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valentin m berezhkov was an important part of josef stalin's inner circle where he found himself at center stage of international diplomacy in his capacity as interpreter for both stalin and molotov he was present when the fateful meeting leading to the munich pact took place when hitler negotiated the nonaggression agreement with molotov when germany declared war on russia at the historic meeting where the allies formed a united front against the axis and at the 1943 teheran conference like a fly on the wall he observed everything including stalin's fear of hitler when berezhkov met with the german leader the latter was so taken aback with his perfect use of the german language that

he refused to believe the interpreter was a russian native berezhkov may be one of the last survivors of the events that shaped the destiny of russia and the world he personally observed how the major leaders of this century related to each other and the circumstances in which they found themselves book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

explanatory note glossary the team emerges the great break in power the team on view the great purges into war postwar hopes aging leader without stalin end of the road biographies

the remarkable untold story of franklin d roosevelt and the five extraordinary men he used to pull america into world war ii in the dark days between hitler s invasion of poland in september 1939 and japan s attack on pearl harbor in december 1941 franklin d roosevelt sent five remarkable men on dramatic and dangerous missions to europe the missions were highly unorthodox and they confounded and infuriated diplomats on both sides of the atlantic their importance is little understood to this day in fact they were crucial to the course of the second world war the envoys were magnificent unforgettable characters first off the mark was sumner welles the chilly patrician under secretary of state later ruined by his sexual misdemeanors who was dispatched by fdr on a tour of european capitals in the spring of 1940 in summer of that year after the fall of france william wild bill donovan war hero and future spymaster visited a lonely united kingdom at the president s behest to determine whether she could hold out against the nazis donovan s report helped convince fdr that britain was worth backing after he won an unprecedented third term in november 1940 roosevelt threw a lifeline to the united kingdom in the form of lend lease and dispatched three men to help secure it harry hopkins the frail social worker and presidential confidant was sent to explain lend lease to winston churchill averell harriman a handsome ambitious railroad heir served as fdr s man in london expediting lend lease aid and romancing churchill s daughter in law roosevelt even put to work his rumpled charismatic opponent in the 1940 presidential election wendell willkie whose visit lifted british morale and won wary americans over to the cause finally in the aftermath of germany s invasion of the soviet union hopkins returned to london to confer with churchill and traveled to moscow to meet with joseph stalin this final mission gave roosevelt the confidence to bet on the soviet union the envoys missions took them into the middle of the war and exposed them to the leading figures of the age taken together they plot the arc of america s transformation from a divided and hesitant middle power into the global leader at the center of everything of course was fdr himself who moved his envoys around the globe with skill and élan we often think of harry s truman george marshall dean acheson and george f kennan as the authors of america s

global primacy in the second half of the twentieth century but all their achievements were enabled by the earlier work of roosevelt and his representatives who took the united states into the war and by defeating domestic isolationists and foreign enemies into the world in these two years america turned fdr and his envoys were responsible for the turn drawing on vast archival research rendezvous with destiny is narrative history at its most delightful stirring and important

in absolute war acclaimed historian and journalist chris bellamy crafts the first full account since the fall of the soviet union of world war ii s battle on the eastern front one of the deadliest conflicts in history the conflict on the eastern front fought between the soviet union and nazi germany between 1941 and 1945 was the greatest most costly and most brutal conflict on land in human history it was arguably the single most decisive factor of the war and shaped the postwar world as we know it in this magisterial work bellamy outlines the lead up to the war in which the fragile alliance between the two dictators was unceremoniously broken and examines its far reaching consequences arguing that the cost of victory was ultimately too much for the soviet union to bear with breadth of scope and a surfeit of new information this is the definitive history of a conflict whose reverberations are still felt today

a masterly review of the early pahses of the conflict between the united states russia china and their respective allies from 1946 to the cuban missle crisis in the autumn of 1962 it is clear thorough and judicious in short magnificent the economist gaddis has done a thorough job of collating material from these diverse sources and constructing a trenchant analysis that puts these fascinating tidbits into context san francisco chronicle examiner based on the latest findings of cold war historians and extensive research in american archives as well as the recently opened archives in eastern europe the former soviet union and china we now know provides a vividly written eye opening account of the cold war during the years from the end of world war ii to the cuban missle crisis the book brims with new information drawn from previously unavailable sources with fresh insight into the impact of ideology economics and nuclear weapons and with striking reinterpretations of the roles of truman eisenhower kennedy khrushchev mao and stalin indeed gaddis concludes that if there was one factor that made the cold war unavoidable it was stalin

beyond the battles themselves glantz also presents an in depth portrait of the red army as an evolving military institution assessing more clearly than ever before the army s size strength and force structure he provides keen insights into its doctrine strategy tactics weaponry training officer corps and political leadership in the process be

puts a human face on the red army s commanders and soldiers including women and those who served in units security nkvd engineer railroad auto transport construction and penal forces that have till now remained poorly understood book jacket

an animated adaptation of the story of the same title by maurice sendak in which a small boy makes a visit to the land of the wild things tells how he tames the creatures and returns home for primary grades

this masterful narrative written by elie abel and based on overall harriman s personal recollections as well as his voluminous and revealing private papers re creates and explains the climate in which many of the most important strategic and political decisions were made during world war ii and casts new light on the motivations and personalities of the leaders who made them inside jacket cover

a detailed study of the operations politics culture and autonomy of soviet partisans or guerrillas who fought the german army in wwii blending military political social and cultural history slepyan also provides a prism for viewing relations between the suffocating stalinist state and its independent partisan warriors

a biography of the soviet dictator and the men and women who surrounded him focuses on the foundation of human psychological and physical supports that encouraged him through the early days of communism world war ii and the great terror

following his great trilogy of biographies of the giants who dominated the history of the soviet union stalin 1991 lenin 1994 and trotsky 1996 dmitri volkogonov delves deeper into the soviet archives to produce new character evaluations and political assessments of the seven leaders who ruled the soviet union from 1917 to 1991 a former general in the soviet army s propaganda department director of the institute for military history and defence adviser to president yeltsin from 1991 to his death from cancer in december 1995 dmitri volkogonov had unrivalled access to soviet military archives communist party documents and secret presidential files basing his new book on these inside sources he has continued his pioneering work of revealing the truth behind the activities of the world s most secretive political leaders he throws new light on lenin s paranoia about foreigners in russia his creation of a privileged system for top party members stalin s repression of the nationalities and his singular conduct of foreign policy the origins and

conduct of the korean war khrushchev's relationship with the odious secret service chief beria brezhnev's vanity and stupidity the afghan war poland and solidarity soviet bureaucracy gorbachev's leninism and role in history

examines the united states efforts to create and project a strong counterintelligence capability both at home and abroad during the 1930s several federal agencies governmental departments and military divisions vied for that role before it was eventually handed to the fbi the author a former fbi agent chronicles the evolution achievements and failure of that effort

as engaging as it is astonishing this book provides extremely important revelations and striking pen portraits etched in acid of the main actors certainly the sources are fabulous john erickson author of the road to stalingrad a well written account filled with original material and documentation good reading for anyone interested in the history of wwii intelligence publishers weekly starred review

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