

The Awakening Of The Soviet Union

The Rise and Fall of the Soviet UnionA History of the Soviet UnionA History of the Soviet UnionThe Soviet UnionA History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the EndThe Dream that FailedThe Soviet ColossusThe Rise and Fall of the Soviet UnionThe Formation and Dissolution of the Soviet UnionRussia, a History of the Soviet PeriodThe First Socialist SocietyThe Shortest History of the Soviet UnionAge of DeliriumThe Soviet UnionThe Soviet UnionThe Rise and Fall of the Soviet EmpireThe Collapse of the Soviet UnionHistory of the Soviet UnionThe Rise and Fall of the Soviet UnionThe Making and Breaking of the Soviet System Martin Mccauley Geoffrey A. Hosking David MacKenzie Mark Edele Peter Kenez Walter Laqueur Michael Kort Richard Sakwa Budd Bailey Woodford McClellan Geoffrey A. Hosking Sheila Fitzpatrick David Satter Charles River Editors Stephen Lovell Stephen Dalziel Susan Muaddi Darraj Geoffrey Hosking Laurie Stoff Christopher Read

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an expert in probing mafia type relationships in present day russia martin mccauley here offers a vigorously written scrutiny of soviet politics and society since the days of lenin and stalin john keep professor emeritus university of toronto the birth of the soviet union surprised many its demise amazed the whole world how did imperial russia give way to the soviet union in 1917 and why did the ussr collapse so quickly in 1991 marxism promised paradise on earth but the communist party never had true power instead allowing lenin and stalin to become dictators who ruled in its name the failure of the planned economy to live up to expectations led to a boom in the unplanned economy in particular the black market in turn this led to the growth of organised crime and corruption within the government the rise and fall of the soviet union examines the strengths weaknesses and contradictions of the first marxist state and reassesses the role of power authority and legitimacy in soviet politics including first person accounts anecdotes illustrations and diagrams to illustrate key concepts mccauley provides a seminal history of twentieth century russia

the book provides sound and detailed information on political and diplomatic history as well as on economic social intellectual and cultural history the second edition includes more material on minority peoples and continues the full coverage of women this volume will be the most current and concise of the soviet history texts available

an acclaimed historian explores the dynamic history of the twentieth century soviet union in

ten concise and compelling chapters the soviet union covers the entire soviet union experience from the years 1904 to 1991 by putting the focus on three major themes warfare welfare and empire throughout the book mark edele a noted expert on the topic clearly demonstrates that the soviet union was more than simply russia instead it was a multi ethnic empire the author explains that there were many incarnations of soviet society throughout its turbulent history each one a representative of soviet socialism the text covers a wide range of topics the end romanov empire the outbreak of world war i the bolshevik revolution of 1917 the breakdown of the old empire and its re constitution in the civil war the new economic policy the rise of stalin the soviet s role in world war ii post war normalization and gorbachev s attempt to end the cold war the author also explores the challenges encountered by the successor states their struggles with and against democracy capitalism authoritarianism and war this vital resource provides a concise overview of the history of the soviet union includes information on the latest research that takes the broad view of the history of the soviet union and its place in world history treats scholarly disagreements as part of the history of the influence of the soviet union on the course of the twentieth century offers suggestion for further readings and a link to online primary sources written for students of twentieth century russia the russian revolution the soviet union and the cold war and twentieth century world history the soviet union a short history is a volume in the popular wiley short histories series

peter kenez s history of the soviet union from the beginning to the end examines not only political change but also social and cultural developments the book identifies the social tensions and political inconsistencies that spurred radical change in the government of russia beginning at the turn of the century and culminating in the revolution of 1917 kenez envisions that revolution as a crisis of authority that posed the question who shall govern russia this question was resolved with the creation of the soviet union kenez traces the development of the soviet union from the revolution through the 1920s the years of the new economic policies which he sees as crucial to any interpretation of the history of the soviet union and into the stalinist order he shows how post stalin soviet leaders struggled to find ways to rule the country without using stalin s methods but also without openly repudiating the past and to negotiate a peaceful but antipathetic coexistence with the capitalist west

walter laqueur as been hailed as one of our most distinguished scholars of modern european history in the new york times book review robert byrnes writing in the journal of modern history called him one of the most remarkable men in the western world working in the field over a span of three decades in books ranging from russia and germany to the recent black hundred he has won a reputation as a major writer and a provocative thinker now he turns his attention to the greatest enigma of our time the rise and fall of the soviet union in the dream that failed laqueur offers an authoritative assessment of the soviet era from the triumph of lenin to the fall of gorbachev in the last three years decades of conventional wisdom about the u s s r have been swept away while a flood of evidence from russian archives demands new thinking about old assumptions laqueur rises to the challenge with a critical inquiry conducted on a grand scale he shows why the bolsheviks won the struggle for power in 1917 how they captured the commitment of a young generation of russians why the idealism faded as soviet power grew how the system ultimately collapsed and why western experts have been so wrong about the communist state always thoughtful and incisive laqueur reflects on the early enthusiasm of foreign observers and bolshevik revolutionaries then takes a piercing look at the totalitarian nature of the soviet union we see how communist society stagnated during the 1960s and 70s as the economy wobbled to the brink we also see how western observers from academic experts to cia analysts made wildly optimistic estimates of moscow s economic and

political strength just weeks before the u s s r disappeared from the earth scholars were confidently predicting the survival of the soviet union but in underscoring the rot and repression he also notes that the communist state did not necessarily have to fall when it did and he examines the many factors behind the collapse the pressure from reagan s star wars arms program for instance and ethnic nationalism some of these same problems he finds continue to shape the future of russia and the other successor states only now in the rubble of this lost empire are we coming to grips with just how wrong our assumptions about the u s s r had been in the dream that failed an internationally renowned historian provides a new understanding of the soviet experience from the rise of communism to its sudden fall the result of years of research and reflection it sheds fresh light on a central episode in our turbulent century

recounts the factors shaping the history of the ussr to the present

discusses the history of the soviet union from the revolution of 1917 through the lenin and stalin eras and the rule of such leaders as khrushchev brezhnev and gorbachev up to the formal dissolution of the soviet union in 1991

the formation and dissolution of the soviet union impacted the entire world the soviet union was guided by the principles of communism conflict emerged between the soviet union and capitalist countries namely the united states and those in western europe eventually the soviet union dissolved in 1991 as a result of a declaration that recognized the independence of the former soviet republics this book examines how the history geography and culture of the region impacted the formation and dissolution of the soviet union

the first socialist society is the compelling and often tragic history of what soviet citizens have lived through from 1917 to the present told with great sympathy and perception it ranges over the changing lives of peasants urban workers and professionals the interaction of soviet autocrats with the people the character and role of religion law education and literature within soviet society and the significance and fate of various national groups as the story unfolds we come to understand how the ideas of marxism have been changed taking on almost unrecognizable forms by unique political and economic circumstances hosking s analysis of this vast and complex country begins by asking how it was that the first socialist revolution took place in backward autocratic russia why were the bolsheviks able to seize power and hold on to it the core of the book lies in the years of stalin s rule how did he exercise such unlimited power and how did the various strata of society survive and come to terms with his tyranny the later chapters recount khrushchev s efforts to reform the worst features of stalinism and the unpredictable effects of his attempts within the east european satellite countries bringing out elements of socialism that had been obscured or overlaid in the soviet union itself and in the aftermath of the long brezhnev years of stagnation and corruption the question is posed can soviet society find a way to modify the rigidities inherited from the stalinist past

in 1917 bolshevik revolutionaries came to power in the war torn russian empire in a way that defied all predictions including their own scarcely a lifespan later in 1991 the soviet union collapsed as accidentally as it arose the decades between witnessed drama on an epic scale the chaos and hope of revolution famines and purges hard won victory in history s most destructive war and worldwide geopolitical conflict all entwined around the dream of building a better society this book is a lively and authoritative distillation of this complex history told with vivid details a grand sweep and wry wit the acclaimed historian sheila fitzpatrick chronicles the soviet age its rise reign and unexpected fall as well as its afterlife in today s

russia she underscores the many ironies of the soviet experience an ideology that claimed to offer humanity the reins of history wrangled with contingency an avowedly internationalist and anti imperialist state birthed an array of nationalisms and a vision of transcending economic and social inequality and injustice gave rise to a country that was in its way surprisingly normal moving seamlessly from lenin to stalin to gorbachev to putin the shortest history of the soviet union provides an indispensable guide to one of the twentieth century s great powers and the enduring fascination it still exerts

feared and respected as one of the world s two great superpowers the soviet union throughout the final twenty years of its life was a model of state organized delusion as david satter shows in powerful detail the leaders of the kremlin found that when their carefully constricted facade fell apart in the late 1980s there was nothing to prop up the crumbling ruins satter s book demonstrates compellingly how the soviet people were forced to live a gigantic lie during nearly two decades of reporting for the financial times and reader s digest he interviewed soviet citizens all across the vast country not just the dissidents and party apparatchiks in moscow but ordinary men and women traveling with him from coal mines and farms to bureaucratic reception halls to the nightmarish wards of punitive psychiatric hospitals to railroad stations where victims of the communist system set up camp the reader witnesses how an entire state was constituted on the basis of a fraudulent version of reality in the soviet union lying at the grocery and the factory as well as the government office was universal and obligatory and westerners were seldom able to penetrate the perplexing mosaic of wishful thinking and denial that camouflaged a brutal regime

includes pictures includes a bibliography for further reading for 30 years much of the west looked on with disdain as the bolsheviks took power in russia and created and consolidated the soviet union as bad as vladimir lenin seemed in the early 20th century joseph stalin was so much worse that churchill later remarked of lenin their worst misfortune was his birth their next worst his death before world war ii stalin consolidated his position by frequently purging party leaders most famously leon trotsky and red army leaders executing hundreds of thousands of people at the least and in one of history s greatest textbook examples of the idea that the enemy of my enemy is my friend stalin s soviet union allied with britain and the united states to defeat hitler in europe during world war ii stalin ruled with an iron fist for nearly 30 years before his death in 1953 which may or may not have been murder just as stalin was preparing to conduct another purge with his death soviet strongman and long time stalinist nikita khrushchev 1894 1971 who had managed to stay a step ahead of stalin s purges if only because he participated in them became the soviet premier personal histrionics aside khrushchev meant business when dealing with the west especially the united states and its young president john f kennedy after sensing weakness and a lack of fortitude in kennedy khrushchev made his most audacious and ultimately costly decision by attempting to place nuclear warheads at advanced offensive bases located in cuba right off the american mainland as it turned out the cuban missile crisis would show the kennedy administration s resolve force khrushchev to back down and ultimately sow the seeds of khrushchev s fall from power by the time he died in 1971 he had been declared a non citizen of the nation he had ruled for nearly 20 years leonid brezhnev became first secretary of the communist party in the soviet union in late 1964 after a plot to oust khrushchev little is remembered in the public imagination about brezhnev in comparison to mikhail gorbachev vladimir lenin or joseph stalin despite the fact brezhnev ruled the ussr from 1964 1982 longer than any soviet leader other than stalin in fact he held power during a tumultuous era that changed the world in remarkable ways and that era has been favorably remembered by many former soviet

citizens it marked a period of relative calm and even prosperity after the destruction of world war ii and the tensions brought about by khrushchev foremost amongst brezhnev's achievements would be the détente period in the early 1970s when the soviets and americans came to a number of agreements that reduced cold war pressures and the alarming threat of nuclear war mikhail gorbachev was chosen as the new general secretary at the relatively young age of 54 in march 1985 gorbachev hoped to build the soviet economy to relieve the persistent shortages of consumer goods it faced which were caused by enormous military spending of the soviet union gorbachev tried to introduce some economic reforms but they were blocked by communist hardliners gorbachev then came to the belief that the soviet economy could not improved without political reform as well in comparison with other soviet leaders gorbachev was leader of the ussr for a relatively short period but the changes that took place under his leadership were monumental including some that were intended and others that were unforeseen gorbachev oversaw the end of the cold war and the peaceful transition away from communism in central and eastern europe and he ended the war in afghanistan and many other proxy conflicts in the developing world gorbachev improved relations with the west and developed enough trust with president ronald reagan and president george h w bush to decommission thousands of nuclear weapons

almost twenty years after the soviet union's end what are we to make of its existence was it a heroic experiment an unmitigated disaster or a viable if flawed response to the modern world taking a fresh approach to the study of the soviet union this very short introduction blends political history with an investigation into the society and culture at the time stephen lovell examines aspects of patriotism political violence poverty and ideology and provides answers to some of the big questions about the soviet experience about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

an examination of the history of the soviet union from 1917 through the early 1990's

describes some of the major events in soviet history such as the rise of communism in russia the terror and expansionist policies of joseph stalin the election of mikhail gorbachev the explosion at the chernobyl nuclear reactor and much more

originally published in 1992 and now available as an ebook this edition does not include any images winner of the los angeles times book award for history

presents a collection of primary and secondary documents offering varying opinions on the soviet union

drawing on a wide range of post soviet materials christopher read examines the reasons for the successes and failures of the soviet system he argues that the underlying reasons for the system's collapse can be found in the contradictions of the revolution which gave birth to it the consequences are traced from stalin to gorbachev's doomed attempt to transform the soviet system particular attention is given to the divergence between the aspirations of the leadership and the social evolution of ordinary russians

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Introduction

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