**THE FAMILY**

**BY JEFF SHARLET**

**The author begins by stating that he was invited to be a member of *The Family* and took them up on their offer, giving him an inside view of what goes on within one of America's most powerful, secret organizations.**

**The Family is a network of very powerful people (mostly older, white men) in politics who maintain an organization for recruiting and training new warriors for Jesus.**

**The first chapter describes something like a boot camp for evangelicals near the nation's capital called, Ivanwald. Here young men are groomed to enter into the world of politics where they will make the connections necessary to obtain power to promote their Jesus cult. During the Vietnam war leadership passed to Doug Coe who has led the movement for over 40 years.**

**The methods they use to infect large populations reminded me of Islam: religion takes over every aspect of a person's life. The story of AIDS in Uganda is tragic. First condoms had the disease under control. Once fundamentalist influence was imported from America, condoms disappeared and AIDS returned with a vengeance. Fundamentalists in America continue to lie about the success of abstinence only programs both in Uganda and in the U.S.**

**Sharlet delves into homeschooling and the rewriting of history that fundamentalists undertake, in order to make history come out the way they need it to.**

**Doug Coe finally, after 40 years, went into semi-retirement and was replaced by Dick Foth.**

**GRADE B+**

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