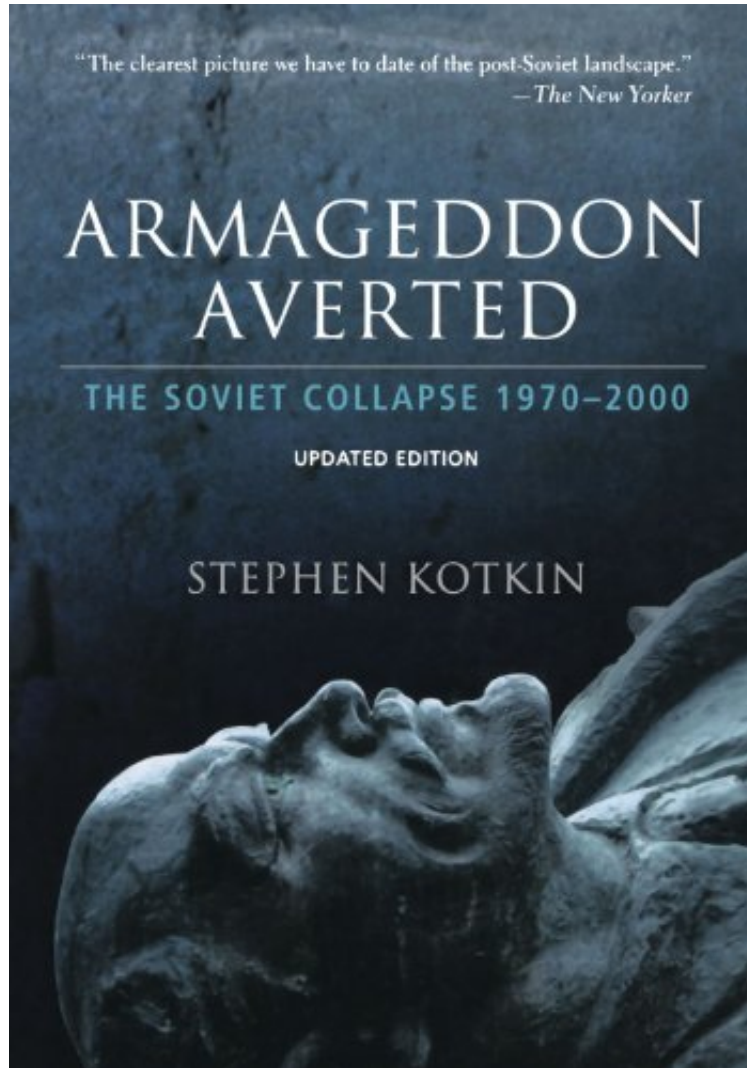


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Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000

Stephen Kotkin

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#111386 in Books Stephen Kotkin 2008-12-23 2008-12-23Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 5.40 x .80 x 7.40l, .75 #File Name: 0195368630280 pagesArmageddon Averted The Soviet Collapse 1970 2000 | File size: 25.Mb

Stephen Kotkin : Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Was wonderful to finally get the background story on why the ...By Dan JantschI found the book extremely interesting, thought provoking and laced with meaningful details. Was wonderful to finally get the background story on why the Soviet Union failed and the various actions leading up to it. I had relatives in East Germany during the Soviet occupation and visited there in 1983. I came to understand firsthand how much the East Germans detested the Soviets and how they were completely "under the thumb" of the Soviets. The

East Germans would have revolted had they felt they had any realistic means to do so. This book brought together all of my prior knowledge as well as the aspects that I had never known until I had the opportunity of reading about it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Insightful Analytical Analysis By Eternal Student This is an outstanding title that explains the events leading up to the unexpected and unforeseen collapse of the communist regime. Forged in blood and pain many wondered why the meltdown did not lead to widespread, unrest turbulence, blood shed or even nuclear holocaust. It also examines how close Russia came to not actually shrugging of the yoke or a broken ideology. Interesting, insightful, and enjoyable read from and excellent and knowledgeable scholar. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good book, but incomplete By Tom The book is good and provides a lot of useful information. However, I was missing more info about economy, more hard facts. Almost completely missing is a description of situation within Soviet Army, the army that was well armed and in possession of nuclear arms, often beyond Russian borders. Army could have caused the Armageddon that did not happen, yet is not covered by the book. Another interesting topic would have been role of secret services - if any. In summary, great insight into politburo activities, but less focus beyond.

Featuring extensive revisions to the text as well as a new introduction and epilogue--bringing the book completely up to date on the tumultuous politics of the previous decade and the long-term implications of the Soviet collapse--this compact, original, and engaging book offers the definitive account of one of the great historical events of the last fifty years. Combining historical and geopolitical analysis with an absorbing narrative, Kotkin draws upon extensive research, including memoirs by dozens of insiders and senior figures, to illuminate the factors that led to the demise of Communism and the USSR. The new edition puts the collapse in the context of the global economic and political changes from the 1970s to the present day. Kotkin creates a compelling profile of post Soviet Russia and he reminds us, with chilling immediacy, of what could not have been predicted--that the world's largest police state, with several million troops, a doomsday arsenal, and an appalling record of violence, would liquidate itself with barely a whimper. Throughout the book, Kotkin also paints vivid portraits of key personalities. Using recently released archive materials, for example, he offers a fascinating picture of Gorbachev, describing this virtuoso tactician and resolutely committed reformer as "flabbergasted by the fact that his socialist renewal was leading to the system's liquidation"--and more or less going along with it. At once authoritative and provocative, *Armageddon Averted* illuminates the collapse of the Soviet Union, revealing how "principled restraint and scheming self-interest brought a deadly system to meek dissolution." Acclaim for the First Edition: "The clearest picture we have to date of the post-Soviet landscape."--*The New Yorker* "A triumph of the art of contemporary history. In fewer than 200 pages Kotkin elucidates the implosion of the Soviet empire--the most important and startling series of international events of the past fifty years--and clearly spells out why, thanks almost entirely to the 'principal restraint' of the Soviet leadership, that collapse didn't result in a cataclysmic war, as all experts had long forecasted."--*The Atlantic Monthly* "Concise and persuasive The mystery, for Kotkin, is not so much why the Soviet Union collapsed as why it did so with so little collateral damage."--*The New York Review of Books*

"The clearest picture we have to date of the post-Soviet landscape."--*The New Yorker* "A triumph of the art of contemporary history. In fewer than 200 pages, Kotkin elucidates the implosion of the Soviet empire--the most important and startling series of international events of the past fifty years--and clearly spells out why, thanks almost entirely to the 'principal restraint' of the Soviet leadership, that collapse didn't result in a cataclysmic war, as all experts had long forecasted."--*The Atlantic Monthly* "Concise and persuasive The mystery, for Kotkin, is not so much why the Soviet Union collapsed as why it did so with so little collateral damage."--*The New York of Books* About the Author Stephen Kotkin is Professor of European and Asian History at Princeton University, where he also directs the Russian-Eurasian Studies Program. He is the author of nine books, including an acclaimed two-volume study of the rise and fall of Soviet socialism: *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization* and *Steeltown, USSR: Soviet Society in the Gorbachev Era*.