

"We march through life buoyed by those comrades-in-arms we know to be marching with us, under the same banners, flying the same colors, sustained by the same hopes and convictions."—*From the Introduction*

# A COLOSSAL WRECK

*American Diaries, from the time of Clinton to Obama*

by Alexander Cockburn

In these stunning new diaries, the third of his journals to be published, political journalist Alexander Cockburn paints the vast and tragic-comic canvas of America's descent to what Percy Shelley in his poem "Ozymandias" invoked as "that colossal wreck" of empire. This is history both public and private, personal and often very funny. "Alexander Cockburn has always been exceptional," wrote the late Anthony Howard. "He possesses a genuinely enquiring mind combined with a real love of words." For the hundreds of thousands of fans who have come to Cockburn's work through *The Nation* and *CounterPunch* this chronicle will be a marvelous treasure. For those who have not yet discovered him, this is a marvelous portal.

Cockburn's two previous journal collections chronicling the eighties and early nineties are now regarded as classics. Of *Corruptions of Empire*, David Rieff wrote in *The Times Literary Supplement*, "probably the most gifted polemicist writing in English today." *The Golden Age is in Us* took us from the sunset of the Reagan era to early Clinton time. *The New York Times* hailed it as the work of "a Warrior Freethinker, armed with courage and gifted prose to cut down the hypocrisies of tyrants." *The Times Literary Supplement* called it "a patchwork Paradise Lost." *The Village Voice* hailed it as "a literary gem."

## Praise for *Whiteout*:

"...a good review of how the campaign against Webb [author of *Dark Alliance*] evolved, and the forces behind it."—*The Nation*, Jo Ann Kawell

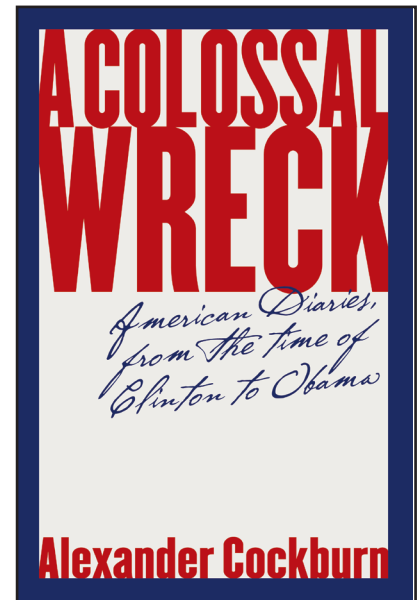
"A convincing, well-researched, comprehensive condemnation of the CIA."—*Maximum Rock 'n Roll*

"A history of hypocrisy and political interference the like of which only Frederick Forsyth in a dangerous caffeine frenzy could make up."—*The Guardian*

"A solid, pitiless piece of muckraking, . . . Cockburn and St. Clair raise troubling questions about the role of a largely secretive government agency in a democratic society."—*San Diego Union Tribune*

**Alexander Cockburn** is a syndicated national columnist whose work appears regularly in *The Nation*, *New York Free Press*, and *Los Angeles Times*, among others. He co-edits the online news journal *CounterPunch* and has authored and edited numerous books, including *End Times: The Death of the Fourth Estate*, *Other Lands Have Dreams: From Baghdad to Peking Prison*, *Serpents in the Garden: Liaisons with Culture and Sex*, and the best-selling *Whiteout*.

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Alexander Cockburn

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