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## **Understanding the imaginary war. Culture, thought and nuclear conflict, 1945–90**

Editor(s): [Matthew Grant](#) [1], [Benjamin Ziemann](#) [2]

Manchester University Press, Manchester, 2017, pp. 316

The authors reinterpret the Cold War as an 'imaginary war', a conflict that had visions of nuclear devastation as one of its main battlegrounds, and provide and cultural representations of nuclear war. There are chapters and case studies on Western Europe, the USSR, Japan and the USA. Drawing on various strands of intellectual debate and from different media, such as documentary film and debates among physicians, the contributors demonstrate the difficulties in making the unthinkable and unimaginable - nuclear apocalypse - imaginable. The aim is to make nuclear culture relevant to an understanding of the period from 1945 to 1990.

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