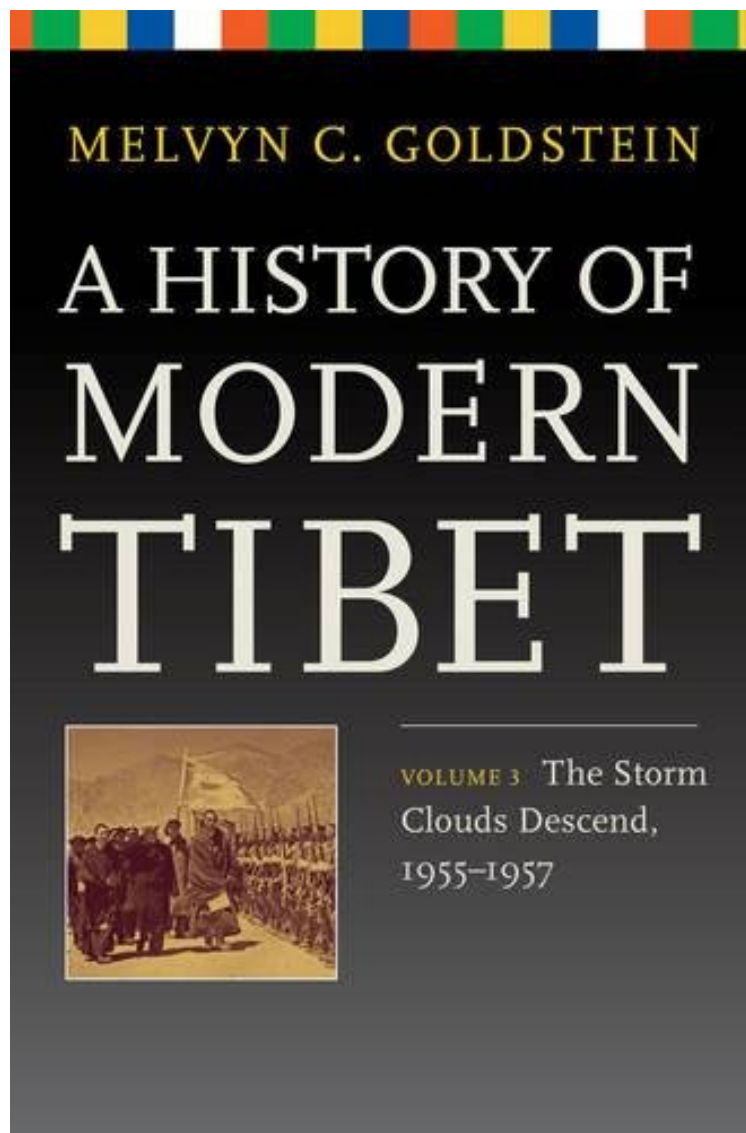


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## A History of Modern Tibet, Volume 3: The Storm Clouds Descend, 1955-1957 (Philip E. Lilienthal Books)

*Melvyn C. Goldstein*

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**Melvyn C. Goldstein : A History of Modern Tibet, Volume 3: The Storm Clouds Descend, 1955-1957 (Philip E. Lilienthal Books)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of Modern Tibet, Volume 3: The Storm Clouds Descend, 1955-1957 (Philip E. Lilienthal Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The gold standard on Tibetan history.By C. M. ClarkeGoldstein's

research and analysis is without peer. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Melvyn ReloadedBy Pesce SolubileThere's a lot that makes me shake my head in this text, from the Marxist terminology to the patronizing attitude towards some of the characters. This said, this is a first-class history book. Unexpectedly Goldstein frees himself of the increasingly stiff schematism of his later previous work, not at the formal level, but substantially. The scholarship is as formidable as ever, but also the author's old capacity to provide vivid snapshots of the events on the ground is back. The intertwined narratives of the ideological and political discussions and of the messy, often bloody reality set an example far beyond the realm of Sino-Tibetan studies. I am looking forward to the fourth volume. And by the way, the image of the hapless activists unwittingly waiting to be butchered at the end of their pep-talk by khamba insurgents hiding in the audience will haunt me for some time.

It is not possible to fully understand contemporary politics between China and the Dalai Lama without understanding what happened in the 1950s. The third volume in Melvyn Goldstein's History of Modern Tibet series, *The Calm before the Storm*, examines the critical years of 1955 through 1957. During this period, the Preparatory Committee for a Tibet Autonomous Region was inaugurated in Lhasa, and a major Tibetan uprising occurred in Sichuan Province. Jenkentsisum, a Tibetan anti-communist migr group, emerged as an important player with secret links to Indian Intelligence, the Dalai Lamas Lord Chamberlain, the United States, and Taiwan. And in Tibet, Fan Ming, the acting head of the CCPs office in Lhasa, launched the Great Expansion, which recruited many thousands of Han Cadres to Lhasa in preparation for beginning democratic reforms, only to be stopped decisively by Mao Zedongs Great Contraction which sent them back to China and ended talk of reforms in Tibet for the foreseeable future. In Volume III, Goldstein draws on never-before seen Chinese government documents, published and unpublished memoirs and diaries, and invaluable in-depth interviews with important Chinese and Tibetan participants (including the Dalai Lama) to offer a new level of insight into the events and principal players of the time. Goldstein corrects factual errors and misleading stereotypes in the history, and uncovers heretofore unknown information on the period to reveal in depth a nuanced portrait of Sino-Tibetan relations that goes far beyond anything previously imagined.