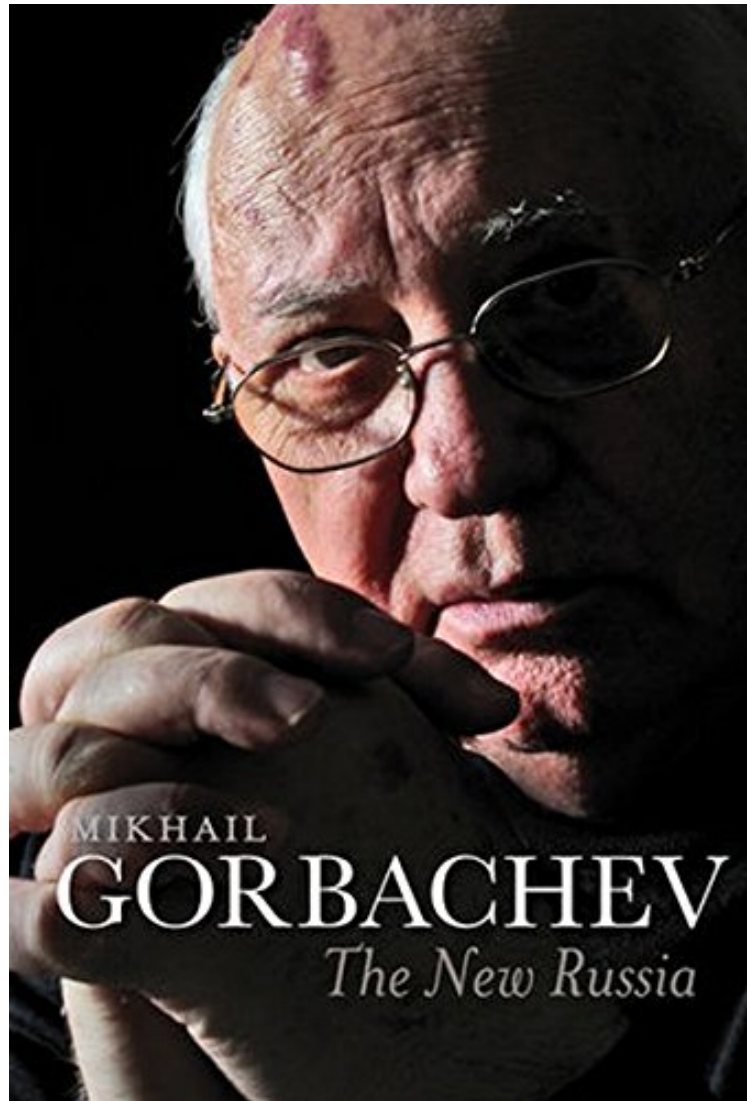


(Download pdf ebook) The New Russia

The New Russia

Mikhail Gorbachev

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Mikhail Gorbachev : The New Russia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Russia:

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Gorbachev is still at it. His faith in humanity continues to fly.By Adhiratha Keefe. What comes across most clearly in Gorbachev's latest book is his ideas and values... not just of the past, but also what to keep in one's heart –beyond the short term interest of nation or individual. He continues to champion, good governance, transparency and high expectations for his country and all those nations that wish to not only survive but improve our world home. His personal experiences over the past fifty+ years, which he shares in this

book gives some indication of why it is difficult to make substantial integrated progress. I was reminded of Sri Aurobindo Ghose's book "The Ideal of Human Unity" written before 1918. It was an amazing critique of the major political systems being tried or proposed in the first part of that century. The author only had to update the introduction in 1950 after WW2. His earlier examples still illustrated that no system is perfect for all situations. For any approach to be ultimately sustainable there needs to be unity but not crushing uniformity. There must be free expression for individual members and flexibility for the system to adjust. Otherwise an inner force (of creativity?) will attack the ridged structure from within or without. Gorbachev takes us from the 1950's to the new century. Those interested in considering how to proceed in whatever system they find themselves (or are contemplating) would be well served by reading this book closely. He notes that always there are choices and learning can only take part when one patiently observes. The book concludes with an interview published in the Russian edition of Esquire, September 2012. His sweet and potent memories there of his main supporter, confidant and wife Raisa Maximovna says so much. The final quote from Mikhail Gorbachev is "Life teaches you more than any teacher" M. Gorbachev points out where he and others missed opportunities to help his country make progress but his tone is always hopeful and looking to the future. He considers what can be learned and what can be applied to current situations. He concedes how unpredictable and different the results were from predicted outcomes. He is quite sure what won't work based on what has already been tried. The details of these hard lessons are filled with irony or graceful acceptance of the human foibles, such as when politicians made half public their plans but then not owned unintended consequences. He follows in many cases a timeline approach, using what he actually said in interviews and public statements at crucial junctures through the 50 years. This adds credibility to his accounts. He is not unkind to those who acted in good faith. But he has little appreciation for those who intentionally limited their countrymen's freedom of choice - for their own short term gains. He has no sympathy for those who preyed on public trust to line their own pockets during the later economic "shock therapy" and monetarization of social services. These resulted in quick riches for a few and poverty for many. He is not a supporter of the elite in any system limiting general social supports so they have a disproportionate share of the common wealth. To me it seemed he was not just writing for his generation but for the younger ones who are willing to put their talents to the service of their country and the world's long term progress. He shares how important it was for an earlier leader of USSR (Nikita Khrushchev) to begin the process of examining the excesses of the Stalin era. That helped open the door to some bright lights in his time to question and move their system. This book will be source for much discussion by those willing to seriously consider options and implications for current situations. At some points I needed to put it down to be able to absorb the important detailed lesson. In other cases, the pages flew by even though I knew the general outcome. Specifics behind certain historical events are fascinating. I remember some disingenuous headlines or editorials suggesting at the time that all could be explained in the capsulized cartoon like summary. So it is refreshing to hear what some key players and supporting participants were actually saying and doing during that time frame. Gorbachev gives credit to the humanistic and socialistic beliefs that were part of the strength of USSR and still a potential support for Russia's progress. He is also appreciative of the work of Thomas Jefferson; those involved in the "American Experiment" and of USA leaders in his lifetime such as President John F. Kennedy whose public inspiring statements encouraged him and others to work for a peaceful and cooperative world. Knowing this perspective and knowledge is available to those sincere individuals with responsibility for important decisions is helpful. Future leaders will inspire confidence, if like Gorbachev they make the effort to understand and share experience beyond their own countries and communities. His informed reflection gives solid and timely guidance for the ages. The second section of the book is called "Trying to Bury me" beginning with a humorous media incident he shows throughout why his critics have not succeeded. Here I was reminded that in 1996 the Minister of Culture from Turkey, Talât Sait Halman, sent an encouraging sketch to the artist and philosopher Sri Chinmoy who had just created his 5 million Peace Bird Drawing. Ambassador Halman's birds sketch was inscribed "With deep respect a flurry of birds for Sri Chinmoy of 5 million Birds ... 'If it has FAITH, a buried bird Flies in the ground'". Critics have not and will not succeed in making the world forget his ideas in large part because of Gorbachev's hope and FAITH. He continues to fly in our hearts and imagination not only because of his experience, integrity and ideals but most of all because of his abiding faith in the capacity of developing individuals and future generations to make better choices for the world's progress. P.S. I really appreciate having the subject and name index at the end to check back on key points to revisit.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good points made in this book, warnings, reflections. By Cory Corwin Gorbachev is the real leader who took down the Berlin wall, finally ended years of Soviet oppression and hatred only to be overthrown by people advocating democracy only for their own ends. Russia does not work like any western power, and this book explores that fact, with Gorbachev giving good explanations as to how and why the USSR fell apart, how it did, who took its place, and even how leaders like Putin grabbed power and corrupted a system that never had a chance to work well for 21st-century Russia. An intelligent and well-thought read. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is a very important book. By intellectual_omnivore Read it. I would partner reading this book with my favorite book of all time (insofar as it is the most societally relevant book I know): <https://smile.com/Failure-Nerve-Leadership-Age-Quick/dp/159627042X>. Note: an updated version of the latter is coming out in May of 2017. The key takeaway for me is the importance of lowering systemic anxiety. Gorbachev was

on the side of the angels, as much as one can expect a politician to be. He was overtaken by people who were sucked into anxiety about Russian society. Is the same thing happening right now in the United States and elsewhere in Europe (Germany, at the moment, being the exception)? Time will tell. The most important fight we have may be staying non-reactive, followed closely by cultivating concern for the greater and common good. Thank you for being a good representative of this approach and for many years of service to world peace, Mr. Gorbachev.

After years of rapprochement, the relationship between Russia and the West is more strained now than it has been in the past 25 years. Putin's motives, his reasons for seeking confrontation with the West, remain for many a mystery. Not for Mikhail Gorbachev. In this new work, Russia's elder statesman draws on his wealth of knowledge and experience to reveal the development of Putin's regime and the intentions behind it. He argues that Putin has significantly diminished the achievements of perestroika and is part of an over-centralized system that presents a precarious future for Russia. Faced with this, Gorbachev advocates a radical reform of politics and a new fostering of pluralism and social democracy. Gorbachev's insightful analysis moves beyond internal politics to address wider problems in the region, including the Ukraine conflict, as well as the global challenges of poverty and climate change. Above all else, he insists that solutions are to be found by returning to the atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation which was so instrumental in ending the Cold War. This book represents the summation of Gorbachev's thinking on the course that Russia has taken since 1991 and stands as a testament to one of the greatest and most influential statesmen of the twentieth century.

"This is a reminder of how vast was [Gorbachev's] achievement in allowing in the light of freedom. Where his contemporary, Nelson Mandela, was great beyond the whites' deserts in building a post-apartheid nation, Mr Gorbachev was great beyond the deserts of the Soviet Union (and perhaps even of the west, which could barely understand or trust him) in proposing a way for the despotic world to aspire to democratic governance, freely organised civil society and rule of law. That he failed, he keenly knows. Our best hope is that his ideas, in time, succeed." —Financial Times "There are not many good books on new Russia. Mikhail Gorbachev's *The New Russia* is probably the best book in many years. It is packed with knowledge, analysis, and new perspective on Russia." —Washington Book "Compelling" —An important book for understanding the shape of the world today." —Choice "He has produced a reflection full of an earnest desire that former enemies understand each other and find common ground in a febrile world. This is a reminder of how vast his achievement was in allowing in the light of freedom." —Financial Times "Mikhail Gorbachev, with his prodigious intellect, vast experience, and powers of perception, gives us his views spanning from his time in office to the present day. As he says, 'Life teaches you more than any teacher,' and we all can learn by reading this account of his extraordinary life." —George P. Shultz, former Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury of the United States "Gorbachev was on the right side of history. One day the Russian people will recognize that they have as much reason to be grateful to him as do the rest of us. This important book explains why." —Sir Malcolm Rifkind, former Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary of the United Kingdom "Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev recounts his reaction to events over the past quarter century, from the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the Russian Federation, to the revival of Cold-War-like confrontation with the West and the return of authoritarian governance in Russia itself. Gorbachev deplores the fact that Russia has deviated from the path to democracy that was the aim of his perestroika, but also points out that U.S. and Western policies have contributed to the current Cold War atmosphere. Gorbachev's *The New Russia* is essential reading for anyone who wishes to understand why the 'Europe Whole and Free' that Gorbachev and his Western partners tried to create still eludes us. His suggestions for a return to East-West cooperation and for a resumption of democratic reform in Russia itself are timely and much needed." —Jack F. Matlock, former United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia About the Author Mikhail Gorbachev was the last leader of the Soviet Union, serving as General Secretary of the Communist Party from 1985 to 1991. Since then, he has maintained an active role in world affairs through the Gorbachev Foundation, a non-profit think tank which promotes democracy and humanitarian initiatives globally.