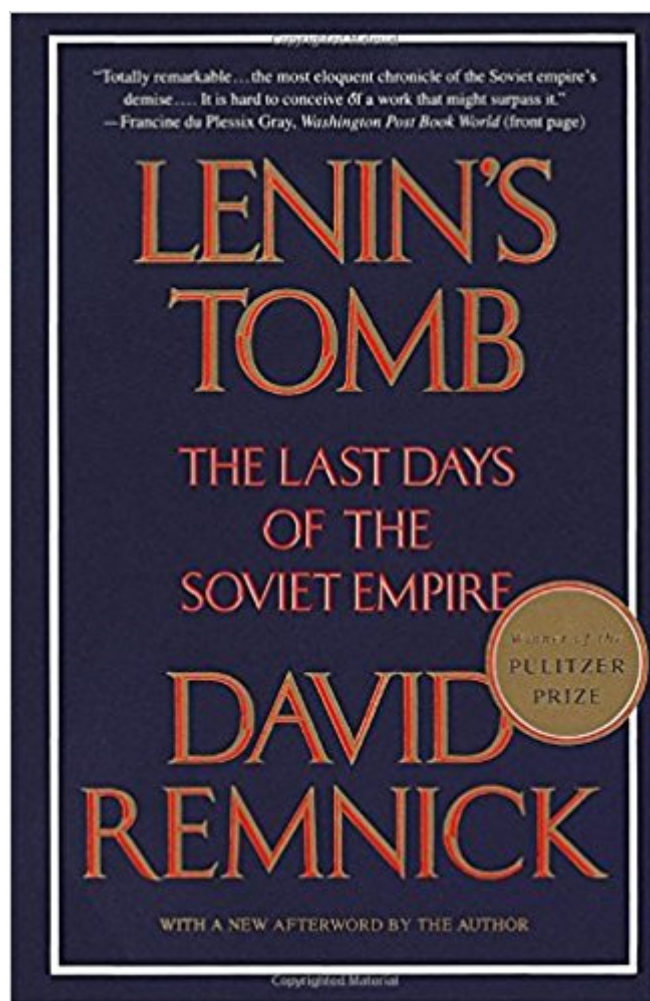


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Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days Of The Soviet Empire



Synopsis

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize One of the Best Books of the Year: The New York Times *From the editor of The New Yorker: a riveting account of the collapse of the Soviet Union, which has become the standard book on the subject. Lenin's Tomb combines the global vision of the best historical scholarship with the immediacy of eyewitness journalism. Remnick takes us through the tumultuous 75-year period of Communist rule leading up to the collapse and gives us the voices of those who lived through it, from democratic activists to Party members, from anti-Semites to Holocaust survivors, from Gorbachev to Yeltsin to Sakharov. An extraordinary history of an empire undone, Lenin's Tomb stands as essential reading for our times.*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...the most eloquent chronicle of the Soviet empire's demise." --Washington Post Book World "...an extraordinary confluence of observation, hard work, knowledge, and reflection; a better book by a journalist on the withdrawing roar of the Soviet Union is hard to imagine." --The New York Times Book Review

An outstanding account of the unravelling of the Soviet empire; with a new afterword by the author.
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This book tells the story of the struggle of Russia to reclaim its history from the tissue of lies the Communist Party packaged and sold in place of the truth. Remnick, who was an American journalist in Moscow, brings a host of information together detailing how people, at great risk to themselves, investigated the bloody facts of the history of the USSR which the Communists wanted to paint over. The slow admissions to the Katyn Massacre, the Red Terror under Lenin and the truly brutal Purges of Stalin were forced into the open and helped to discredit the Soviet regime and hastened its collapse. "Lenin's Tomb" is a book of many stories that are all well told. This book is sadly prophetic in its warning of the danger of another dictator/oligarchy taking power before a democratic Russia could be established. Enter Vladimir Putin.

David Remnick's book "Lenin's Tomb" is a gem; thorough, informative and instructive. He traveled the length and breadth of former Soviet Union countries, interviewed leaders of science, industry, trade workers, farmers, dissidents, and advocates who provided personal views of the Soviet political machine and its impact on their lives. The interviews with key political figures, journalists and ordinary citizens also provided stories of neglect and physical abuse amid those who blatantly disregarded basic human needs and others who didn't seem to care. Remnick's fascinating book contained detailed historical accounts from those who witnessed the chain-of-events of Stalinism. These person to person contacts were very moving. Stalin's brutal regime was hard and ugly. It was difficult to understand and discouraging to read comments of admiration, living under this system, rather than scores of condemnation. History enthusiasts should read this book for an in-depth knowledge of Stalinism and how it dramatized and excoriated the "soul" of its peoples and, what life was like under a despotic Communist ruler. I could not put this book down. It's readable, interesting and tells a good story; chocked full of events from people who were "drivers" of the Communist world and of those who orchestrated its demise. An extraordinary revelation of a perverted political system perpetrated upon the innocent. A very impressive book; should rank with the best. Strongly recommend. Bruce E. McLeod, Jr. Las Vegas, Nevada 11 April 2014

Despite the book's Pulitzer Prize, I'm a little ambivalent about saying this is one of the best books I have read. For sure, some of the best parts are that Remnick seemingly has open access to all the major Soviet political players while he was there. And he doesn't even brag about it. The titans of

Soviet politics seem to be open to all who want to speak with them, though Remnick's day job as the Moscow correspondent for the Washington Post certainly helped...a large part of his life in Russia then that he totally did not to write about. It's fun to follow him track down figures and weasel his way to get access to whoever he wants to talk with. He clearly is excited to be there during the transition and is personally invested in the story, as he speaks Russian and both his parents and his parents-in-laws have Russian ancestry. On the other hand, the book is a rag tag, contemporaneous collection of personal reporting and interests, lacking to some degree the broad overview that only comes with the passage of time. Doubtlessly, you get the feeling of what it was like living in the Soviet Union during the Gorbachev years and the transition to Yeltsin and the end of the Communist Party....with the addition of having Remnick magically inserting himself in front of whoever he wants to talk with to fill you in on the inside story. Enjoy it.

A highly impressive collection and analysis of a lot of information, put into a chronological format. Highly entertaining and informative. The author seems to have gotten into the weeds to gather his information, and that came across in the well-written narrative. New for me was how he removed the western veil from Gorbachev, who was neither as gentle nor as progressive as depicted in the west, though he certainly for change, Outstanding account!

The 1994 Pulitzer Prize winning "Lenin's Tomb" is a must-read for anyone interested in modern Russian history. David Remnick was a Washington Post reporter living in Moscow during the late 80's and early 90's and was thus a first-hand witness to Gorbachev's rise and fall and the final weakening of Stalin's horrific legacy. (Remnick is now a staff writer for the New Yorker). Fluent in Russian and a first rate writer and intellect, Remnick shows us a dramatic historical event unfolding as seen from the trenches and above, told through his own first person experience and densely complimented by research and interviews with leading Russian political figures and the common man alike. If you've ever wondered what life was like in totalitarian Russia under Stalin, this work unveils the gruesome details. The book reads much like a journal, with fairly brief chapters devoted to single events and perspectives and, although the story does unfold and weave together, this technique lends a slightly choppy feel to the reading at times. This is a very minor complaint, however, for a book that is grand in scope and beautifully written.

Breathtaking scope of the end of the Soviet era. Very well done by Mr. Remnick, bringing many different personalities to life, from the dyed in the wool apparatchiks to the reformers. One can't help

but see the seeds of Putinism being sown in the discord surrounding the end of the Soviet era and the beginnings of chaotic/democratic Russia in the early 90s. Very well done.

The complete story of the fall of the USSR, well-written, but perhaps a little drawn out. I lived through it, but was unaware of what actually went on inside the Soviet Union.

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