

Soviet Politics 1917 1991

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based on first hand knowledge of the soviet system since the krushchev period and research into both soviet history and contemporary politics this book provides a

stimulating analysis of the developments which brought an end to communist party rule and the breakup of the ussr

covering the major contours of any russian politics course and comprehensive enough to serve as a core text this new reader includes sections from the soviet political system and its collapse to the debate about post communist transition and efforts toward political and economic reform a former journalist who worked in russia ostrow s substantial headnotes blend needed background with insights from his experience to create a nuanced treatment of russian politics

soviet politics in perspective is a new edition of richard sakwas successful textbook soviet politics an introduction thoroughly revised and updated it builds on the previous editions comprehensive and accessible exploration of the soviet system from its rise in 1919 to its collapse in 1991 the book is divided into five parts which focus on key aspects of soviet politics they are historical perspectives beginning with the tsarist regime on the eve of revolution the rise and development of stalinism through to the decline of the regime under brezhnev and his successors and gorbachev s attempts to revive the system institutions of government such as the communist party security apparatus the military the justice system local government and participation theoretical approaches to soviet politics including class and gender politics the role of ideology and the shift from dissent to pluralism key policy areas the command economy and reform nationality politics and foreign and defence policy an evaluation of soviet rule and reasons for its collapse providing key texts and bibliographies this book offers the complete history and politics of the soviet period in a single volume it will be indispensable to students of soviet and post soviet politics as well as the interested general reader

our understanding of the dynamics of communist systems was substantially improved by taking political culture into account but how much does the concept of political culture add to our empirical understanding of post communist russia the book s contributors engage with theoretical debates between political culture and competing rational choice and institutionalist approaches to post soviet politics and provide illustrative empirical studies of civic participation views of national identity the russian criminal justice system and political violence

from the formation of the russian state in the 14th century to the political power struggles

of the 1990s and the uncertainties of the new millennium this new history offers a fresh and systematic account of russian history across six tumultuous centuries with greater access to previously unobtainable material and with the gradual depoliticization of what was once an intellectual cold war battleground historians are now able to tell the story of russia more dispassionately and with greater precision than was formerly possible drawing on the best contemporary scholarship and informed throughout by the latest archival research into previously classified sources thirteen international experts here reassess and reinterpret the history of one of the world's great powers what emerges is a powerful sense of national destiny of repeated themes unchanging conditions and cycles of circumstance throughout russian history all powerful autocrats like ivan the terrible or stalin have maintained their authority through brutality but their omnipotence was always under threat circumscribed by geography compromised by bureaucratic incompetence pervasive corruption and resistance from below a curious combination a veneer of omnipotence a void of operational power has periodically dissolved into times of trouble as in 1598 1917 and 1991 when the impotence of the regime became transparent to all russian rulers have also had to contend with the same immense physical challenges a hugely dispersed population a perennial dearth of means and men to govern a primitive infrastructure plagued by natural disasters hamstrung by structural problems the russian economy whether pre revolutionary capitalist soviet socialist or post soviet semi capitalist has had enormous and disruptive difficulties adapting to the competitive world of international markets another immutable elemental fact has been russia's multinational composition which continues to generate discontent and disorder yet russia is a great survivor as the years from 1995 show characterized by economic recovery institution building and a new mood of self assertion in world politics for too long russian history has been dominated by myths and counter myths concocted by those seeking either to legitimize the existing order or to destroy it this book containing many little known illustrations represents an important attempt to rethink russian history and to provide a new understanding of russia's complex but ever fascinating historical development a compelling story in its own right it is also essential reading for anyone with a private or professional interest in russia and its place in the world

by turns radical uncertain ambitious and autocratic mikhaïl gorbachev and his bid to reform the soviet union have shaped the contemporary world this concise and lively book provides an introduction to the man and his times setting them in the context of a

decaying and ramshackle empire and an ideology long since betrayed by its professed followers drawing on the latest memoirs and scholarship this book follows gorbachev's increasingly desperate attempts to control the forces he unleashed and hold together a state whose days were over

through sources and documents the rise and fall of the soviet union by richard sakwa places the soviet experience in historical and comparative context the author introduces each source in this volume fully and provides commentary and analysis using eye witness accounts official documents and new materials which have just come to light richard sakwa gives an historical overview of the soviet union from the revolution of 1906 to the fall of the regime

this book integrates soviet and post soviet russian history into a coherent whole by focusing on the culture role models habits and behavior patterns that provide continuity between various political regimes systems and rulers from vladimir lenin to vladimir putin the unifying theme of all these periods is the central question of identity how the russians have defined themselves their country and their values why did the bolsheviks try to erase any trace of old russia and with what did they try to replace it why did stalin wipe out the kulaks and the old bolsheviks what were the political consequences of the great patriotic war on the russians as people when post stalin russia slowly weakened and gave way to the humanism and westernization that led to the collapse of the soviet system why did the 1990s generate a resurgence of anti western nationalism and how to explain the slow and steady break with the west under president putin this will be a core textbook for undergraduate and graduate students of russian and european history and a valuable text for all those interested in how the russian past influenced and shaped current politics and in the international east west divide in particular for youtube discussions of the book see youtube com watch v lvg1g1cax k youtube com watch v 0w3v6nb3h18 t 3s

this comprehensive five volume set contains readable essays that describe and interpret the most important global events since the european renaissance some accompanied by related document excerpts and primary source materials what were the effects of the age of exploration on today's ethnic groups and social structure how did the development of moveable type pave the way for facebook and twitter why is the reformation so critical for understanding today's religious controversies this set will help

readers answer these questions by exploring the most significant historical events of the modern world this five volume set covers times from the renaissance to the present each volume focuses on a specific historic period and examines 12 events within those time frames that changed the world each entry provides an introduction that lays out factual material in a chronological manner an in depth essay interpreting the event s significance and an annotated bibliography of the most important current works on the topic select entries are followed by primary sources pertaining to the event under consideration such as diary entries targeted to both general readers as well as entry level university students this book also directly supports high school and undergraduate curricula allowing students to identify and contextualize events in order to think critically about their causes aftermath and legacy

fifteen countries have emerged from the collapse of the soviet union freedom s ordeal recounts the struggles of these newly independent nations to achieve freedom and to establish support for fundamental human rights although history has shown that states emerging from collapsed empires rarely achieve full democracy in their first try peter juviler analyzes these successor states as crucial and not always unpromising tests of democracy s viability in postcommunist countries taking into account the particularly difficult legacies of soviet communism freedom s ordeal is distinguished by its careful tracing of the historical background with special attention to human rights before during and after communism juviler suggests that the culture and practices of despotism may wither wherever modernization conflicts with tyranny and with the curtailment or denial of democratic rights and freedoms

the rise and fall of the soviet empire describes and explains the creation maintenance and eventual demise of the soviet regime across post 1945 eastern europe balancing internal factors such as resilient nationalism against external factors such as america s acceleration of the arms race raymond pearson sets the so called soviet empire within the broader context of global imperialism and decolonisation full coverage is also given to the dramatic episodes of eastern europe dissent and the chequered career of the ostensibly monolithic soviet empire this revised and updated second edition features an expanded final chapter on the last empire assessing not only its patent strengths and hidden weaknesses but also its much publicised vices and rarely acknowledged virtues new documentation that has only become available in the last five years has been incorporated to provide a fuller retrospective historical judgement on the soviet regime

across eastern europe

the falungong movement originated in 1992 as a system of breathing exercises designed to promote health and well being riding on the coattails of the qigong fever that swept through china it attracted an extensive following until 1994 when the chinese government suppressed the qigong movement a series of protest rallies by falungong organizations against local government repression set in motion an upward conflict spiral that culminated in the siege of the party headquarters in beijing on april 25 1999 by more than 20 000 falungong practitioners revenge of the forbidden city begins with the shock of the politburo against such insolent defiance resolving to retaliate against the falungong a retaliation that represented the most serious political incident since the tiananmen upheaval in 1989 james w tong reveals how the chinese government s relentless sustained repression of the falungong movement typifies its response towards perceived internal threats though many claim that the democratic reforms in china have eroded the government s ability to monitor and control its citizens the success of the campaign to eradicate falungong indicates otherwise the government effectively implemented a multifaceted offensive involving unsparing suppression pervasive propaganda and coercive conversion the successful execution of this complex campaign reveals the resilience of china s authoritarian institutions using empirical evidence and thorough analysis tong reveals the chinese state s formidable ability to crush dissent and provides a cogent rebuttal to those who claim that the communist government is on the verge of collapse the definitive account of china s response to falungong revenge of the forbidden city is essential for any scholar interested in how the chinese state actually operates

mastering twentieth century russian history presents a vivid and informative account of the events which befell the russian people during the course of the twentieth century explores the major developments of the last century from the revolution of 1905 to the first and second world wars to the cold war and the rise and fall of the ussr examines key figures and their actions from nicholas ii lenin trotsky stalin khrushchev brezhnev gorbachev and yeltsin to putin deals with events right up to 2000 enabling the soviet experiment to be placed in context a decade after its collapse incorporates the latest research from british american and russian historians examining key controversies and debates includes primary source material maps photographs posters and a full chronology of events this text is the ideal companion for anyone seeking a clear yet

detailed introduction to the fascinating events of twentieth century russian history

by investigating the major changes of world history during the past five hundred years this book provides the necessary global perspective to understand the geopolitical and geoeconomic changes facing us today we have reached a crucial transitional stage in world history in which the world will no longer be shaped by the single image of western modernism but increasingly by the image of all cultures and civilizations the need to take a world view which this book provides has become acute

the danwei or work unit occupies a central place in chinese society to understand chinese politics demands a better understanding of this system this volume provides a systematic study of the danwei system and addresses a variety of questions from historical and comparative perspectives

the russian revolutions of 1917 and the iranian revolution of 1979 are two examples of dramatic sudden and extraordinary political upheaval that significantly altered the nature of the state and society in the modern age here ghoncheh tazmini provides an unprecedented comparative study of these two major revolutions of the twentieth century which although removed from each other both spatially and temporally have striking similarities examining the roots events and impact of these two defining upheavals tazmini analyses how they resemble each other stressing the continuity of the dilemma of modernisation for the romanov pahlavi communist and islamist rulers alike this book is a significant contribution to both historical and contemporary debates concerning russian and iranian politics and to the discourse on the origins and consequences of modernisation and revolution themselves

democracy and environmental movements in eastern europe a comparative study of hungary and russia is a systematic comparison of environmental activism and more broadly collective democratic action in two former state socialist societies based on extensive research katy pickvance offers us a study in contrasts russia stands as an example of con

this bibliography first published in 1957 provides citations to north american academic literature on europe central europe the balkans the baltic states and the former soviet union organised by discipline it covers the arts humanities social sciences life sciences and technology

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