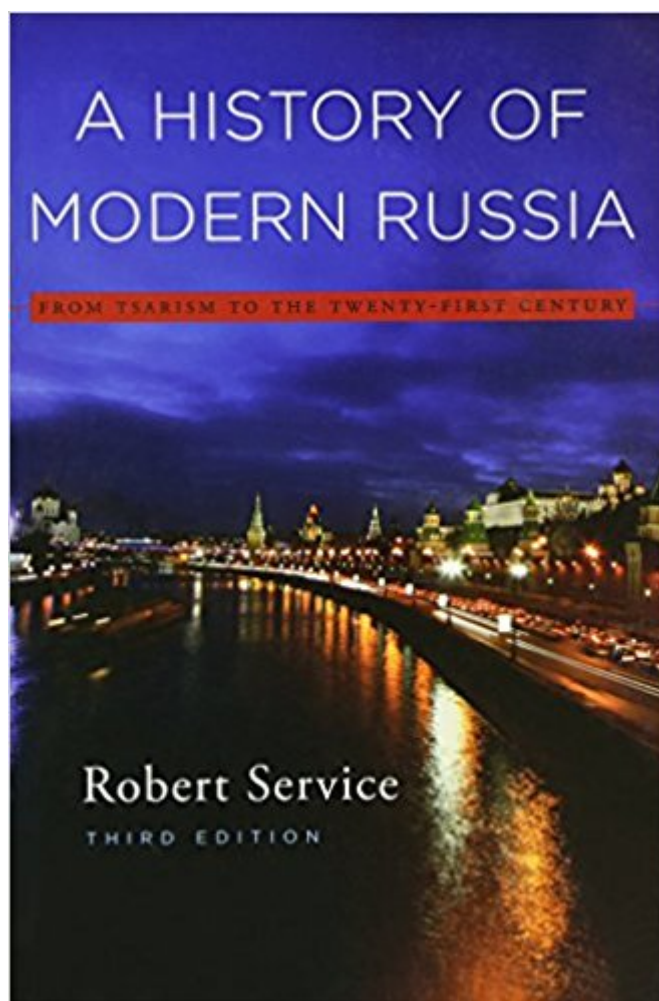


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A History Of Modern Russia: From Tsarism To The Twenty-First Century, Third Edition



Synopsis

Russia had an extraordinary twentieth century, undergoing upheaval and transformation. Updating his acclaimed *History of Modern Russia*, Robert Service provides a panoramic perspective on a country whose Soviet past encompassed revolution, civil war, mass terror, and two world wars. He shows how seven decades of communist rule, which penetrated every aspect of Soviet life, continue to influence Russia today. This new edition takes the story from 2002 through the entire presidency of Vladimir Putin to the election of his successor, Dmitri Medvedev.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A fine book...It is a dizzying tale and Service tells it well; he has none of the ideological baggage that has so often bedeviled Western histories of Russia...A balanced, dispassionate and painstaking account. (Brian Moynahan *Sunday Times*) A remarkable work...It demands to be read. (Adam Zamoyski *Spectator*) Always well-informed and balanced in his judgments, clear and concise in his analysis...Service is extremely good on Soviet politics. (Orlando Figes *Sunday Telegraph*)

Robert Service is a Fellow of the British Academy and Professor of Russian History at Oxford University.

This book diagnoses the many ills of the Tsarist regime, communism, Stalinism, Leninism and modern Russia. The just rule of law or absence thereof is shown to be decisive and the many wrong turns explained. Covering more than a century, the book cannot delve into all the interesting details,

but sufficient anecdotes and data are provided to describe the Russian roller-coaster and give readers a flavor of the times. Economics, politics, international relations, personalities, luck, culture all facets are covered.

This book gets through Stalin's reign with substantial explanations and background, but it peters out when dealing with subsequent leaders. The language is intelligent enough to be engaging while not dense enough to halt moderate reading speed. The Kindle version gets sloppier in the second half (words smashed together like this) but didn't cause me much trouble. Overall: a good reference for who was in power and what they did/how things shook out.

Author Robert Service could not have done it better (or any other author for that matter) with this piece of fine work! Every chapter from the Romanovs right up to Vladimir Putin's government is meticulously covered and just this one volume could save readers money on purchasing supplemental texts or books. An impeccable work!!! Thumbs up to Mr. Service!

It is being a pleasure to read this book. The history on this book demonstrates what socialism becomes after it is implemented. Many countries today, like Venezuela, try to implement socialism and now the people are suffering the same consequences as in Russia. We should not let this happen around the world especially with all the history that we have available to see what is always the outcome of socialism.

Great!

Robert Service's authoritative account is a peerless review of Russian history since the last days of the Tsars. To have taken on such a mammoth task is heroic but to have produced such a clear, readable, engaging account is nothing short of a stellar achievement. Does it really matter if it's been updated? History is constantly being rewritten as more and more documents are made available - the story of Oskar Schindler by Thomas Keneally and then, later, David Crowe is a spectacular example. Both are well-written, well-researched documents but the difference lies in what was available to Thomas Keneally when he wrote his book and what was available to Crowe when he wrote his. As Edvard Radzinsky observed after writing his account of Stalin, "this is a book that won't finish..." I digress. To the whiners who gave the book a one- or two-star rating because of some technical issue or because it bridges into the 21st century, you are missing the point. It's a

book about MODERN Russia and if the technical issue is too much, buy the book. I did, for \$5 and in excellent condition but that was AFTER I'd borrowed for FREE from the library. An unmissable opportunity to see how it was for the Russians after the Revolution and for anyone at all interested in world history, it is a real gem. It's one to be read.

It is an old book from 1997, somehow updated in 2003 and 2009. History has advanced since then very fast indeed... A better name for it would have been "A History of Russia during the XXth century and the first eight years of the XXI st century", but then, who would buy it? In addition, the Kindle edition is poor, as most Kindle editions of books still are, meaning, among other disturbances, that the Index, for instance, is worthless, since there is no way to locate in the Kindle edition the pages of the items that it contains. It is not worth even at half the original price is selling it!

Service remains the most coherent and comprehensive history of modern Russia. He is reliable, clear, and more than sufficiently thorough for the typical reader interested in the subject matter.

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