

An Amazon review of LAND ACROSS I found interesting

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 16 Jan 2015

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David Stockhoff — 16 Jan 2015, 02:05

On 12/18/2014 6:05 PM, Brian Doherty wrote:

Now, i do not think this interpretation is necessarily Wolfe's intent, indeed likely not, but it IS intriguing and is one of the few I've seen that IF true make the novel's confusions and misdirections actually in service of an interesting and complicated theme. (Again, I don't think the novel as I understood it says anything interesting about "totalitarianism" or conspiracy or govt paranoia write large....)

The review:

"This book is about post-Communist Eastern Europe and the post Cold War world. Today, the elite of the old system are the elite of the new system, in business and politics. Vladimir Putin, after all, was the top KGB official in East Germany. Grafton is coopted into this system, and he is a thug. Told from the first person unreliable narrator position, Grafton, not surprisingly, does not assume that he is a thug; the reader is left to draw his or her own conclusions. Grafton has a security background in the US, and indeed, the Cold War national security establishment continues its elite ways in the US, as the recent revelations of Snowden again highlight. I spent 15 years working in Bulgaria, and the old Communist security and political elite continue to dominate the scene, and now they partner with the US in the various overt and covert endeavors of US agencies and actors. (Note: Wolfe lives outside of Chicago, the capital of Eastern Europe in the Western Hemisphere). Grafton fits well in this world, beating up a bar owner on command by his monitor/colleague/mentor/lover, Nala, for not delivering their supper. Instead of imaginary devilish enemies like the capitalist imperialists or godless Communists, the new comic book enemy are the Satanists (Islamists? whatever), who Nala and Grafton the old system, accompanied by the ghost of the old Leader (Ceauescu? Zhivkov?) utterly smash! Welcome to the New World Order, and if you play your cards right, maybe you can hitch along for the ride!"

Brian Doherty

I think this review is dead on.