



History of Communism: A Brief History (Universal History)

Richard Pipes

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Beginning with Plato and the first expressions of a utopian vision of a property-less society, Pipes describes communism's historical antecedents, through to Marx, Engels and the birth of communism' as a theory of class relations and a call to arms. He traces its spread to Russia and its adoption by young radical intellectuals led by Lenin, and explores why Russia, against all Marx's predictions, was such a fertile ground. He goes on to reckon brilliantly with the history of the Soviet Union, from the Russian Revolution and the Civil War, Stalin, Stalinism and the Great Terror, and the Second World War to the regime's decline and ultimate collapse. Pipes also looks at communism in its global context, from its spread to China and the Third World to its reception in the West, and the world-wide power struggle known as the Cold War. Finally he analyses the roots of communism's catastrophic failures and the staggering human cost it inflicted on the world in the 20th century.

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