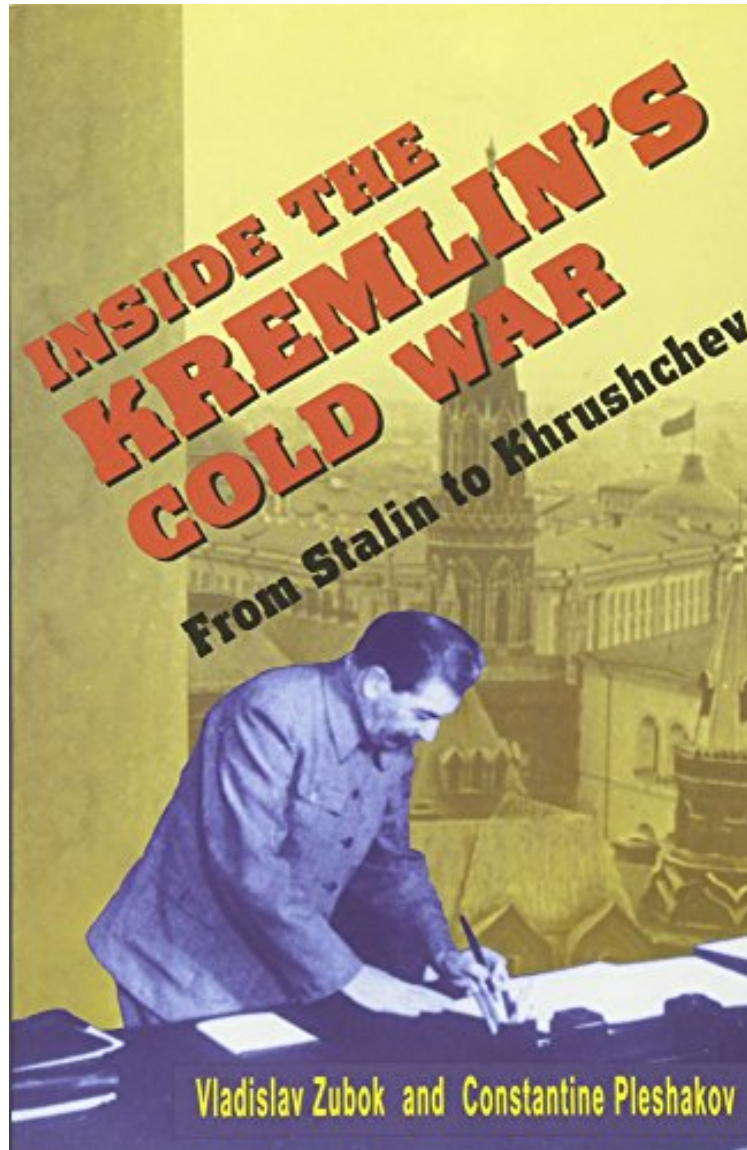


[Mobile book] Inside the Kremlin's Cold War: From Stalin to Krushchev

Inside the Kremlin's Cold War: From Stalin to Krushchev

Vladislav Zubok, Constantine Pleshakov
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Vladislav Zubok, Constantine Pleshakov : Inside the Kremlin's Cold War: From Stalin to Krushchev before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inside the Kremlin's Cold War: From Stalin to Krushchev:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good baby boomer Father's Day giftBy E. S.My dad loves this book... he told me that as a child of the '50s and '60s, in all this time it never really occurred to him that there was every anybody actually over there on the other side of the Iron Curtain![Patting myself on the back] I think this was a

pretty good Father's Day present for a dad who was always interested in "the bigger picture"! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great reading. Very clear picture about what was Kremlim ...By Francisco Teixeira Carvalho NetoGreat reading. Very clear picture about what was Kremlim under Stalin and others rulling the USSR. Very elucidative about some facts about Cold War.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended.By CustomerThis is a concise, well written work which shows the inner workings of the Kremlin during the Cold War. It gives insight into the Soviets' reasoning, foreign policy, and relations with other Communist nations. Highly recommended.

Covering the volatile period from 1945 to 1962, Zubok and Pleshakov explore the personalities and motivations of the key people who directed Soviet political life and shaped Soviet foreign policy. They begin with the fearsome figure of Joseph Stalin, who was driven by the dual dream of a Communist revolution and a global empire. They reveal the scope and limits of Stalin's ambitions by taking us into the world of his closest subordinates, the ruthless and unimaginative foreign minister Molotov and the Party's chief propagandist, Zhdanov, a man brimming with hubris and missionary zeal. The authors expose the machinations of the much-feared secret police chief Beria and the party cadre manager Malenkov, who tried but failed to set Soviet policies on a different course after Stalin's death. Finally, they document the motives and actions of the self-made and self-confident Nikita Khrushchev, full of Russian pride and party dogma, who overturned many of Stalin's policies with bold strategizing on a global scale. The authors show how, despite such attempts to change Soviet diplomacy, Stalin's legacy continued to divide Germany and Europe, and led the Soviets to the split with Maoist China and to the Cuban missile crisis. Zubok and Pleshakov's groundbreaking work reveals how Soviet statesmen conceived and conducted their rivalry with the West within the context of their own domestic and global concerns and aspirations. The authors persuasively demonstrate that the Soviet leaders did not seek a conflict with the United States, yet failed to prevent it or bring it to conclusion. They also document why and how Kremlin policy-makers, cautious and scheming as they were, triggered the gravest crises of the Cold War in Korea, Berlin, and Cuba. Taking us into the corridors of the Kremlin and the minds of its leaders, Zubok and Pleshakov present intimate portraits of the men who made the West fear, to reveal why and how they acted as they did.

.com The Cold War hovered over Americans like a black cloud for more than 40 years. But with the defeat of Communism in 1991, documents have been released indicating that the United States might have avoided it. Vladislav Zubok and Constantine Plashakov reveal that high-level Soviet diplomats advised Stalin to abandon global confrontation for a partnership with the United States and Britain to prevent Germany's resuscitation and to help in the Soviet Union's reconstruction. Though FDR's death and Winston Churchill's electoral defeat complicated the plan, it was the Hiroshima bombing under Truman that severed relations. Though later Soviet attempts to reconcile were thwarted by Khrushchev's hope for a Russian revolution, the authors remind us that Russia's course does not depend on Russia alone. From Library Journal This remarkable book, written by two young Russian historians, will initiate the long process of reexamining the Soviet Union's role in the Cold War. The authors came of age at the height of the Cold War in the 1950s and early 1960s, worked in the Institute of U.S. and Canada Studies, and recently gained access to newly declassified archival material in Moscow. Their research sheds new light upon the motives of Stalin and his heirs, including Molotov, Zhdanov, Beria, Malenkov, and Khrushchev. Indeed, the main focus of this book is on the "human factor"—the background, psychology, and behavior of the Soviet leaders. The archives reveal a series of miscalculations and overreactions under Stalin and lost opportunities for detente with Beria and Malenkov. However, the central conclusion is that Stalin "wanted to avoid confrontation with the West...[and that] the Cold War was not his choice." This is an important study that merits consideration along with the standard histories of the Cold War period, including such new works as Caroline Kennedy-Pipe's *Stalin's Cold War: Soviet Strategies in Europe, 1943 to 1956* (Manchester Univ., 1995). Zubok and Pleshakov have contributed a brief version of this study to *The Origins of the Cold War in Europe: International Perspectives* (Yale Univ., 1994).?Thomas A. Karel, Franklin Marshall Coll. Lib., Lancaster, Pa. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Scientific American A Russian publishing a book in the bygone Soviet era that analyzed foreign policy in terms of its architects would have been unthinkable. Most Americans of the time would have found equally unthinkable the suggestion that the Kremlin was home to anyone other than evil tyrants cut from the same drab cloth, dictators driven by communist ideology to bury capitalists in the rubble of nuclear blasts. What pleasure it is, then, that such previously unthinkable thoughts pop from every page of Vladislav Zubok and Constantine Pleshakov's *Inside the Kremlin's Cold War*. Exhaustive research convinced [the authors] that Soviet Cold War policy from 1945 to 1962 was not consistently static and expansionist, but capriciously shaped by three major factors: a revolutionary-imperial paradigm that blended Marxism with messianic tsarist geopolitical goals; the policies of the West, primarily the United States; and the personalities of Joseph Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev and four key apparatchiks. The book's opening chapters develop the intriguing thesis that the Cold War was neither Stalin's choice nor his brainchild. Subsequent chapters illustrate how each of the other principle players adapted the paradigm to fit his own personality. The final chapters on Khrushchev make the book's best reading.