

Bad Men – Guantanamo Bay and The Secret Prisons
by Clive Stafford-Smith.
Weidenfeld and Nicolson 2007.

This is a deeply disturbing and uncomfortable book for anyone who temporarily suspended their commitment to universal civil liberties in the emotional aftermath of 9/11, or for those who consider themselves to be, at heart, Americanophiles.

Clive Stafford-Smith, the half-British champion for many years of US prisoners on Death Row, writes in *Bad Men* of the detainees at Guantanamo Bay and other places of incarceration run by the various arms of the US government. He tells of torture, of extraordinary rendition, and of the collusion of the British secret services and, by extension, the British Government.

It is hard to single out anything in this book, as Stafford-Smith shocks and informs in equal measure, but I shall long remember the chapter about the detainee Binyam Mohamed and the brutal and Kafka-esque treatment he received, not least in the military tribunal towards which he showed magnificent disdain and courage.

No one who wants to know the price that is being paid by many innocent men, the extent of the wilful evil of the Bush Administration, or the damage that Guantanamo and other secret US prisons are inflicting on the reputation of the West should fail to read this book.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh