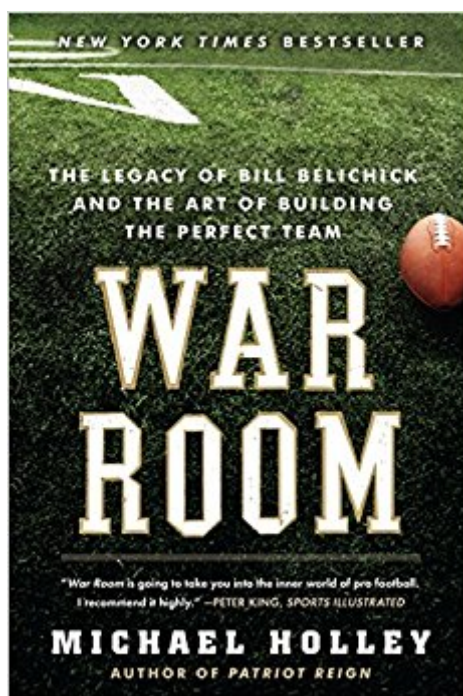


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# War Room: The Legacy Of Bill Belichick And The Art Of Building The Perfect Team



## Synopsis

Bill Belichick is one of the titans of today's game of football. Now, sports commentator and bestselling author Michael Holley follows three NFL teams—the New England Patriots, Kansas City Chiefs, and Atlanta Falcons—from training camp 2010 through the Super Bowl and into the April draft, opening a new window into Belichick's influence on the game. This one-of-a-kind exploration takes football fans behind the scenes of the most popular sport in America, with unprecedented insider access to the head coaches, scouts, trainers, and players who make the game what it is—including new insights from Bill Parcells, Todd and Dick Haley, and Belichick himself. For true fans of the game, and for readers of *Badasses*, *Patriot Reign*, and *Boys Will Be Boys*, Holley's *War Room* is not to be missed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A deeply reported, thoroughly engaging look at what it takes to succeed in the NFL.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) Crisply written, the story moves along like a two-minute drill. It also sparkles with interesting anecdotes and tidbits. *WAR ROOM* is a lively, fast-paced insider's account that will please ardent and casual fans alike.” (Boston Globe) “*WAR ROOM* is going to take you into the inner world of pro football. I recommend it highly.” (Peter King, Sports Illustrated) “The ultimate book for pro football geeks.” (Publishers Weekly) “Fans will want to read how Belichick transformed the once-lackluster Patriots into the most successful franchise of the past decade, which Holley explains in an engaging chronological narrative.” (Booklist)

In War Room, New York Times bestselling author Michael Holley gives readers an unprecedented look behind the scenes at three contending National Football League teamsâfrom the draft room to the locker room to the sidelinesâand grants access to the brilliant minds of Bill Belichick and his former protégés, Thomas Dimitroff and Scott Pioli. In 1991, while he was with the Cleveland Browns football organization, Belichick was struck by the Big Idea: how to build the perfect team, one draft pick and one trade at a time. This strategy obsessed him, leading him on a remarkable personal and professional journey filled with miraculous finishes, heartbreaking losses, shattered relationships . . . and ultimately three Super Bowl championships. In Massachusetts, Belichick reunited with two former office employees from the Ohio daysâPioli, a low-paid scouting assistant, and Dimitroff, a groundskeeper and part-time scoutâand together they refined and burnished Belichick's method for constructing a winning team. The end result was one of the greatest franchises in modern NFL history: the New England Patriots. Packed with never-before-told anecdotes and insights from team officials, players, coaches, and scouts, War Room is a fascinating, often astonishing story of grit and genius, and the art of building a championship team.

If you want some casual reading about Thomas Dimitroff and Scott Pioli then you might like this book more than I did. With a title like War Room I was expecting and hoping for a lot more info on the draft grading process (which Holley only touches on occasionally), more of the war room dealings (which there is one good chapter on, solely on the 2010 draft), and more behind the scenes stories about the trades, picks, and conflicts, especially the stuff that coulda/shoulda been done (there's a little in this book but not enough). I guess what this book is supposed to be is the personnel that worked for Belichick who have moved on to other teams and what they have done within the last few years following the 2001-2007 teams, unfortunately, there isn't enough meat on the bone for this info hungry Pats fan. PS, a message to Holley... you have had the misfortune in timing that all 3 of your Patriot related books have come the season before a Super Bowl appearance. I would love for you to update all 3 of these books with the insight of the next season and Super Bowl appearance and also update the entire book with additional info you may have heard since.

Patriot Reign was a very informative reflection of what Belichick accomplished in his career. "War Room" is just the footnotes to that book. This book doesn't provide any new insights, certainly offers nothing in terms of their draft / free agency philosophy or strategy. The writing narrative jostles the reader from personal story to event chronicling that you never get a chance to become ensconced

in the material. Really disappointed

I didn't think I would like a book about Bill Belichick, his NFL disciples, and the system for building winning NFL organizations that they developed. However, I found this book difficult to get away from. I'm a big fan of the NFL draft and picked this up after it was recommended by one of the many NFL Draft podcasts that I listen to. It doesn't have a lot of in depth analysis about how scouts analyze players, but it does have a lot about NFL scouts. This book does a great job detailing how things work in the "War Room" on draft day as well as how teams deal with free agents. There is also exposure, largely through the Patriots, of how team locker rooms worked and how winning football teams conducted themselves. If you are a fan of the Patriots, Falcons, and Chiefs from the past dozen years, you'll probably really like this book. I'm not a fan of those teams, and I still found it very enjoyable.

Overall, it's a book worth reading, but it spends far too many pages on the uninteresting personal lives of Dimitroff and Pioli. This suggests lazy writing by Michael Holley, who seems to fill pages with random info about their kids and eating habits, probably because they were the most open to interviews etc. The book definitely gives you an in depth look at the hierarchy of scouts, player personnel directors and GMs, but it tends to gloss over the Patriots stuff too quickly. In the end, it's worth borrowing from a friend, or renting from a library, but don't buy it new, it's not a book you'll be dying to re-read any time soon.

I picked this book on sale via BookGorilla. It's a little dated but still gives you a really great back story of Belichick's coaching background, particularly his tenure in Cleveland. As a Jet fan, I still rue the day he resigned as Jet HC and left for New England. However, I think he's not only one of the most innovative coaches in NFL history but I also love the way he builds his teams. He manages, like Ozzie Newsome in Baltimore to manage the salary cap while keeping the team well stocked with talent. I didn't realize how integral Scott Pioli was to building those great Patriot teams and how much influence he really had. Neither did I know that Belichick gave future Falcons GM Thomas Dimitroff his start. While Belichick's cold blooded business side is well known - I don't think his loyalty and mentoring to his proteges is as apparent. This was a really good read. I read it over a weekend, not wanting to put it down. As I neared the end - it was with some disappointment that the story was coming to its end. I highly recommend this book.

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