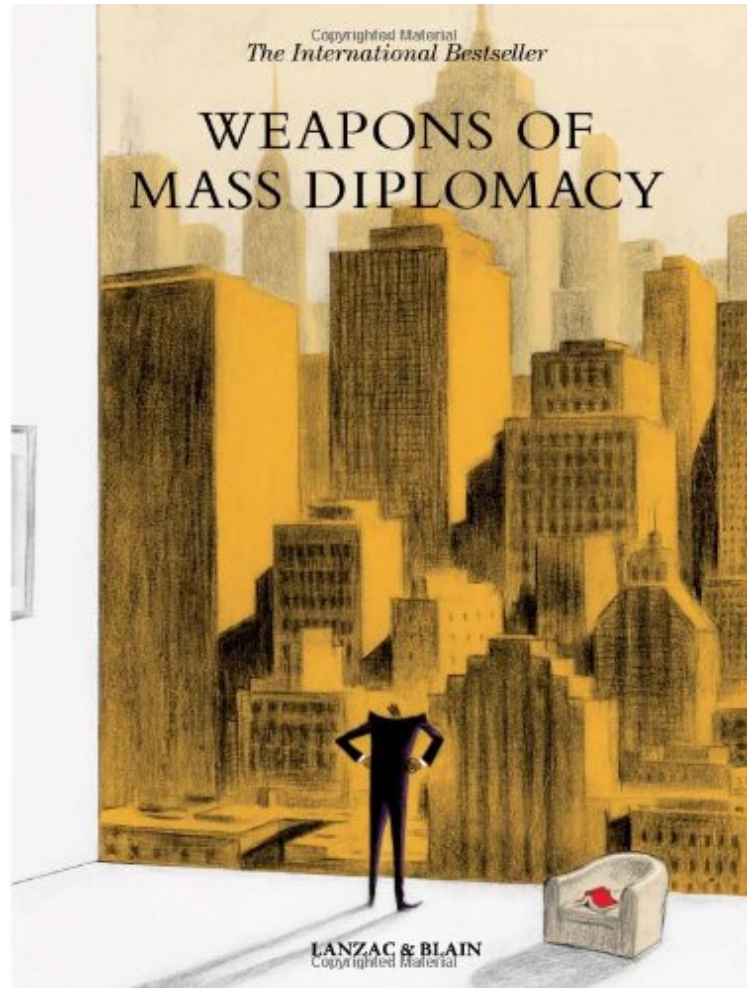


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## Weapons of Mass Diplomacy

*Abel Lanzac*

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**Abel Lanzac : Weapons of Mass Diplomacy** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weapons of Mass Diplomacy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. working for the Foreign Affairs Ministry of other country I can relate too all the mishaps that happened to poor Vlaminck. The MBy GJAPPEVer yfunny comics, working for the Foreign Affairs Ministry of other country I can relate too all the mishaps that happened to poor Vlaminck. The Minister himself is to die for, the best satirical portrait of the political appointees that "grace" the bureaucracy with their intelligence.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BeautifulBy AlexChristophe Blain is one of my most favorite comic book artists. Gus was my first introduction to his work, and it was love in first sight. Weapons of Mass Diplomacy is just fantastic. I hope that more books by him will be translated to English soon.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining and depressing in equal measureBy AthanSo I messed up. A friend said I

absolutely HAD to read this book and I ordered it without realising it's translated from the French. So I read it in translation. It was awesome regardless. It's a fly-on-the-wall account of the goings on in the French foreign ministry around the time leading up to the second Gulf War, the fly being the minister's speechwriter. I'm reasonably confident that a lot of the stuff is verbatim. The sundry advisors and hangers-on, the minister's dad who wonders in uninvited, the inside jokes about NATO, how the minister went apoplectic when he had to fly with the Falcon rather than the Airbus, it's all far too good to be made up. And of course the main idea is that France basically stumbled into its principled opposition to the war. Maybe that bit is a bit overdone, but we'll never know. Even in translation, though, this is a comic book that had me rolling on the floor in laughter. Now I'll wrap it up and mail it to my friend Nicos who used to be the speechwriter for the Greek finance minister. I bet he gets some serious *deja vu*.

Following 9/11, President Bush's "War on Terror" with plans to invade Iraq erupted into a cultural clash between French reluctance and American assurance over the case for "Weapons of Mass Destruction." In *Weapons of Mass Diplomacy*, diplomat Abel Lanzac reveals the tension and politics through a French insider's point of view, with satirical humor that softens the controversial subject matter. Readers follow Lanzac's fictionalized self, Arthur Vlamincq, a speechwriter for the French Foreign Minister. As part of a team of flamboyant ministerial advisors, he has been tasked with drafting France's response to the growing international crisis in the Middle East, which is then delivered before the United Nations Security Council. A graphic milestone of diplomacy, *Weapons of Mass Diplomacy*—a bestseller in Europe—provides a revelatory account of a period that saw French fries become "freedom fries" and an alternative perspective on the decisions leading up to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

"Were I in the front row of the White House press briefing room, I would ask spokesman Jay Carney one question above all others: 'Have you read *Weapons of Mass Diplomacy*, and if not, why not?' It's that good—insightful, like a tall mirror reflecting truth, hung in the halls of power."