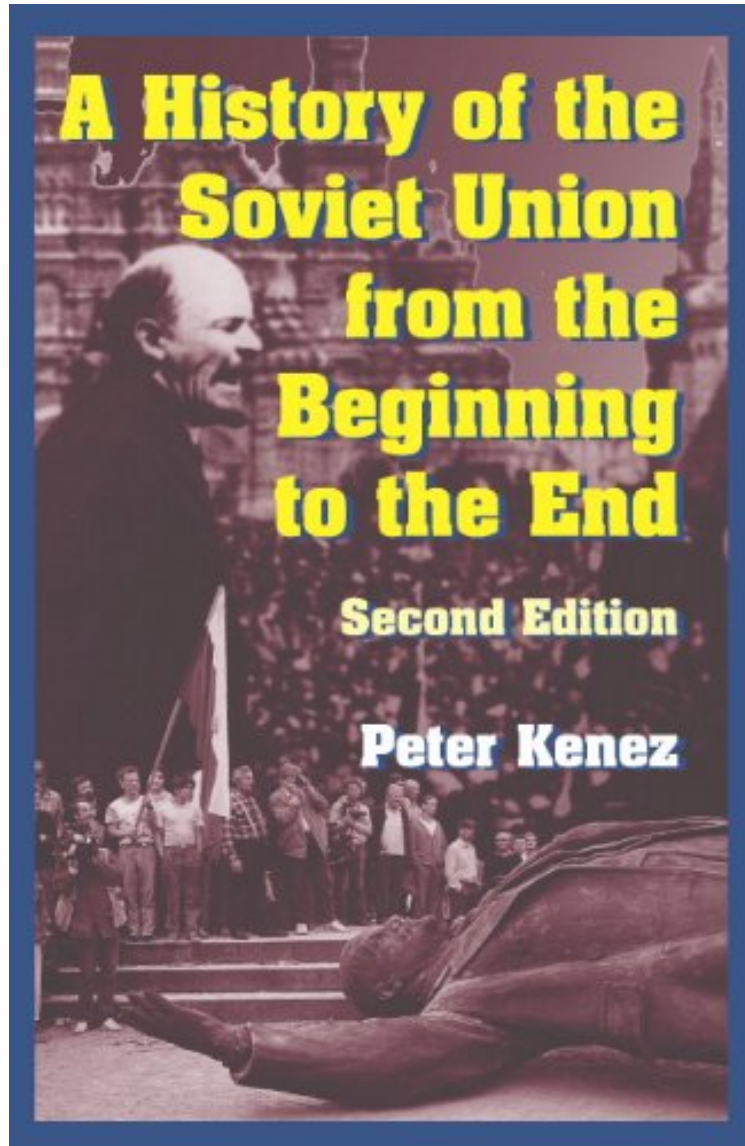


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A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End

Von Peter Kenez

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Von Peter Kenez : A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End:

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SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE FAILINGS OF THE SOVIET UNIONVon Gary WesthoffPeter Kenez outlines all of Soviet history succintly yet completely. He argues that the Soviet "golden age" during the NEP (New Economic

Policy) was doomed to failure because the Bolshevik state, by definition, could only function as a one-party, authoritarian power. Indeed, Kenez argues that the Soviet Union was always authoritarian, with the exception of Stalin's reign, when it was a totalitarian state. Stalin ruled with power that was so absolute that the Communist Party was deemed insignificant, no other figure gained lasting influence in government, and all were potentially subject to his terror. The Soviet Union met its demise and fall because the regime could not reform itself and still remain in existence. The flawed, top-down structure of the economy, particularly the constant failures of collectivized farms, assured that the Soviet Union could never see economic prosperity comparable to the West. Kenez's ideally-sized history offers an intriguing, and critical, history of the Soviet Union. It is anti-Soviet, but still objective: for example, Kenez argues that the Cold War Soviet Union had neither the desire, nor the capacity, to promote worldwide revolution. The one glaring flaw of this book is its sparse treatment of Cold War diplomacy, as it argues that the Soviet crises were almost entirely from within. The book is an effortless read. Its most gripping effect is that you likely walk away convinced that Josef Stalin was doubtlessly one of the most evil men in recorded history. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An excellent history of communism in the Soviet Union. Von Stephen M. Picca MD This is a brief but complete history of Communism in the Soviet Union from the days of the October Revolution to its recent collapse. Its main focus is on politics and economics but other topics (including even cinema) are discussed. A little dry at times but always readable. Does not require any real background in history to enjoy. Highly recommended for anyone seeking an overview of this fascinating subject.

Kurzbeschreibung An examination of political, social and cultural developments in the Soviet Union. The book identifies the social tensions and political inconsistencies that spurred radical change in the government of Russia, from the turn of the century to the revolution of 1917. Kenez envisions that revolution as a crisis of authority that posed the question, 'Who shall govern Russia?' This question was resolved with the creation of the Soviet Union. Kenez traces the development of the Soviet Union from the Revolution, through the 1920s, the years of the New Economic Policies and into the Stalinist order. He shows how post-Stalin Soviet leaders struggled to find ways to rule the country without using Stalin's methods but also without openly repudiating the past, and to negotiate a peaceful but antipathetic coexistence with the capitalist West. In this second edition, he also examines the post-Soviet period, tracing Russia's development up to the time of publication. **Pressestimmen** 'Few historians are as well qualified to write such a volume as Professor Kenez. A solid and conscientious scholar, author of several books on the early 1920s and on the Soviet cinema, Kenez's work has always inspired confidence and the new book is no exception. It is lucid, amply documented, well organized, and occasionally brightened by flashes of quiet humour. Above all, the book is thumpingly sensible.' *The Times Literary Supplement* 'Kenez has written an excellent book, and it is deserving of special attention by all who are interested in the rise and fall of the Soviet Union.' *Mediterranean Quarterly* **lyber das Produkt** An examination of political, social and cultural developments in the Soviet Union. Kenez traces the development of the Soviet Union from the Revolution to the complacency and corruption of the Gorbachev years. In this second edition, he also examines the post-Soviet period, tracing Russia's development up to the time of publication.