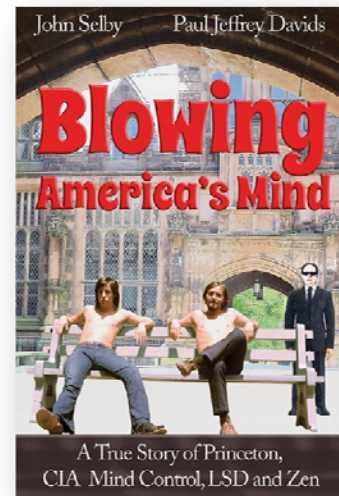


Book Summary

Blowing America's Mind

By John Selby and Paul Jeffrey Davids



Two well-known Princeton alumni at last reveal the true inside story of how they got caught up in and nearly done in by the CIA's LSD-laced deep hypnosis research while they were Princeton students in the late 1960's. The story, which awaited the death of most of the principals to see the light of day, follows in the vein of true stories with a psychological basis that intend very strong emotional impact.

A Los Angeles Times editorial stated what is a central thrust of the book: *"Once again, this nation confronts how to prevent its powerful secret intelligence agencies from becoming a threat to the very freedoms they were established to protect."*

Princeton and the now-defunct New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute (NJNPI) were just two of 86 American institutions (including universities and hospitals) engaged in almost 150 top secret mind-control research projects funded by the CIA. The authors worked at NJNPI in deep hypnosis research while attending the waning days of Princeton as an all-male university before Princeton went coed.

Blowing America's Mind: A True Story of Princeton, CIA Mind Control, LSD and Zen is also an intense love story reawakening the rebellious wild spirit of those early days of the Psychedelic Revolution. You meet both the psychiatrists and psychologists secretly working for the CIA's MK-ULTRA mind control program who led the first wild charge up 'Psychedelic Hill.' They include Dr. Humphry Osmond, who coined the word 'psychedelic' and guided author Aldous Huxley on a mescaline trip, and Bernard Aaronson, Ph.D., authors of a seminal book on psychedelic drugs. This is a Princeton story of mind manipulation and near mental disintegration, as well as a love story, that in many ways now emerges as a cousin to ***A Beautiful Mind***.

The focus is on Jonathan and Jeffrey (the authors) who volunteered to be subjects, expecting 'consciousness expansion,' artificially induced nirvana and even improved sex lives. John Selby was then employed at the NJNPI as a research hypnotist. They are as different as two people can be, which creates both fascination and tension: John Selby is from a western cattle ranch and becomes a

champion Ivy League fencer, and Paul Jeffrey Davids is the son of a famous Georgetown historian who wrote for John F. Kennedy.

The true story, which vivifies the beginning of the 'psychedelic era,' unfolds as to how the authors' naive and well-intentioned participation warped their intimate lives at a formative stage of their development and nearly cost them their personal identities. Extreme openness and honesty abound on these pages.

Interspersed with news revelations about MK-ULTRA from the late 1970's and beyond, and photos of the Institute and of the authors at Princeton and later, the book concludes by showing how the authors grew from these experiences. John Selby became a noted author of psychology, self-help and philosophy books, and Paul Jeffrey Davids became an accomplished film director (among whose many films is "Timothy Leary's Dead," an authorized biography of the Harvard psychology professor and LSD 'guru' filmed the last year of Leary's life.)

Those who have read and valued books such as *A Beautiful Mind*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, *The Magus*, *Lisa and David*, and *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* will find these authors to be kindred spirits.