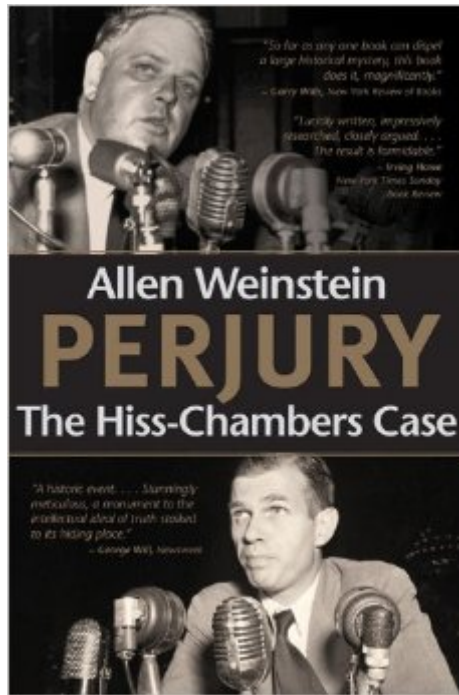


The book was found

# Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case



## Synopsis

When the Hiss-Chambers case first burst on the scene in 1948, its main characters and events seemed more appropriate to spy fiction than to American reality. The major historical authority on the case, *Perjury* was first published in 1978. Now, in its latest edition, *Perjury* links together the old and new evidence, much of it previously undiscovered or unavailable, bringing the Hiss-Chambers's amazing story up to the present.

## Book Information

File Size: 8122 KB

Print Length: 766 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0817912258

Publisher: Hoover Institution Press; 3rd edition (April 1, 2013)

Publication Date: October 1, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00GQDLX0Q

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #22,619 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Law > Perspectives on Law > Legal History #9 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Intelligence & Espionage #17 inÂ Books > Law > Legal History

## Customer Reviews

*Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case* by Allen Weinstein When this book came out in 1978 it was declared to be the definitive work on the mystery of the Hiss-Chambers case. Weinstein had started out with the belief that Hiss had been wrongfully convicted, and, with his aim of showing that Hiss was innocent, Weinstein was given access to Hiss and Hiss's supporters and to their internal and confidential documents. A consideration of all the evidence turned Weinstein from a Hiss defender to a historian who was convinced that Hiss had done what he was accused of doing. Weinstein's conclusions were buttressed â “ and, in fact, confirmed â “ by subsequent

disclosures, such as documents from the post-Soviet intelligence world, the CIA's release of intercepted Soviet communications, information obtained from the FBI through FOIA requests, and the intervention of the ACLU, and, perhaps, by the willingness of witnesses to share information in the 1970s that they were reluctant to share in the 1940s. Coming at this book after reading Whittaker Chambers's *Witness* and Alistair Cooke's *A Generation on Trial* is illuminating. Weinstein provides a damning backstory to the public face of the Hiss trial that corroborates Chambers's account. (Both Chambers and Cooke were limited in their source of information. They could only share what they knew and they only knew either, in Chambers's case, his backstory, and in Cooke's case, only the public version shared in trial.) For example, we learn from Weinstein that foreman in the first trial was suspected by Prosecutor Murphy of being biased for Hiss based on what seemed like colorable reports about the foreman's bias, albeit based on things said by the foreman's wife that "if it was up to him, Hiss will get away with it." (p. 445.) The request was refused.

Summary: The author researched deep and wide to write this account of the Hiss-Chambers case. The book begins with a detailed description of the first House Un-American Activities Committee hearings regarding this case. Hiss's testimony at these hearings was prompted by Chambers's testimony to the Committee that he had known Hiss when they were both members of the underground Communist movement in the United States in the 1930s. Many on that committee, and the majority of the public, considered Hiss innocent of Chambers's allegations. Hiss was credentialed from prestigious schools, had held high positions in government, and had recommendations from distinguished people. Chambers was an admitted defector from the Communist party, a Columbia University drop-out, overweight, and unhandsome. However, public and Committee opinion quickly turned against Hiss as his story unraveled in the face of evidence. Though Hiss and Chambers differed in many obvious aspects, the book illustrates the similarities in their childhoods. Both came from broken homes. Both experienced grief at an early age. And both battled an insecurity with themselves and society that drove them to Communism. In his youth Chambers was wild and dramatic. He roamed the country taking odd jobs, left Columbia University after getting into trouble with authorities over his unorthodox publications, and engaged in furtive homosexual encounters even while married with children. As a beginner underground agent for the Communist Party, Chambers was not good at keeping his position a secret; rather, he reveled in his position and purposefully others aware of it. Hiss, on the other hand, was ambitious to succeed in conventional society, and he did so succeed. The book debunks many of Hiss's refutations of

Chambers's claims.

I previously reviewed this book, but the second edition. I said: In 1948, lawyer Alger Hiss made what was arguably the biggest mistake of his life: he sued Whittaker Chambers. Chambers had publicly accused Hiss of having been a Communist Party member, Soviet spy, and agent of influence. Unfortunately for Hiss, Chambers had saved some of the material Hiss passed him for transmission to Soviet Military Intelligence. Alger Hiss ended up in prison, was disbarred, and spent the rest of his life trying to convince people a fantastic conspiracy had framed him. In 1971, Hiss made a mistake almost as large: he let an honest man look at his defense files. Historian Allen Weinstein had previously believed that Hiss was innocent. But when he read what Hiss's lawyers said in private, and what FBI agents had written J. Edgar Hoover, he found there was no reasonable doubt possible anymore. Hiss had spied for the Soviets, and Chambers had usually told the truth to the best of his ability. Chambers had sometimes lied, but only when he attempted to minimize Hiss's guilt -- and his own, for Chambers had secrets about himself to protect, and a well founded fear of being the messenger killed for bearing bad news. *PERJURY* is a fascinating account of two complex men, best friends who became mortal enemies when one split with Stalinism, and the other remained faithful. The lives of Alger Hiss and Whittaker Chambers would have been interesting even if they had never met or publicly clashed. Their long duel caught them in "A tragedy of History," as Chambers put it. *PERJURY* tells that story better than anyone before or since. It's a masterpiece of historical detective work. When it was published originally, all but the die hard apologists for Stalinism conceded Hiss's guilt.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case Sealed with a Hiss: Book Four Supernatural Enforcers Agency  
Alger Hiss: Why He Chose Treason Information and Intrigue: From Index Cards to Dewey Decimals  
to Alger Hiss (History and Foundations of Information Science) 2 from Chambers Chambers Card  
Games for One Chambers XWD: A Dictionary of Crossword Abbreviations Chambers Crossword  
Dictionary: New Edition: Over 500,000 Solutions for Every Kind of Crossword In Chambers: A Guide  
for Judicial Clerks & Externs (Aspen Coursebook) Closed Chambers: The Rise, Fall, and Future of  
the Modern Supreme Court From Main Chic To Side Chic: The La'Quela Chambers Story My Story  
by Marilyn Chambers Biblical Psychology: Christ-Centered Solutions for Daily Problems (OSWALD  
CHAMBERS LIBRARY) The Case for Faith: A Journalist Investigates the Toughest Objections to  
Christianity (Case for ... Series) Case Law and Conclusions: A Fathers Rights Guide (Case Law and  
Conclusions for Fathers' Rights Book 1) Case Studies In Nursing Ethics (Fry, Case Studies in

Nursing Ethics) Patent Case Management Judicial Guide 3rd edition (2016) Volume II: Trial Case Management, Design Patents, Plant Patents, ANDA/Biosimilars, Federal Claims, and Patent Primer (Volume 2) Patent Case Management Judicial Guide (3rd edition 2016): Volume I: Pretrial Case Management (Volume 1) Abandoned Justice: The Cold Case of Ten-year-old Virginia Brooks (The Colder Case Series Book 3) Mapp v. Ohio: Case Brief (Court Case Briefs)

[Dmca](#)