

## The Berlin Airlift: The History and Legacy of the First Major Crisis of the Cold War (Paperback)



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*(Saul Mertz)*

## THE BERLIN AIRLIFT: THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF THE FIRST MAJOR CRISIS OF THE COLD WAR (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*:Includes pictures \*Includes accounts of the blockade and airlift by Berliners, American officials, and pilots \*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading \*Includes a table of contents Here in Berlin, one cannot help being aware that you are the hub around which turns the wheel of history. . If ever there were a people who should be constantly sensitive to their destiny, the people of Berlin, East and West, should be they. - Martin Luther King, Jr. In the wake of World War II, the European continent was devastated, and the conflict left the Soviet Union and the United States as uncontested superpowers. This ushered in over 45 years of the Cold War, and a political alignment of Western democracies against the Communist Soviet bloc that produced conflicts pitting allies on each sides fighting, even as the American and Soviet militaries never engaged each other. Though it never got hot between the two superpowers, the Cold War was a tense era until the dissolution of the USSR, and nothing symbolized the split more than the division of Berlin. Berlin had been a flashpoint even before World War II ended, and the city was occupied by the different Allies even as the close of the war turned them into adversaries. If anyone wondered whether the Cold War would dominate geopolitics, any hopes that it wouldn t were dashed by the Soviets blockade of West Berlin in April 1948, ostensibly to protest the currency being used in West Berlin but unquestionably aiming to extend their control over Germany s capital. By cutting off all access via roads, rail, and water, the Soviets hoped to force the Allies out, and at the same...



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