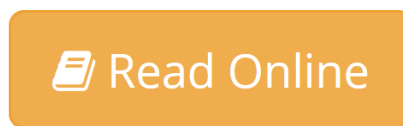


Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World

By Nicholas Griffin





Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin

Combining the insight of Franklin Foer's *How Soccer Explains the World* and the intrigue of Ben Affleck's *Argo*, *Ping Pong Diplomacy* traces the story of how an aristocratic British spy used the game of table tennis to propel a Communist strategy that changed the shape of the world.

THE SPRING OF 1971 heralded the greatest geopolitical realignment in a generation. After twenty-two years of antagonism, China and the United States suddenly moved toward a détente—achieved not by politicians but by Ping-Pong players. The Western press delighted in the absurdity of the moment and branded it “Ping-Pong Diplomacy.” But for the Chinese, Ping-Pong was always political, a strategic cog in Mao Zedong’s foreign policy. Nicholas Griffin proves that the organized game, from its first breath, was tied to Communism thanks to its founder, Ivor Montagu, son of a wealthy English baron and spy for the Soviet Union.

Ping-Pong Diplomacy traces a crucial intersection of sports and society. Griffin tells the strange and tragic story of how the game was manipulated at the highest levels; how the Chinese government helped cover up the death of 36 million peasants by holding the World Table Tennis Championships during the Great Famine; how championship players were driven to their deaths during the Cultural Revolution; and, finally, how the survivors were reconvened in 1971 and ordered to reach out to their American counterparts. Through a cast of eccentric characters, from spies to hippies and Ping-Pong-obsessed generals to atom-bomb survivors, Griffin explores how a neglected sport was used to help realign the balance of worldwide power.

 [Download Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind t ...pdf](#)

Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World

By Nicholas Griffin

Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin

Combining the insight of Franklin Foer's *How Soccer Explains the World* and the intrigue of Ben Affleck's *Argo*, *Ping Pong Diplomacy* traces the story of how an aristocratic British spy used the game of table tennis to propel a Communist strategy that changed the shape of the world.

THE SPRING OF 1971 heralded the greatest geopolitical realignment in a generation. After twenty-two years of antagonism, China and the United States suddenly moved toward a détente—achieved not by politicians but by Ping-Pong players. The Western press delighted in the absurdity of the moment and branded it “Ping-Pong Diplomacy.” But for the Chinese, Ping-Pong was always political, a strategic cog in Mao Zedong’s foreign policy. Nicholas Griffin proves that the organized game, from its first breath, was tied to Communism thanks to its founder, Ivor Montagu, son of a wealthy English baron and spy for the Soviet Union.

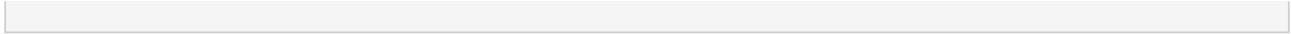
Ping-Pong Diplomacy traces a crucial intersection of sports and society. Griffin tells the strange and tragic story of how the game was manipulated at the highest levels; how the Chinese government helped cover up the death of 36 million peasants by holding the World Table Tennis Championships during the Great Famine; how championship players were driven to their deaths during the Cultural Revolution; and, finally, how the survivors were reconvened in 1971 and ordered to reach out to their American counterparts. Through a cast of eccentric characters, from spies to hippies and Ping-Pong-obsessed generals to atom-bomb survivors, Griffin explores how a neglected sport was used to help realign the balance of worldwide power.

Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #907994 in Books
- Published on: 2014-01-07
- Released on: 2014-01-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 5
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.20" w x 6.00" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages

 [Download Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind t ...pdf](#)



Download and Read Free Online Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, January 2014: Table tennis is a sport invented by monarchs that somehow became the bridge between the capitalist and communist world. In his thorough but briskly paced book *Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World*, Nicholas Griffin details the surprising geopolitical implications and manipulations of table tennis throughout the 20th century. There are four nations at play: the Brits, namely Ivor Montagu, the man who introduced China to the sport and turned out to be a secret communist spy; the Chinese government, who hosted the World Table Tennis Championships as a means of distracting its population from the fact that tens of millions had died in the wake of three years of famine; the Americans who used the game to create an opportunity for President Nixon to visit Beijing (coining the phrase after which the book takes its title); and the Japanese nationals, who use the sport as a means of being recognized as a serious player in the international community. "There was something to Ping-Pong, a strange tone of diplomacy that was allowing the Japanese to reposition the way the rest of the world was looking at them," Griffin writes. "Of course, no one would have been looking too hard had they not won." --Kevin Nguyen

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review It was 1971. The U.S. Table Tennis team was in Japan for the World Table Tennis Championships when they received an unusual invitation: Why not pop over to China for a few informal matches against the Chinese national team? The U.S. team became the first official American delegation to enter China since the late 1940s, the occasion leading to the phrase "Ping-Pong diplomacy." But what appeared to be a friendly competition sparked by a chance meeting between an American and a Chinese player was actually, the author explains, the culmination of a plan conceived years earlier, designed by the Chinese to be the first step in an eventual rapprochement between the two countries. (Would Nixon have been able to go to China in 1972 if it hadn't been for the 1971 table-tennis tourney? Doubtful.) Full of eyebrow-raising surprises—the British man who codified the rules of Ping-Pong in the 1920s and brought the game to China, was a spy for the Communists—the book tells the secret history of Ping-Pong, a story of violence and intrigue and political machinations. Ping-Pong as a vehicle for international espionage? It's an idea so outlandish that, if it weren't true, some novelist would have to invent it. A remarkable story, well documented and excitingly told. --David Pitt

Review

"This is the amazing drama of how Ping Pong changed the world. With great research and narrative skills, Griffin brings us behind the scenes of the historic trip by the American team to China in 1971 to tell what really happened and why. Plus he puts it into the context of Ping Pong's fascinating history of being more than just a game." (Walter Isaacson, author of *Steve Jobs*)

"Among the many quirks that make Mr. Griffin's account so interesting is the culture clash that ensued. . . a broad diplomatic tableau with fascinating personal histories." (Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*)

"Full of eyebrow-raising surprises...the book tells the secret history of Ping-Pong, a story of violence and intrigue and political machinations. Ping-Pong as a vehicle for international espionage? It's an idea so outlandish that, if it weren't true, some novelist would have to invent it. A remarkable story, well documented and excitingly told." (*Booklist starred review*)

“Alfred Hitchcock would grab this book for a spy thriller. He himself makes an entry into the melodrama superbly plotted by Nick Griffin. The MacGuffin in this case are table tennis balls by the hundred, which mislead British intelligence in its surveillance of an apparently rather daffy British aristocrat. I happen to have known the aristo, Ivor Montagu, when I played in table tennis tournaments he organized in Europe. He fooled me, too. But then until Ping Pong Diplomacy came along, who’d guessed what he was up to as he moved among the marquee names—Trotsky and Charlie Chaplin, President Roosevelt and Sam Goldwyn, Mao and the Queen of England?” (Sir Harold Evans author of *My Paper Chase*)

“At last, here is the fascinating story of the sport that shaped the geopolitics today. Part character-driven history, part diplomatic caper, and part investigative pilgrimage to contemporary China, *Ping Pong Diplomacy* makes us look again at an event that Griffin reveals is the climax of a decades-long movement. This is narrative history at its best.” (Michael Meyer, author of *The Last Days of Old Beijing: Life in the Vanishing Backstreets of a City Transformed*)

“*Ping-Pong Diplomacy* is a deeply absorbing, suspenseful, and hilarious behind-the-scenes peek into a riveting slice of sports and political history. Nicholas Griffin has delivered an overhead smash. I love this book!” (Davy Rothbart, author of *My Heart is an Idiot*, creator of *Found Magazine*, and contributor to public radio’s *This American Life*)

“A gripping read of the unlikely intertwining of table tennis as a sport with British and Soviet spycraft, and the high politics that broke China and the United States out of their Cold War confrontation. Anyone interested in the history of Sino-American normalization will find this literate and well documented history of “ping-pong diplomacy” filled with poignant examples of how the politics of Mao’s Cultural Revolution used and destroyed the lives of Chinese officials enamored with the play of the little white ball.” (Richard H. Solomon, formerly a member of Henry Kissinger’s NSC staff, Assistant Secretary of State for Asia, and President of the US Institute of Peace)

“*Ping-Pong Diplomacy* belongs in the category of ‘you can’t make this stuff up.’ It reads more like a le Carré novel than diplomatic history. But the tale it recounts actually happened, and casts a new and provocative light on the U.S. Opening to China, one of the great foreign policy breakthroughs of the 20th century.” (Anne-Marie Slaughter *author of A New World Order and The Idea That Is America*)

“Griffin has found an intriguing story with which to illuminate several important political events of the later 20th century and told it well.” (*Publishers Weekly*)

“A quirky, thoroughly enjoyable trek through the implausible beginnings of international table tennis and the colorful characters-cum-diplomats behind it. Griffin has the dexterity and cleverness to take on the story...[and] maintain lively interest in the array of personalities involved.” (*Kirkus Reviews*)

“Impossible to resist...full of colorful characters.” (*Grantland*)

“Off-beat and engrossing.... Griffin tells human stories as deftly as he describes the machinations of international communism...a fitting treatment of the entire overlooked episode.” (*Boston Globe*)

“A stranger-than-fiction tale....Through meticulous research and an impressively-crafted narrative, Griffin gives depth to the life of the “the forgotten architect” of so-called ping-pong diplomacy.” (*The Independent (UK)*)

“Meticulously researched and ambitiously conceived... a scrupulous meditation on how eccentricities of time

and place can shape big political and social events". (*The London Times*)

"An absorbing tale...this book is full of fast-paced narratives and well-crafted characters." (*The Washington Post*)

"A racy account of the matches themselves and of the endless maneuvers behind them." (*Wall Street Journal*)

"A jolly romp through the 20th century . . . a series of events that might be deemed too outlandish for the sensible reader, were they not entirely true." (*Maclean's*)

"*Ping Pong Diplomacy* is terrific from first line to last." (*SmartPlanet*)

"Reads so much like a thriller that you have to keep reminding yourself that it is all fact ... a book of meticulous archival research and reportage." (*Indian Express (Mumbai/Delhi)*)

"A fascinating account ... revealing and well-researched ... It is to Griffin's credit that in this book he has finally nailed ... the crucial event that initiated Ping-Pong diplomacy." (*The New York Review of Books*)

"Fascinating ... tales of grit and tenacity, manipulation and deception. In his deeply-researched and fast-paced narrative, reading in parts almost like fiction, Griffin brings to life the redoubtable Ivor Montagu and others who transformed the innocuous game with the little bouncy white ball into a potent instrument of international politics." (*The Hindu (India)*)

"An informative and entertaining book ... Griffin shows that the Chinese were controlling the game all along. In both ping-pong and diplomacy, the Americans were woefully outmatched." (*Los Angeles Review of Books*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Martin Sanchez:

Inside other case, little persons like to read book Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. Providing we know about how is important the book Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, because from book you can recognize everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will be known. About simple matter until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we are able to open a book or maybe searching by internet device. It is called e-book. You should use it when you feel fed up to go to the library. Let's read.

Samuel Salamanca:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling

bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question mainly because just their can do this. It said that about publication. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this specific Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World to read.

David Manning:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book especially book entitled Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a e-book then become one application form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get prior to. The Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World giving you one more experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful data for your better life in this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Arthur Freeman:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all of this time you only find reserve that need more time to be study. Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World can be your answer mainly because it can be read by you actually who have those short free time problems.

Download and Read Online Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin #Y0UZ9LHG7TB

Read Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin for online ebook

Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin books to read online.

Online Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin ebook PDF download

Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin Doc

Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin Mobipocket

Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World By Nicholas Griffin EPub