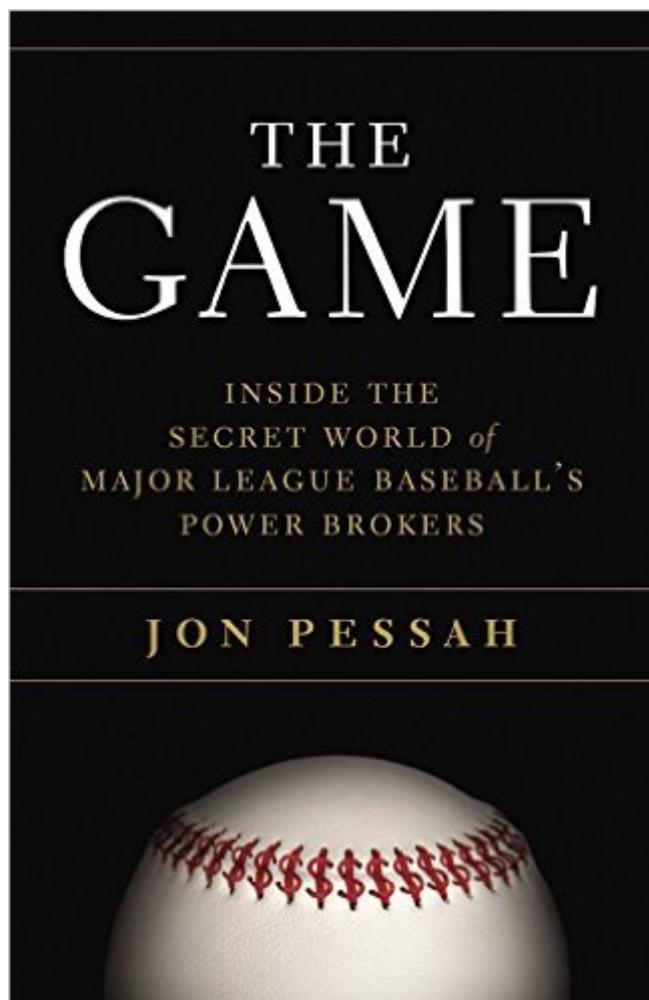


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# The Game: Inside The Secret World Of Major League Baseball's Power Brokers



## Synopsis

The incredible inside story of power, money, and baseball's last twenty yearsIn 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

This book is a must-read for baseball fans and anyone interested in the business of sports. In *The Game*, Jon Pessah offers a riveting account of the modern baseball era under the reigns of Bud Selig, Donald Fehr and George Steinbrenner. Based on 5 years of research and interviews with

more than 150 individuals including players, executives, former members of Congress, and even Bud Selig himself, Pessah recreates a behind-the-scenes view of the meetings, strategies, decisions, and subplots that shaped the game and the business of baseball as we know it. The book is gripping from the opening scene and reads more like a novel or even a movie script than a typical non-fiction book. It is a formidable 630 pages which reflects the incredible depth of the research, but there isn't a dull moment. The book is actually difficult to put down once you start. The author puts the reader in the minds of the real-life characters behind the sport it makes you feel like you are witnessing history firsthand. The Game chronicles all of the major events in the sport from 1992 through 2010. But in addition to the story we are familiar with from the sports pages at the time, this book gives us a detailed view of what actually happened behind the scenes. The book covers all of the major business aspects affecting the sport including multiple labor negotiations, TV deals, and tax-payer funded stadiums. It covers the power struggles between the owners and players, and among the owners themselves. It describes the complicated relationship between politics and baseball. And it describes in detail the use of steroids in baseball and the perspectives of each stakeholder who tried to address the issue or decided to look the other way.

Review: The last two decades has seen many events occur in Major League Baseball, both on and off the field. From home run records being broken to players being tested for performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) and from a player's strike that wiped out the 1994 World Series to the threat of contracting two teams, the era was defined by a quest for power. Three men were the central characters of this quest – Commissioner Bud Selig, player's union director Don Fehr and New York Yankee owner George Steinbrenner – and how their battles ultimately shaped the game are reported in this well-researched book by Jon Pessah. Drawn upon hundreds of hours of interviews from numerous sources, people and teams, the reporting on the issues of the last twenty years is written in a narrative that is both entertaining and compelling. The back cover states that the book was five years in the making, and given the extensive coverage of the game's finances and later its response to allegations of the use of PEDs, that doesn't sound like a stretch at all. How these three men affected these issues will grab the reader's interest and won't let go. "Power" is an appropriate word to use for the goals of these three men, as all three are portrayed as men who believe they know what is best for the game and his constituents. Whether it's Selig wanting to force the owners into a revenue sharing agreement, Fehr insisting on getting the truth about labor negotiations or Steinbrenner spending more on one player he thinks the

Yankees need for another championship than what some teams spend on the entire payroll, this book covers all the major issues.

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