The status of the United States as a world power, and the nature of power itself, are at a historic turning point. It is essential that we understand and adapt to the new security environment in which we find ourselves. Two of the most respected figures in American foreign policy are Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft—both former National Security Advisors under markedly different administrations. In America and the World they dissect, in spontaneous and unscripted conversations moderated by David Ignatius, the most significant foreign policy challenges facing the U.S.: the Middle East, Russia, China, Europe, the Developing World, the changing nature of power in a globalized world, and what Brzezinski has called the “global political awakening.” While one author is a Republican and the other a Democrat, they broadly agree on the need to adapt to a new international environment. Where they disagree, their exchanges are always both deeply informed and provocative. America and the World will define the center of responsible opinion on American foreign policy at a time when the nation’s decisions could determine how long it remains a superpower.

My Personal Review:
This book provides a wonderful view into world affairs. Both Brzezinski and Scowcroft have served as National Security Advisors and are probably the two best respected authorities on International Affairs. David Ignatius, editor for the Washington Post, is the moderator for the book.

The book is set up as a series of interviews between Zrrezinski and Scowcroft moderated by Ignatius. You even get little headers to tell you who is speaking when with each chapter devoted to some of the most pressing world affair problems out there.
I found the book quite easy to read and filled with some very level headed thinking on world affairs.

Some cautions though: I felt that both Zbig and Scowcroft were careful and very diplomatic in towing their party lines to an extent, held back and didn't really come out with some of the problems facing America. They kept their thinking global and pro-world vs pro-America and in some areas like climate change they played into the hype vs really looking at the costs and what it means to do these kinds of big things. Although in their defense these guys are great poker players, global strategists, and diplomats so they have to look at all sides and be welcoming to all in some respects. They play in a strange arena having to be pro-world while at their core they have to be pro-america (I hope). Its like hearing CIA spies talking never knowing if this guy is a spy, a double agent, or a triple agent. Whose side are these guys on? and I dearly hope they're on our side.

Overall, I found the book worthwhile to read as it gives you insight into what these guys are thinking but at the same time as you read the book you can't help but feel the slight tug of an undertow current that lies just below the calm surface; an undertow current that you are not told about but which you are left to decipher on your own. I don't know if the two writers and Ignatius don't mention this on purpose, if it's irrelevant, or if they just don't know. Don't get me wrong, I'm not conspiratorial its more like things are left unsaid.

So overall, the book is great but it certainly does not cover domestic affairs, only international affairs and these only within the narrow scope of the authors experience and expertise. This is good in the sense that they keep to their strengths and don't write about stuff that they don't know about but don't expect a book about everything or expect to be entirely enlightened after reading this book. So this book is not about America and then also about how America relates to the world -- this book is purely about how America relates to the world. You should come out with a baseline context for world affairs and the world were coming from and moving into.

It's almost as if this book needs to be part of a 3 book series: with a second book being about domestic affairs and then a capstone book that puts it all together. As it stands, this book gives you only the world affairs portion of the picture.

Good luck.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
America and the World: Conversations on the Future of American Foreign Policy by David Ignatius - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!