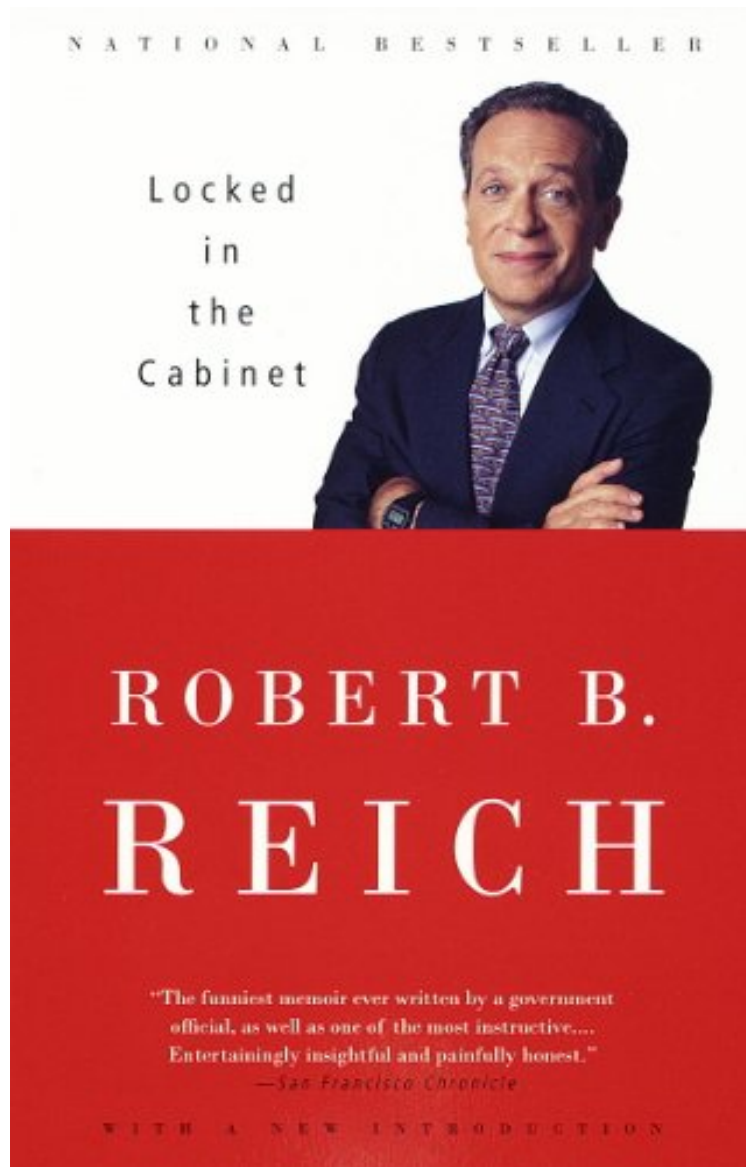


(Mobile book) Locked in the Cabinet

## Locked in the Cabinet

*Robert B. Reich*

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**Robert B. Reich : Locked in the Cabinet** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Locked in the Cabinet:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I have followed Robert Reich for years and consider his ...By Reed Menckel I have followed Robert Reich for years and consider his ideas about the American Economy a pathway of wisdom. I read this book out of personal curiosity about his relationship to Bill and Hillary Clinton and how he felt about the Clinton presidency. The book provided all that and more. It is a seemingly frank perspective on the first four years of Bill Clinton (Reich left the cabinet for family reasons prior to the second term. Reich portrays himself as

opposed to the preoccupation with a balanced budget that was imposed on Bill Clinton by Gingrich/Dike and company and as a cabinet Maverick who found it difficult to go along with the rest of the cabinet. Clinton comes off as one with a heart for populism and desiring to help those at the bottom but a bit too disorganized and driven by ambition to risk a second term by fulfilling his campaign promises. It is clear that the government during these years had already been captured by Wall Street Corporate Interests. Every decision of the Whitehouse and Congress is represented as responding to undue concern that the wrong decision might upset Wall Street. All in all I found Reich's perspective enlightening. It gave me a more realistic idea about the Washington insider power game and the degree to which America has become a corporate Plutocracy. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... the federal government does not work for the common good, but instead for big corporations By Richard Thomas This book is an inside look at how the federal government does not work for the common good, but instead for big corporations, and how Reich tried in the 1990s as Labor Secretary, to make changes to the broken system. This book is a must read for anyone following the 2016 presidential campaigns. Many of the issues Reich covers in his 1992-1996 book are still being raised today during the present 2016 campaigns, for example, runaway inequality, poverty, job lose because of outsourcing coupled with unwillingness on the part of multinational corporations to help displaced workers get training for other available jobs or help laid-off employees find a new jobs, increasing the minimum wage, affordable healthcare. It's amazing that very little progress has been made on important issues that have been plaguing our country for so many years and Reich helps explain why this is. If you are considering Hillary Clinton for president, first read what Reich has to say about Bill Clinton's campaigning for reelection in 1995-1996. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Reich makes his case By Greeny Reich always is the reader in his audiobooks. He's the type of author that adds much greater meaning by narrating his own works, because his use of intonation, pace and timing is superior. He's obviously not just real smart but a standout among geniuses. In this book, he improbably explains what it was like for him to serve as Secretary of Labor and somehow not lose his soul or get tainted by corruption. Even now, I wonder what he has that kept him immune from the seedy side of power. It makes me suspicious that he didn't have much power after all compared to peers. In this book, Reich makes the case for increasing minimum wage. He's always on the side of the bottom 70% of society. Irrespective of politics, I think anybody would feel stimulated to hear Reich speak. I continue to buy all his books in audio format, which is the best way to get his content.

Locked in the Cabinet is a close-up view of the way things work, and often don't work, at the highest levels of government--and a uniquely personal account by the man whose ideas inspired and animated much of the Clinton campaign of 1992 and who became the cabinet officer in charge of helping ordinary Americans get better jobs. Robert B. Reich, writer, teacher, social critic--and a friend of the Clintons since they were all in their twenties--came to be known as the "conscience" of the Clinton administration and one of the most successful Labor Secretaries in history. Here is his sometimes hilarious, sometimes poignant chronicle of trying to put ideas and ideals into practice. With wit, passion, and dead-aim honesty, Reich writes of those in Washington who possess hard heads and soft hearts, and those with exactly the opposite attributes. He introduces us to the career bureaucrats who make Washington run and the politicians who, on occasion, make it stop; to business tycoons and labor leaders who clash by day and party together by night; to a president who wants to change America and his opponents (on both the left and the right) who want to keep it as it is or return it to where it used to be. Reich guides us to the pinnacles of power and pretension, as bills are passed or stalled, reputations built or destroyed, secrets leaked, numbers fudged, egos bruised, news stories spun, hypocrisies exposed, and good intentions occasionally derailed. And to the places across America where those who are the objects of this drama are simply trying to get by--assembly lines, sweatshops, union halls, the main streets of small towns and the tough streets of central cities. Locked in the Cabinet is an intimate odyssey involving a memorable cast--a friend who is elected President of the United States, only to discover the limits of power; Alan Greenspan, who is the most powerful man in America; and Newt Gingrich, who tries to be. Plus a host of others: White House staffers and cabinet members who can't find "the loop"; political consultant Dick Morris, who becomes "the loop"; baseball players and owners who can't agree on how to divide up \$2 billion a year; a union leader who accuses Reich of not knowing what a screwdriver looks like; a heretofore invisible civil servant deep in the Labor Department whose brainchild becomes the law of the land; and a wondrous collection of senators, foreign ministers, cabinet officers, and television celebrities. And it is also an odyssey for Reich's wife and two young sons, who learn to tolerate their own cabinet member but not to abide Washington. Here is Reich--determined to work for a more just society, laboring in a capital obsessed with exorcising the deficit and keeping Wall Street happy--learning that Washington is not only altogether different from the world of ordinary citizens but ultimately, and more importantly, exactly like it: a world in which Murphy's Law reigns alongside the powerful and the privileged, but where hope amazingly persists. There are triumphs here to fill a lifetime, and frustrations to fill two more. Never has this world been revealed with such richness of evidence, humor, and warmhearted candor.

.com On the face of it, here's an improbable book: a memoir of four years as Secretary of ... Labor. Well, in this case it works because the author is Robert B. Reich, a warm and lively writer who because of his 'Friend Of Bill' status and

his strong positions on economic issues was inside virtually every political and ideological tussle of the Clinton administration's first term. What puts the book over the top though is that its author retains his humanity even after walking through the looking glass of official Washington. We experience, for instance, the angst of having to let his two sons and wife go back to the family home in Cambridge because he can't quite yet leave the struggle for such improvements as an increase in the minimum wage. Throughout it all, Reich keeps the sharp eye of the outsider. Witness for example this comment about Newt Gingrich: "His office is adorned with figurines of dinosaurs, as you might find in the bedrooms of little boys who dream of one day being huge and powerful." From *Library Journal* Reich, the secretary of labor for President Clinton's first term, relates the successes, failures, and frustrations of being a liberal in a centrist administration. His diary brims with stories about successful programs for the poor, the rage of displaced workers, and the futility of trying to pass legislation on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society. Reich tried to use his office as "secretary of little people," fighting against corporate greed and the growing chasm between rich and poor by advocating retraining and education programs that would let workers remain productive in a global society. He knows how to laugh at himself and does not mince words about those he dislikes, notably Republican House leader Newt Gingrich and Dick Morris, the recently banished Clinton pollster. Reich's engaging style is similar to Leonard Garment's in his critically acclaimed *Crazy Rhythm* (LJ 2/1/97). Highly recommended for public libraries and a strong candidate for academic collections. ?Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, Pa. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Dick Morris couldn't do it. Now former secretary of labor Reich tries his hand at generating interest in the Clinton administration with his "political" memoir.