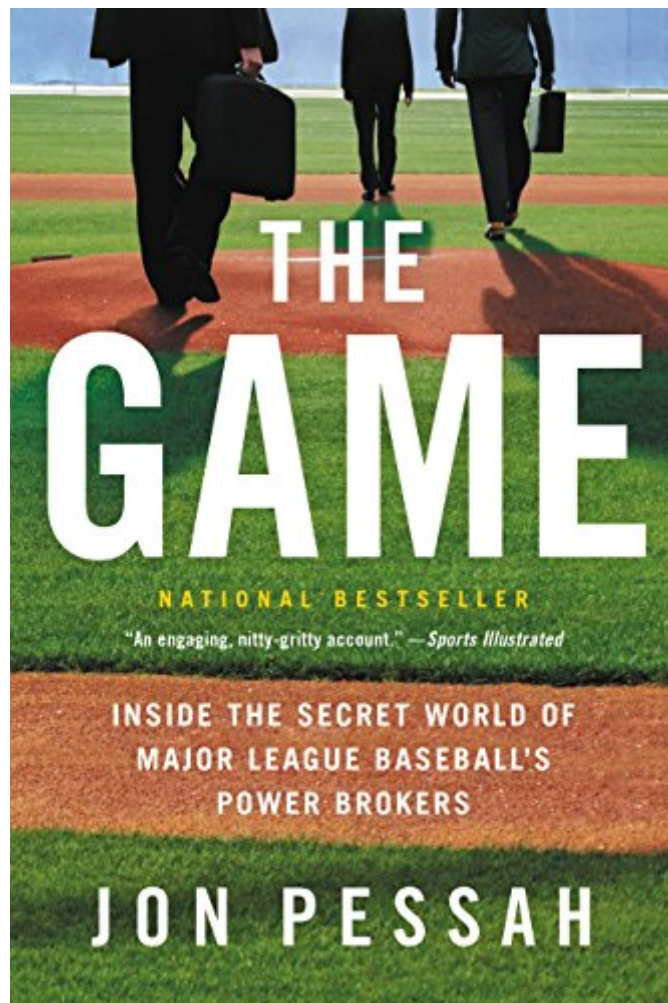




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# The Game: Inside The Secret World Of Major League Baseball's Power Brokers



## Synopsis

The incredible inside story of power, money, and baseball's last twenty years. In the fall of 1992, America's National Pastime is in crisis and already on the path to the unthinkable: cancelling a World Series for the first time in history. The owners are at war with each other, their decades-long battle with the players has turned America against both sides, and the players' growing addiction to steroids will threaten the game's very foundation. It is a tipping point for baseball, a crucial moment in the game's history that catalyzes a struggle for power by three strong-willed men: Commissioner Bud Selig, Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, and union leader Don Fehr. It's their uneasy alliance at the end of decades of struggle that pulls the game back from the brink and turns it into a money-making powerhouse that enriches them all. This is the real story of baseball, played out against a tableau of stunning athletic feats, high-stakes public battles, and backroom political deals--with a supporting cast that includes Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire, Joe Torre and Derek Jeter, George Bush and George Mitchell, and many more. Drawing from hundreds of extensive, exclusive interviews throughout baseball, *The Game* is a stunning achievement: a rigorously reported book and the must-read, fly-on-the-wall, definitive account of how an enormous struggle for power turns disaster into baseball's Golden Age.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My first memories of going to a baseball game is about the time of the strike. I went to Candlestick park a few weeks before the season was shut down, and I observed from afar ten years later as the MLB was marred with a steroids controversy. This was an excellent, well researched account behind the scenes of the powers that be in the game. It's impressive to think of all the research Mr. Pessah put in to report on all the details of conversations, testimonies, panel investigations and weave it in a way that makes the reading compelling and tough to put down. This book is not just for baseball fans, but anyone interested in big business and how it uses its mighty hands of influence and money to tip the balance to make them even more money. Baseball is a reflection on our modern society where inequality affects the game, except as Mr. Pessah shows that within the confines of the MLB there is space for the union to put pressure on the owners, and eventually the owners decided that a shared revenue plan is good for the greater game. During a time of enormous income disparity-- an inside-look into the most powerful in baseball-- this book give us a better picture on how our society functioned over the past twenty years.

This book tells an incredibly compelling story that makes you feel like a fly on the wall in the back rooms, boardrooms, and dugouts watching the last 20+ of America's favorite past time. Unlike other books on baseball history, this book doesn't idealize the legends of the game, but describes the real struggle between owners, executive offices, and players in fascinating detail, and weaves in a rich narrative about the role of Government at all levels in both facilitating, and attempting to control, the new era of baseball. The book leaves you wondering whether in the pursuit of the big dollars that accompanied the demolition of baseball records, did greed transform a game that used to represent American values into something unrecognizable for the next generation seeking its heroes?

Pessah's book provides a wealth of background information on how the players and owners eventually realized that they needed to cooperate (and compromise) if baseball was to regain its place in the American sports hierarchy. The author provides plenty of details about the political savvy of Bud Selig in bringing collective peace to the game. He also calls into question the fundamental conflict of interest of Selig whose own pockets were lined as he tried to balance his role as Commissioner versus that as owner of the Milwaukee franchise. I am not certain that Selig deserves

to be inducted into the Hall of Fame before Marvin Miller. After all, it is Miller who organized the players and eventually that has played out to where today's average major league salary is around \$3 million per year. The book might never have been written if Miller hadn't unionized the players as the owners would have never been brought to the bargaining table by well-informed equals.

Great read for baseball fans who wonder what the job of MLB Commissioner does to protect their interests and enjoyment of the game. Short answer: nothing. Bud Selig wants nothing but money, for himself and for the team owners. If you're continually p'd about game black outs, blame Bud. Rising prices for game tickets? Blame Bud. And his successor Rob Manfred? Hand-groomed and just as sleazy. The Game is a lucid look at greed and pettiness from the people who operate America's favourite pastime.

This is a well-written book. Being a baseball fan who lost interest after the 1994 lockout/strike but who eventually came back to being a fan, I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Pessah's meticulous treatment of the events that led up to the hiatus and the evolution of labor relations in the game after that. This is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the business side of the game.

The Game by Jon Pessah was a grand slam! The book takes you behind the scenes of the business of baseball from the early 90s to present. In particular, this is the story of the three primary movers in the game during that period - Bud Selig, Don Fehr and George Steinbrenner. A fascinating read and page turner, this book is an excellent follow up to John Helyar's Lords of the Realm, which covered the story before that period, especially the advent of free agency and Marvin Miller's reign as union chief, and Bowie Kuhn's management of the game. A page turner for anyone interested in the power and politics that have moved the game, this is a great read!

The Game by Jon Pessah is an astoundingly fascinating historical book about the last 20 years of baseball in the U.S.. It is a must read for any person who cares about the game! It's an eye-opener, thorough and revealing!

I wanted to like this book more. It gives a good insider view of Bud Selig and the commissioner's office. But, in reading it, I felt that it was slow-paced and just too long in general. If you have the time and the interest, then check it out. Otherwise, there are more interesting books to read about the business/labor side of baseball, such as Marvin Miller's "A Whole Different Ball Game."

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