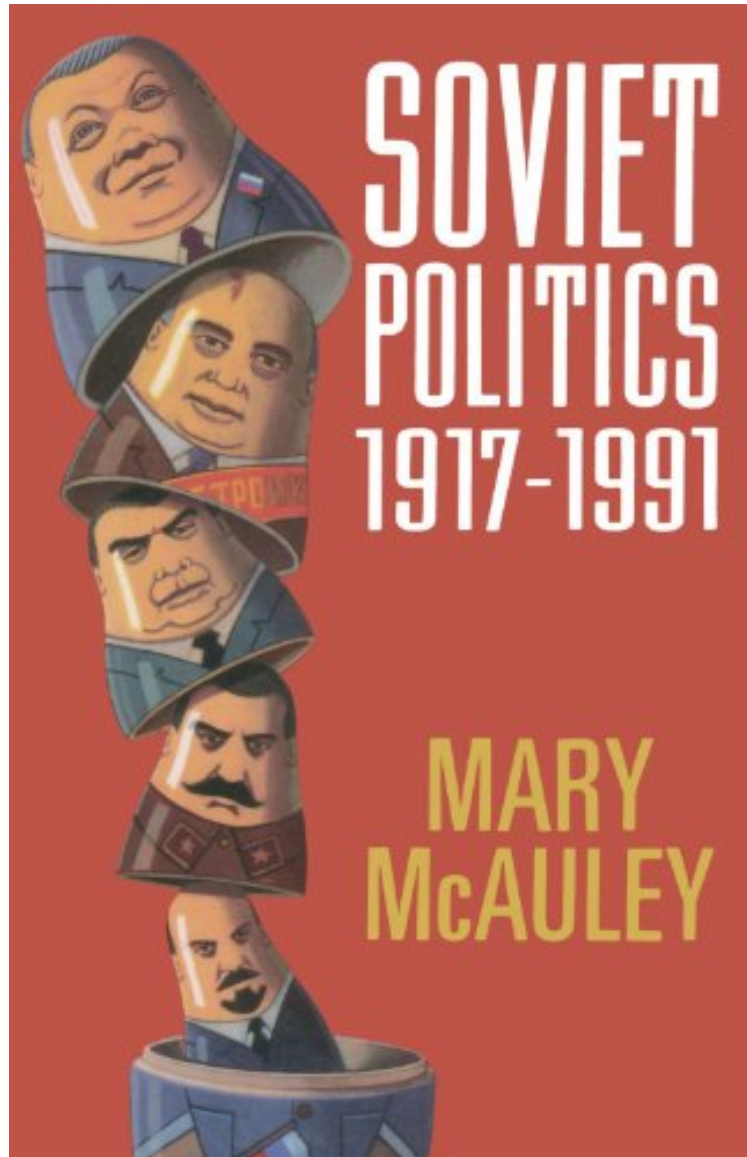


(Download) Soviet Politics 1917-1991

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Mary McAuley

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Mary McAuley : Soviet Politics 1917-1991 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Soviet Politics 1917-1991:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy Jane Peki thoroughly recommend this. It manages to give a clear and insightful analysis of the politics of the Soviet Union in the given time period. Because it's a determinist view, it looks at broad factors - which groups held the powers of authority and coercion, the nature of

Marxist/communist ideology - and hardly at the individual leaders. Lenin died with nary a whisper, and Stalin was rarely mentioned even throughout the chapter on the great purges - the focus, rather, was on the common people and the idea of all rules breaking down, such that there were no longer logical reasons for who was caught and denounced. It introduces, but doesn't go into detail about, a variety of viewpoints from various schools of thought - the West vs. contemporary Russian thinkers vs. past Russian politicians (Trotsky, Bukharin) - and highlights the fundamental problems with the Russian communist political ideology. How could a vanguard party guide and lead without controlling the apparatus? How could such a party maintain its purity if it was supposed to embrace all social groups? And if they believed, as Lenin and Khrushchev did, that there was one common aim and only one right way of moving forward - who was to decide what it was? Also, if there was only one right way, by definition all opposition had to be wrong - and therefore unnecessary; which resulted in a dangerous lack of checks-and-balances within the system.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A nice summary of Soviet Politics. By Kevin M Quigg One of my friends saw me reading this book, and stated that such a short book could not adequately cover Soviet politics. This book is the exception and McAuley points out the main themes of the politics of the Soviet Union. For those who want both a basic and advanced education on the Soviet political system, this is a nice book. McAuley breaks the Soviet period down into eight chapters and covers the stages of Soviet politics. The following were the basic stages: Revolution, State Building, Industrialization and Collectivization, Terror, Khrushchev and Party Rule, the Administrative-Command System under Brezhnev, and Perestroika and the End of Party Rule. I found this book a nice analysis of the Soviet Union's politics. It covered in few pages what other authors would convey in 500 pages. This is a nice concise analysis of the subject.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Short on words--long on content. By Bob VAs Raygun pointed out...impossible to find a more concise history of the Soviet Period. Short on words long on content. There is a reason this book is still commanding \$40+ new. A must for anyone seeking to understand the Soviet system.

Now available in paperback, this timely work offers an authoritative and lively history of the entire spectrum of Soviet politics, from the rise of Lenin and the October Revolution of 1917 to the emergence of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It discusses in fascinating detail how Lenin's Communist party transformed the Tsarist empire, why Stalin's massive program to industrialize was coupled with one of the most horrific terror campaigns in history, and what we can expect from this erstwhile superpower in the years ahead. Based on extensive research and first-hand knowledge of the Soviet system, it offers a lucid and stimulating analysis of the developments which first sustained, then finally undermined, the Soviet state, pinpointing all the key political developments--revolution, state-building, party rule, terror, Nazi invasion, the Cold War, and the recent elections--and examining their significance in an especially well-wrought historical context. Timely, cogent, and comprehensive, *Soviet Politics* helps readers make sense of developments in the former USSR since 1985, showing how and why the system fell apart. It will interest anyone wanting a fuller understanding of current events, and their consequences for the world as a whole.

'A clear exposition of 74 years of Soviet power, as good a choice as any for the reader wishing to know the background to contemporary events ... it concentrates on the main structural elements of the edifice, and often illuminates them.' John Lloyd, London of Books

'Very lively and immediately accessible, and a first-class introduction to the period and the major issues and dilemmas associated with it.' Mark Galeotti, University of Keele

'Excellent and concise survey.' Evan Mawdsley, University of Glasgow

'Very clear, comprehensive and readable. An ideal introduction to the Soviet Union.' Miss B.J. Williams, University of Sussex

'This is an extremely readable book. Excellent for the beginner and an enjoyable and interesting read for those who already have some knowledge. I would highly recommend it.' Dr Rachel Walker, Essex University

'Her appraisals of Nikita S. Khrushchev the impulsive reformer, and of Leonid I. Brezhnev the gray bureaucrat, are particularly lucid.' *The New Leader*

McAuley's book is useful and interesting in that it tackles the particularly fascinating problem of the Bolsheviks' search for political legitimacy after their seizure of power in October 1917.

Ian D. Thatcher, Irish Slavonic Studies

About the Author Mary McAuley is a respected Sovietologist who teaches at Oxford University. She is the author of many books on the Soviet Union, most recently *Bread and Justice: State and Society in Petrograd* (Oxford, 1991).