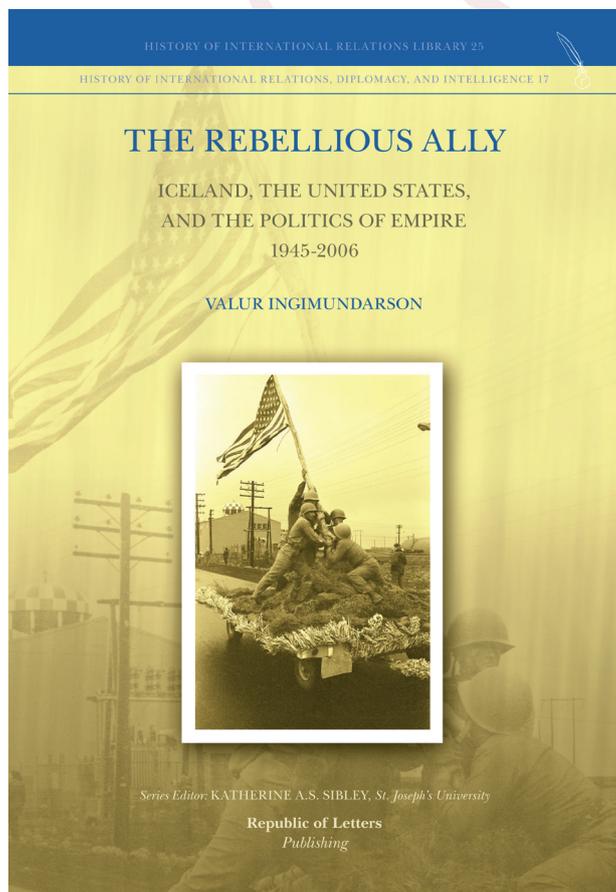


The Rebellious Ally

Iceland, the United States, and the Politics of Empire 1945-2006

Valur Ingimundarson



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This book explores U.S-Icelandic relations, 1945-2006. It explains how Iceland became one of the most strategically important countries for the United States in the Cold War and details the efforts of the “American Empire” to maintain Iceland as a loyal partner. It assesses resistance to U.S. interests in Iceland – resistance that led to crises in NATO, especially when they became tied up in the “Cod Wars” with Britain. It also analyzes attempts to minimize the impact of the American presence by closing off the U.S. base in Iceland, clamping down on fraternization between U.S. soldiers and Icelandic women and by insisting on a ban on the stationing of black troops. Finally, it explains the disintegration of the bilateral relationship in the post-Cold War period, resulting in the withdrawal of U.S. forces, and assesses the development of Icelandic foreign and security policy in a post-American setting. Peer-reviewed by academic specialists in the field, this book, which is based on rich archival material, seeks to fill a gap in the scholarly literature through its focus on the key role of Iceland in U.S. Cold War strategy.

Valur Ingimundarson, Ph.D. (1993) in History from Columbia University in New York, is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Iceland. He has published extensively on U.S.-European relations and Icelandic foreign and security policy, including *Reconfiguring Iceland's Security and Foreign Policy* (Icelandic Literary Society, 2008).

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