

Kissinger Watch by Jeffrey Steinberg

Who's Kissinger now?

David Halberstam is one of the Liberal Establishment's most respected contemporary historians. His account of the John Kennedy presidency, *The Best and the Brightest*, was more of an establishmentarian self-criticism than a mere recounting of events and personalities. His more recent works, profiling the inner workings of the major East Coast newspaper empires, and even his social history of professional baseball in the 1960s, have all served to enhance his credentials as one of the serious critical "voices" of the establishment.

So, when Halberstam speaks about former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, everyone is bound to listen. And speak he did, in the October 1994 issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Halberstam blames Fat Henry personally for the "Decline and Fall of the Eastern Empire," cataloguing through eyewitness accounts how Kissinger scratched and clawed his way into the Nixon White House by leaking secrets about the Paris Peace Talks with the North Vietnamese, and how, once inside, he stabbed every back in sight and, in so doing, drove American diplomacy back to the depths of Hell.

Many critical "political" profiles of Kissinger have appeared in print over the years. But Halberstam dared to tread on Henry's most well-known but never spoken peccadillo:

"One of his [Kissinger's] aides remembered being with Kissinger, [and former White House aides] Haldeman and Ehrlichman in the West Wing elevator. One of the men commented on a *Washington Post* item about Kissinger's having dinner with a young woman the night before. There was a quick suggestion that the idea of Hen-

ry's liking girls was a surprise; they had always heard that he preferred boys."

Halberstam had earlier prepared his readers for the "Henry preferred boys" note by quoting Richard Allen, a former top Nixon presidential campaign aide who had originally recruited Kissinger to the Nixon camp. Allen told *New York Times* writer Seymour Hersh that he deeply regretted the day he asked Kissinger to join the team, lamenting: "I became a handmaiden of Henry Kissinger's drive for power. I was naive. I had my zipper wide open."

Roy Cohn's friends stick together

Many years ago, Lyndon LaRouche wrote a brief psychological profile of Kissinger, emphasizing the danger of allowing a homosexual, sadistic personality to assume a position of policymaking power. LaRouche warned that such homosexual sadism invariably spills over into the policymaking arena and this is sure to spell disaster. The profile drew heavily on Kissinger's well-known friendship with the late New York City mob attorney Roy M. Cohn, who was a notoriously promiscuous homosexual who died of AIDS.

Halberstam, drawing on insider accounts of Kissinger's years in the Nixon and Ford administrations, verified LaRouche's warnings, painting a picture of Kissinger as a deeply paranoid sadist who put his grab for power above all other considerations.

● Kissinger wormed his way into the Nixon White House by stabbing Nelson Rockefeller, one of his mentors, in the back. Even as he was in-

gratiating himself with Nixon by leaking secret details of the Johnson administration's Paris Peace Talks, he was also working for Nixon's opponent, Hubert Humphrey, feeding him nasty information on Nixon. Had Humphrey won the 1968 election, Kissinger might still have gotten the National Security Council post.

● After the Cambodia bombing prompted three of his top staffers, Anthony Lake (now national security adviser to President Clinton), Roger Morris, and Bill Watts, to quit in disgust, Kissinger began bugging the office phones of his underlings, a fact that was leaked by FBI official William Sullivan to Seymour Hersh in 1973.

Morris confided to Halberstam that one of the biggest mistakes he ever made was failing to go public, with Lake and Watts, with what they knew about Kissinger:

"If we had gone public with our description of the real Henry whom we knew, and of Nixon's drinking as we knew it and as it was reported to us by Henry, and of the horrendous tenor and tone of the White House in general . . . we knew he would be destroyed."

Missing factor: Perfidious Albion

The Halberstam profile fails to pick up on the singlemost important piece of the Kissinger puzzle: his admitted loyalty to Perfidious Albion. Kissinger went on at great length in his infamous May 10, 1982 speech to the Royal Institute for International Affairs about his enduring loyalty to the British Crown.

It appears to have been one of the few honest and reliable public commentaries that Henry ever made.