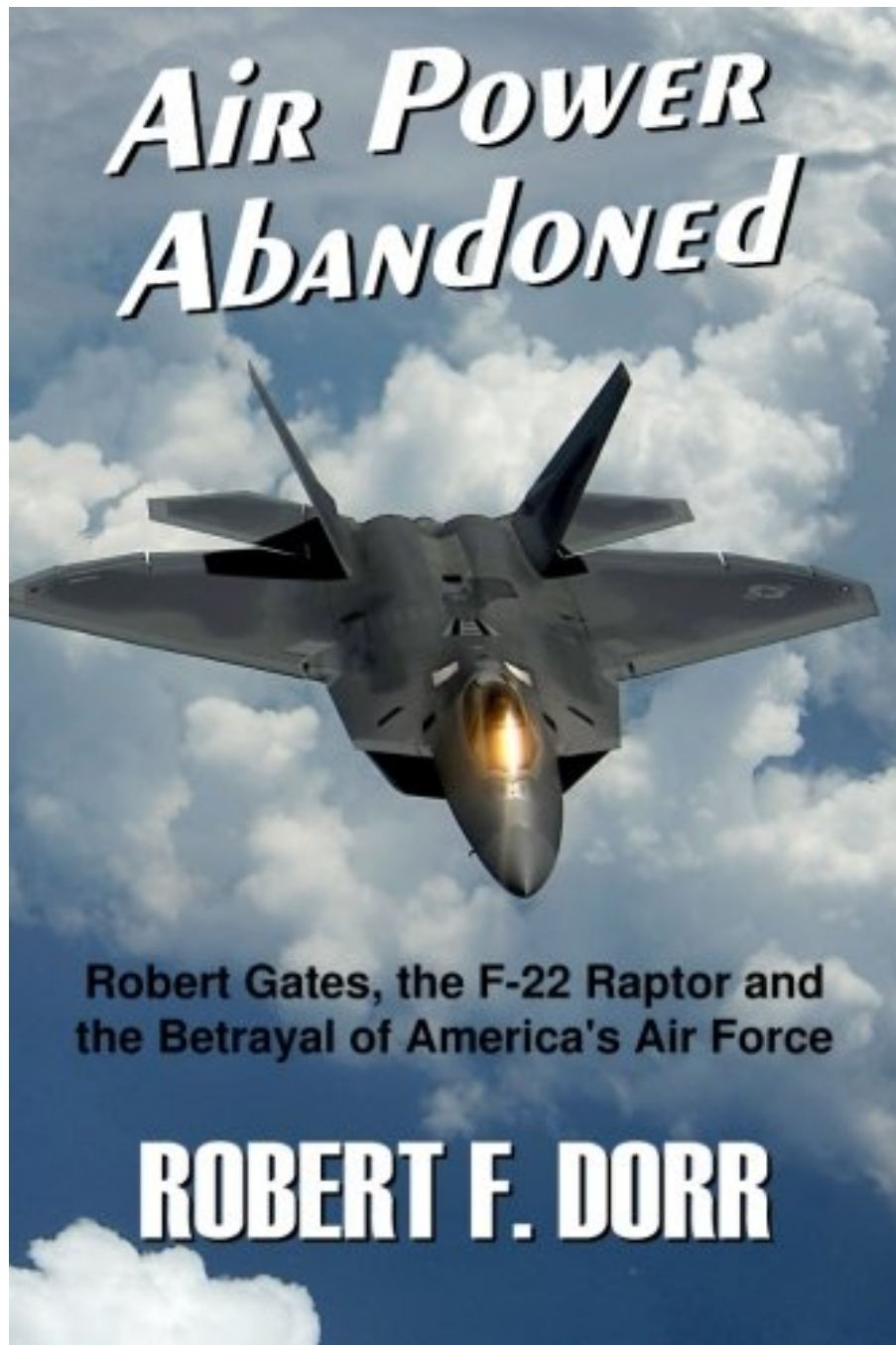


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THE F-22 RAPTOR AND THE BETRAYAL OF
AMERICA'S AIR FORCE BY ROBERT F.
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AIR POWER ABANDONED: ROBERT GATES, THE F-22 RAPTOR AND THE BETRAYAL OF AMERICA'S AIR FORCE BY ROBERT F. DORR PDF

In dwindling numbers, with aging equipment, America's airmen may no longer be able to win a near-peer war with a hostile nation-state like North Korea. The shrinking of U.S. air power is nothing new but the Air Force hoped to compensate with advanced technology. With the F-22 Raptor superfighter as its flagship, the Air Force was going to enter a new era when sensors, digital technology and connectivity would make up for declining numbers. In this new world with its new way of waging war, the F-22 would be out in front.

That was the plan before Robert Gates became Secretary of Defense in 2006.

In this close-up look at how Gates killed the F-22, author Robert F. Dorr argues that the Pentagon chief, who served under presidents of both parties, harmed the nation when he fired the Air Force's top leaders and terminated the F-22.

Why did Gates really sack Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne and chief of staff General T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley? Why did Gates cancel the world's most capable warplane? Are we defenseless today because the Defense Secretary wanted to prepare for the wrong war at the wrong time?

The answers will surprise you.

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- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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THE END OF AIR SUPERIORITY?

By Alan D. Cranford

Robert F. Dorr warns America that its domination of the air is in peril because the United States Air Force is running out of fighter aircraft. "Legacy fighters" are the F-15 Eagle and F-16 Falcon—and those airframes are wearing out. No more "obsolete" F-15 or F-16 are being authorized by Congress. The two aircraft that were to replace the F-15 and F-16 were the F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II. The Raptor program was gutted—Dorr gives a minimum number of F-22 airframes required for an effective Air Force that is far above the 187 currently authorized—381 to equip ten Air Expeditionary Forces. He quotes others who say that at least 600 F-22 Raptors are needed. The F-22 production lines are shut down. As for the F-35 program—Dorr pronounces it a failure. The author carefully explains his position.

Robert F. Dorr offers several solutions—including one on where to get the money to modernize the Air Force. One solution to the fighter shortage: put F/A-18F Super Hornets in the Air National Guard. Another is scrapping the B-2 program entirely.

“Air Power Abandoned” credits one person with destroying the United States Air Force: Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense. Gates took office 18 December 2006, but dismantling the Air Force began in 1991 with the “end” of the Cold War. Slashed were the new long-range bomber, a new tanker aircraft, a combat rescue helicopters—and the F-22 Raptor program (except for those aircraft already constructed). This was accomplished while fighting two major counter-insurgencies—Iraq and Afghanistan—plus the other dozen or so low-intensity conflicts world-wide that usually stay off the front page of your newspaper.

I recommend this book because the issues raised are important. The air-to-air refueling tanker KC-135 made the B-52 bomber an intercontinental weapon, but those old airplanes were designed at the end of the Forties and first flew during the early Fifties. The “replacement” DC-10 tankers are wearing out because of their dual-purpose cargo and tanker roles, which keeps these planes in constant use. The need for a tanker is key to the Seversky-style Air Force that Dorr endorses: an Air Force with primary bases in CONUS and no vulnerable over-seas bases. Dorr recommends the Airbus A330-200 tanker, a proven and reliable platform already in use by six air forces.

Today's Department of Defense focuses on the threat from international terrorism and from Anthropogenic Climate Change—ignoring incidents such as Russian bombers off the coast of California. Climate Change is where the money is today. Drones are the wave of the future—but not quite ready for prime time due to control lag and lack of situational awareness. Even drones need tanker aircraft to reach their targets—or else vulnerable forward air fields.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Mandatory Reading for AF personnel

By M.L.

Robert F. Dorr's AIR POWER ABANDONED is one of the most daring books addressing the military as I've seen in recent times. He addresses the fact that no one seems to want to talk about . . . we are not perfect. This is a well researched, factual account of the rise and fall of a specific weapons system. While he does stray into other programs, it's to build the foundation for the underlying problem in weapons acquisition. Like any serious study, the book doesn't read like a novel; it's based on facts. But it does expose the serious problems that our Air Force faces with its aging weapons systems and the dangers facing us if we don't address them. This should be mandatory reading for discussion at the Air Force service schools (SOS, ACSC, Air War College). Well done Mr. Dorr!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Defeat Without Air Power

By E. J. McGill

Before typing a review I check those that have already been posted so I don't simply parrot what has already been written. In the case of Robert Dorr's Air Power Abandoned: Robert Gates, the F-22 Raptor and the Betrayal of America's Air Force (Kindle Edition) I was somewhat surprised to see the book criticized for some of the very things I thought strengthened his argument. Dorr's treatment of Gates, for example, is not drawn along familiar political lines because the Secretary worked for both Republican and Democratic administrations. This leaves Gates as Dorr describes him, someone with little or no interest in Air Power. This in itself is not a sin—unless he is the guy in charge, which Gates was.

As Dorr emphasizes so forcibly, every time we allow our ability to employ Air Power to weaken, we invite catastrophe. Seversky's line of reasoning in Victory Through Air Power, Dorr points out, that positioning B-

19s in Alaska within range of the Japanese Empire would have been a powerful deterrent that could well have thwarted the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The present political climate reflects many of the issues covered in *Air Power Abandoned*, the bickering and haggling between services at the Pentagon where there are obviously too many generals and admirals, and money seems to be the only concern. Missing from the money equation is that large defense contracts, properly executed, tend to generate thousands of jobs—and millions in taxes.

Dorr's concerns are pretty much limited to the Raptor and its alternatives, but his message is clear: a weak Air Force invites disaster.

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