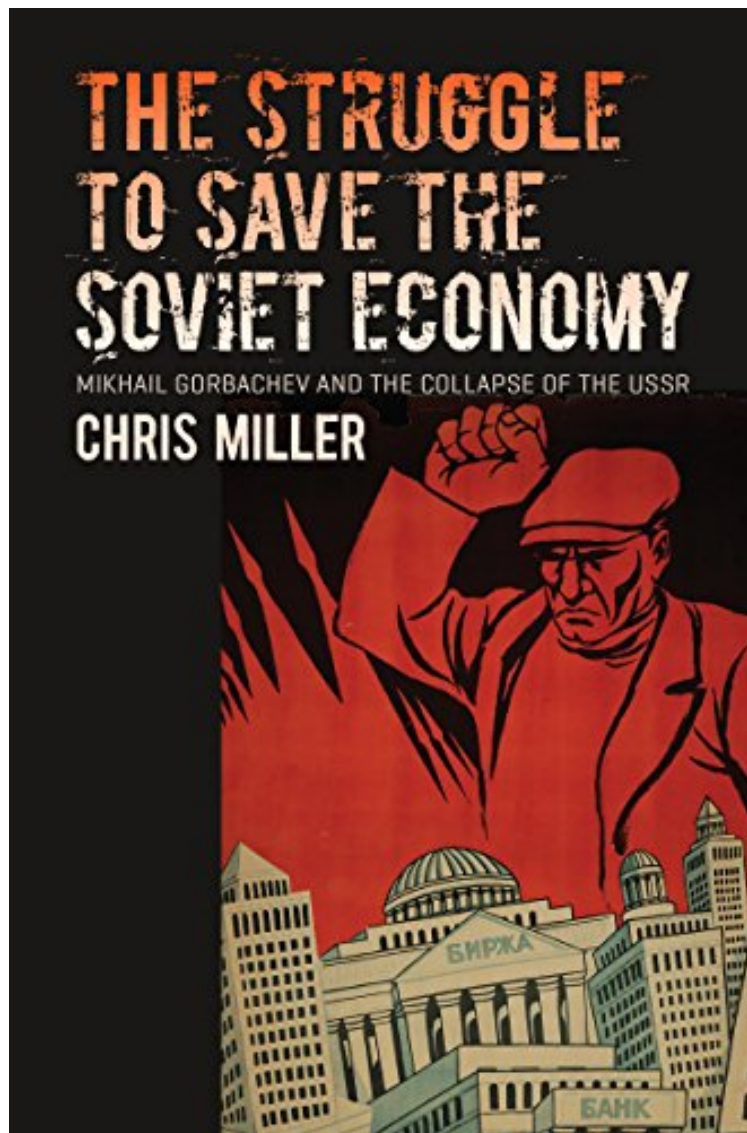


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The Struggle to Save the Soviet Economy: Mikhail Gorbachev and the Collapse of the USSR (The New Cold War History)

Chris Miller

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#868240 in Books Chris Miller 2016-12-02 Original language: English 9.41 x .86 x 6.481, .0 #File Name: 1469630176264 pages The Struggle to Save the Soviet Economy Mikhail Gorbachev and the Collapse of the USSR The New Cold War History | File size: 44.Mb

Chris Miller : The Struggle to Save the Soviet Economy: Mikhail Gorbachev and the Collapse of the USSR (The New Cold War History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Struggle to Save the Soviet Economy: Mikhail Gorbachev and the Collapse of the USSR (The New Cold War History):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A vividly written and deeply sourced narrative
By Andrew Batson
A vividly written and deeply sourced narrative of the Soviet Union's last decade. Too often the collapse of the Soviet economy is seen as historically inevitable and therefore uninteresting, but Miller brings to life the actual events and choices that led to that collapse. One of the interesting themes running through the book is how Soviet leaders in the 1980s viewed the economic reforms that China was making at the same time, and why the two countries ended up on such different trajectories. Highly recommended.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for anyone
By MCL
Miller's writing is engaging, even for someone with absolutely no knowledge of the topic. The topic is increasingly relevant in today's world, and Miller brings new life to the discussion. A great book!
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Hollow Core at the Center of the Russian Economy
By Thunder Bolt
The world is awash with concerns that Donald Trump fired Tomahawk missiles at a Syrian airbase after refugee children were gassed with Sarin. The left-wing press has become hysterical about setting off WW III or what about Putin and Russia--we're scared of them aren't we? The answer is no--and this book illustrates the reason why. Arguably the major, #1 catastrophic event to befall mankind in the 20th century was Stalin outmaneuvering his colleagues to be the General Secretary of the Communist Party after Lenin's death in 1925. Over sixty million people Soviet citizens died under Stalin's Reign. Yet, 9 or 10 years after Gorbachev is ousted in a coup and the Soviet Union collapses into disarray, the Russian people are now governed by Vladimir Putin, who has rapidly taken on the trappings of a new dictatorship/tyrannical regime. Why would the Russian people do this? I don't know, but it's worth several books. However, Chris Miller has synthesized a vast trove of economic and political information from the archives to write this masterful book. Miller traces the key threads of Russia's tentative moves toward capitalism; studying and analyzing the Chinese Regime did after Mao died in '76 to understand how they revived and grew a nascent, existence-level economy into one of the great powers of the world. Unfortunately, the Russians got it wrong for two reasons: (1) Stalin-esque ideology got the upper hand; and more importantly, (2) Powerful interest groups: read-Agro-Industrial Complex; Militarial-Industrial Complex; big business/state run businesses--all became blockers or "wreckers" to use Stalin's favorite term; and coalesced to prevent Gorbachev and his successors from successfully pivoting Russia's economy in a capitalist/market-based economy (as the Chinese successfully did.). At minimum a thought-provoking, sobering book! At least one of the reasons Donald Trump was willing to risk it with the Russians is because he knows he is up against a paper tiger

For half a century the Soviet economy was inefficient but stable. In the late 1980s, to the surprise of nearly everyone, it suddenly collapsed. Why did this happen? And what role did Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms play in the country's dissolution? In this groundbreaking study, Chris Miller shows that Gorbachev and his allies tried to learn from the great success story of transitions from socialism to capitalism, Deng Xiaoping's China. Why, then, were efforts to revitalize Soviet socialism so much less successful than in China? Making use of never-before-studied documents from the Soviet politburo and other archives, Miller argues that the difference between the Soviet Union and China--and the ultimate cause of the Soviet collapse--was not economics but politics. The Soviet government was divided by bitter conflict, and Gorbachev, the ostensible Soviet autocrat, was unable to outmaneuver the interest groups that were threatened by his economic reforms. Miller's analysis settles long-standing debates about the politics and economics of perestroika, transforming our understanding of the causes of the Soviet Union's rapid demise.

Miller helps readers understand why communism survived in China but encountered an abrupt and amazing collapse in the former Soviet Union. Highly recommended.--Choice
Using new archival material, Miller demonstrates that Gorbachev was always much weaker than many realized.--Survival: Global Politics and Strategy
Miller's work goes a great distance in bettering our knowledge and understanding of the politics behind the Soviet economic collapse.-- s in History
Miller brings together politics, ideology, and, most importantly, economics to explain one of the most dramatic and consequential developments in recent history--the fall of the Soviet Union and the rise of China. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in not only the history of the Cold War, but also the future of the world that awaits us.--Serhii Plokhii, author of *The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union*
While there are plenty of works on Gorbachev and perestroika, none tackle the intellectual and political debates surrounding economic reform the way Miller does in this book. Miller's innovative outlook shows us how the history of reform in the late USSR is entangled with the broader story of contemporary economic transformation in China and beyond.--Artemy M. Kalinovsky, University of Amsterdam
The Soviet collapse was the unexpected denouement of the 'short 20th century,' but Miller shows that it was not something willed by Mikhail Gorbachev alone. Rather, the powerful vested interests that resisted fiscal reform--the military and the KGB, the collective farm lobby, and the energy industry--were the real causes of the Russian Katastrophe. This is a meticulous autopsy on homo sovieticus.--Niall Ferguson, author of *The War of the World: Twentieth-Century Conflict and the Descent of the West*
We should be grateful to Miller for providing this account on the factors behind the great divergence of Russian and Chinese economic performance. It is a subject about which we know much too little.--Paul R. Gregory, Stanford University
About the Author
Chris Miller is assistant

professor of international history in the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.