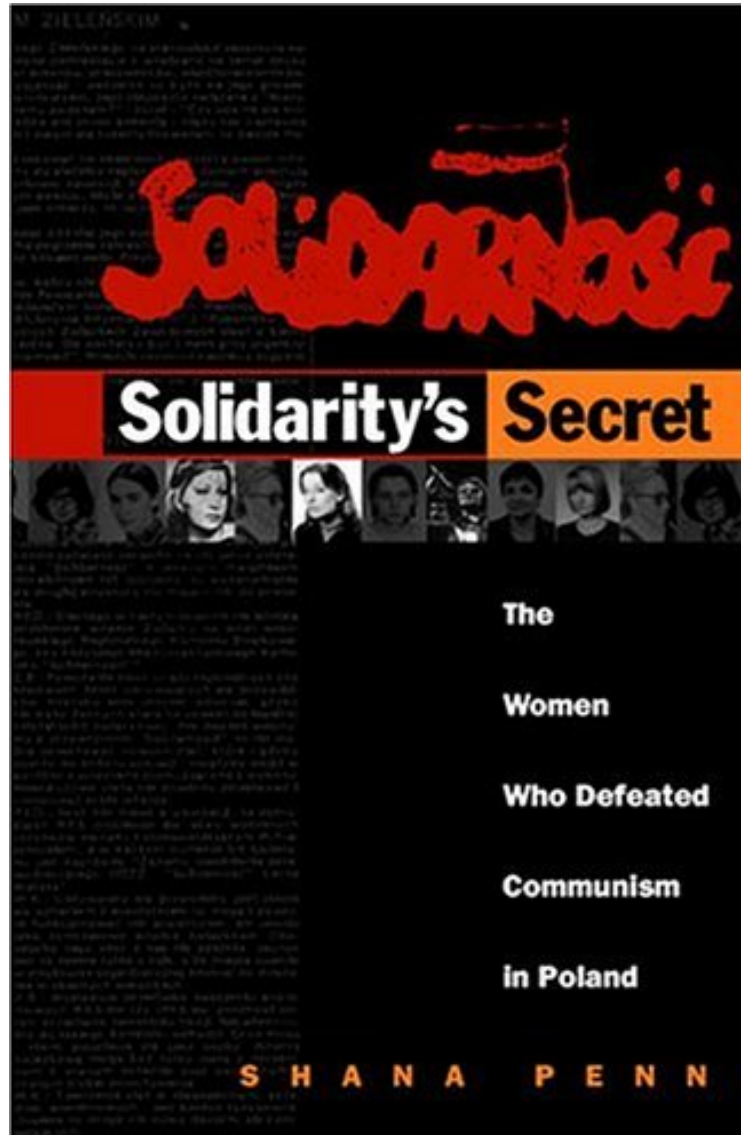


Solidarity's Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland

Shana Penn

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#731637 in Books 2005-04-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.41 x 6.52 x 9.481, #File Name: 0472113852400 pages | File size: 17.Mb

Shana Penn : Solidarity's Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Solidarity's Secret: The Women Who Defeated Communism in Poland:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An absolute must readBy Frugal AntI'll admit, at only 4 stars, I'm

being a tough grader on the book, it really is a 5 star book, but I'll explain shortly why I'm being so tough. This is a book like no other. Shana Penn must have spent years researching and writing this untold story of the amazing contributions that the Polish women made to the Solidarity movement. Certainly a history you don't read about in everyday textbooks. This is a story that should be taught in all schools, to all children, to people of all backgrounds. The strength and courage the women named in this book endured is beyond anything I could ever imagine. And yet, they did it, and not for fame, not for money, but for freedom. A freedom that was eventually won, but would not have been had it not been for these women, who took advantage of the sexist ideology that no woman could ever be capable of running an underground press, write truth based news, print and distribute that truthful news, and all under the radar of the watchful eyes of the communist regime. This book is the untold story of what really happened. Not just what the politically controlled "official" media recorded, but the actual truth behind the scenes of what it took to do what was accomplished. So why only 4 stars? Because you must know a bit of history to be able to follow this book. Ms. Penn assumes that if you are reading this book, you are familiar with the Solidarity movement, with the communist takeover of Poland, with the oppressed lifestyle that the Poles endured of that time. One has to be familiar with these topics to fully appreciate what she writes about. Without this background a reader can still appreciate the bravery and clever tactics, but not grasp the big picture. Unfortunately, truth be told, most people are not familiar with these details. They never heard of Solidarity, they had no idea that Poland was still under communist rule by the Soviets only 26 years ago, nor did they know the harsh conditions that the people of Poland had to endure that resulted in the creation of the Solidarity movement in the first place. Perhaps Ms. Penn intended the target audience to be those who are already familiar with that era of Polish history, in which case this book is a 6 star work. But I fear that instead, Ms. Penn's close relationship to the history itself gave her the belief that more people know of this history, when in fact, very few people do. I was able to follow this book easily because I have studied this era of Polish history extensively. But had I picked up the book without that knowledge, as a mere individual off the street, I would be left with many questions, not understanding why martial law occurred in Poland, and why the need for Solidarity existed. This is not to say this book can't stand alone, it certainly can, but there is a great deal of information that could be missed, which I consider important. Perhaps Ms. Penn would consider writing an extended version, one that covered the events that occurred in more detail, or at least provide a preface that better explains some of these background points. Overall, well done Ms. Penn. Thank you for sharing this history that would not be told otherwise.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and well written
By Grannyles This is a "behind the scenes" look at the half the Solidarity story which has never been told. Important for history buffs, feminists and anyone else who wants to know about the inner politics of one of the most fascinating and high profile revolutions during Communists times.
7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Amazing Powerful
By JD What an amazing story! I can't believe that I've never heard about these women. On the other hand, I'm not surprised that history and patriarchy consigned this story to the remainder's bin. For a book from an academic press "Solidarity's Secret" is very readable and lively. Just imagine how many similar secrets there must be throughout history, the old "power behind the throne" tale. Come on journalists and historians! Look below the surface!

"This important book explores one of the most pivotal periods in Polish history and deals with a topic nearly everyone else overlooked. Shana Penn's study begins with a simple question I wish I had thought more about myself: once the leadership of Solidarity had been arrested during the 1981 military coup, who kept the movement alive over the following months and years? The answer will surprise you, as Penn delves into the lives of seven Polish women activists who rose to the call, set about saving an entire political movement, and in time turned themselves into some of the most powerful women in Poland today."---Lech Walesa, former President of Poland and winner of the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize
Solidarity's Secret is the first book to record the crucial yet little-known role women played in the rise of an independent press in Poland and in the fall of that country's communist government. Shana Penn pieces together a decade of interviews with the women behind the Polish pro-democracy movement-women whose massive contributions were obscured by the more public successes of their male counterparts. Penn reveals the story of how these brave women ran Solidarity and the main opposition newspaper, Tygodnik Mazowsze, while prominent men like Lech Walesa were underground or in jail during the 1980s martial law years. The same women then went on to play influential roles in post-communist Poland. Solidarity's Secret gives us a richly detailed story-within-a-story-unheard of not only in the West, but until recently even within Poland itself-from one of the most important eras in modern history.