

The Cyber Library

Reviewing the Works of Chris Miller and Matthew K. Sharp & Rock Lambros

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Disclaimer: These are the author's subjective opinions, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of any organization or other individual. A human prepared this article with assistance from Microsoft Editor and Grammarly.

Book #1:

Miller, Chris. *Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology*. Simon & Schuster (2022).

Sound Bite: This is a great storytelling of international tech history, with a rather good bit of technical detail and business strategy.

Opinion on Primary Audience: Everyone, but especially aspiring IT industry decision-makers.

I sure hope anyone involved in US or NATO security strategy has read this book twice! Certainly, those wanting to harm democracies will have memorized it. The 'Cast of Characters'

and 'Glossary' sections mean if you are a cyber professional, you should not give or loan this book - you may need it as a reference. Chris Miller lays out beautifully how the IT chip supply system works, and where the bottlenecks or choke points are. This is a great candidate for a new mega-disaster/monster movie! Zombies, alien invaders, asteroids, volcanoes, tsunamis, tornados, sharks, and anacondas all seem tame compared to Taiwan's TSMC and The Netherlands' ASML being swallowed into an abyss. For the entire world, that is scary!

The Author

Dr. Christopher (Chris) Miller is an accomplished historian and author of several books. Harvard BA in history, MA & PhD from Yale. He is currently in a prestigious teaching position at Tufts.

The Metadata

Note a **2022** publishing date! The online ordering cost, including shipping, is under \$15. The paperback is about 400 pages, plus notes pages. My local public library system has multiple copies, but it is popular.

I took a one-page sample of the text to analyze for readability. Using a Wikipedia article about the Flesch-Kincaid Readability Test, the readability is college level, but with 0% passive voice, it is an enjoyable style. This article is under 5% passive voice.

Table of Contents (abbreviated/modified and annotated in bold font (inside parenthesis by me.))

Part I Cold War Chips (**Chapters 1-6, the history and science behind chips, plus a Who's Who**)
Part II The Circuitry of the American World (**Chapters 7-14, Transistors, Integrated Circuits, and the Cold War**)
Part III Leadership Lost? (**Chapters 15-16, Japan**)
Part IV America Resurgent (**Chapters 21-28, US, Russia, and South Korea**)
Part V Integrated Circuits, Integrated World (**Chapters 29-34, Rise of China**)
Part VI Offshoring Innovation? (**Chapters 35-41, the lengthening supply chain**)
Part VII China's Challenge (**Chapters 42-48, China's Aggressive Approach**)
Part VIII The Chip Coke (**Chapters 49-54, More China and Taiwan**)

Book #2:

Sharp, Matthew K., and Kyriakos (Rock) Lambros. *The CISO Evolution: Business Knowledge for Cybersecurity Executives*. Wiley (2022).

Sound Bite: Successful CISOs should know this stuff cold! Most readable CISO book IMO.

Opinion on Primary Audience: CISOs or those aspiring to be CISOs.

Do you learn from others' cyber misadventures? I love experienced professionals who can tell good stories of "This is how I blew it!" The whole book is very well done, but if you cannot read everything in it, at least read Part I for the financial language of non-cyber corporate board leaders, and the absolutely terrific hiring advice in Part III. Are you fluent in using and understanding all the aspects of terms like EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization?) If not, here it is in an understandable style. By the way, on

the back jacket of the hardcover copy, you will see a note of praise from Mark Weatherford, former Chief Strategy Officer of the National Cybersecurity Center, and former Deputy Undersecretary for Cybersecurity of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. We are proud to say Mr. Weatherford is in the ISSA Hall of Fame (2018) and an ISSA-COS chapter member.

The Authors

You can be confident about the authors' expertise! Matthew K. Sharp is listed in the book as the Logicworks CISO, but according to LinkedIn is now the CISO for Xactly. His academic credentials are a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering, plus an MBA. His many cybersecurity certifications include the CISSP. He has 20 years of experience in the cyber field. 'Rock' Lambros is a CEO with multiple cybersecurity certifications including the CISSP, and has a bachelor's degree in management information systems, plus an MBA. He has over 25 years of experience in the cyber field.

The Metadata

Another **2022** publishing date! The online ordering cost, including shipping, is a little over \$25. The hardback is about 400 pages, plus notes pages. No copies in my local public library.

I took a one-page sample of the text to analyze for readability. Using a Wikipedia article about the Flesch-Kincaid Readability Test, the readability is high school level, with 8% passive voice. This article is under 5% passive voice.

Table of Contents (abbreviated/modified and annotated in bold font (inside parenthesis by me.))

Part I Foundational Business Knowledge (**Chapters 1-5, great info on modern business**)
Part II Communication and Education (**Chapters 6-8, risk analysis**)
Part III Cybersecurity Leadership (**Chapters 9-12, HR-type knowledge needs**)

Happy Reading!

PS - If you have a book you want me to review, please use the email address in my bio to let me know!

For next month's reviews,

Freilich, Charles D., Matthew S. Cohen, and Gabi Siboni. *Israel and the Cyber Threat: How the Startup Nation Became a Global Superpower*. Oxford University Press (2023).

Bernhart, Chris. *Quantum Computing for Everyone*. MIT Press (2020).

Additional sources used in the article:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flesch%E2%80%93Kincaid_readability_tests
2. LinkedIn profiles for authors listed, where available.

About the Author

William J. (Jay) Carson, ISSA Senior Member, ISSA 2020 Volunteer of the Year, and past ISSA-Colorado Springs Executive Vice President. He is the part-time 'Cyber Librarian' of Semper Sec, LLC. Holding Security+ and CIPP/E certifications, he is a former high school math/science teacher, civil servant, contractor, and retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel. Reach him at Runningjay51@gmail.com.

