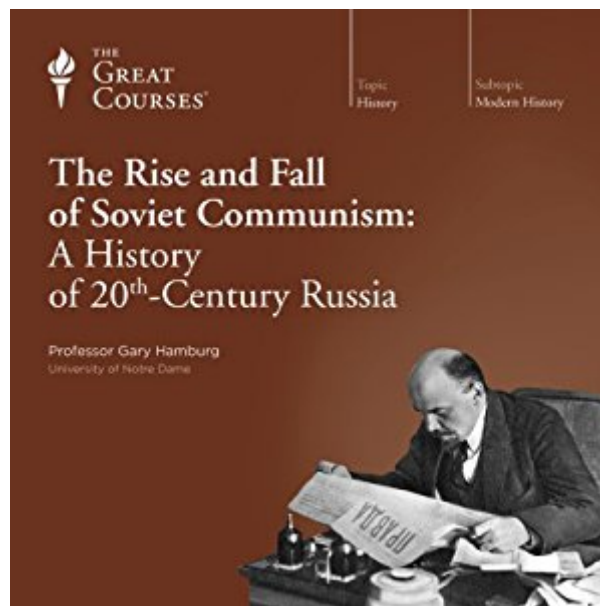


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# The Rise And Fall Of Soviet Communism: A History Of 20th-Century Russia



## Synopsis

From the Oval Office to the streets of Moscow, world leaders and ordinary citizens alike share interest and concerns about Russia. Can democracy survive there? What does the future hold for the once expansive and still powerful Russian nation? Is Soviet Communism truly dead? These are the kinds of questions diplomats struggle with every day. And now, through this series of 16 incisive lectures by an acclaimed scholar of Russian history, you can begin investigating them for yourself as you take a probing historical journey through the recent history and near future of a key world power. Whether your chief interest is Russian or world history, political theory, or international relations, you'll take away fresh knowledge and insight as Professor Hamburg examines the improbable origins of Communist rule in Russia, the ascent of the Red Star to its zenith, and its decline and apparent end in the wake of 1989's events. Using new material from previously sealed Soviet archives and covering recent controversial findings by both Russian and Western scholars, he begins with the failures of the czarist regime and the horrors of the First World War, then takes you through the bloody era of Josef Stalin's purges and beyond to Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika to offer you a thoroughgoing analysis of the Soviet experiment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The professor gives an in depth account on the history of the Russian empire. By the end of the lectures you will be well versed on all aspects of Russian culture, political make up, and regional considerations; including being able to understand the Russian politik today. Have you ever wondered how such a vast empire, at the turn of the 20th century, could be the last insular and truly autocratic monarchy? What events led to the downfall of the Romanov dynasty and who were the

major political players? Why would far reaching nations and peoples wish to remain under Russia's sphere of influence? Why do some want to leave Russian control? What motivated Lenin and who were his similar contemporaries, rivals, and enemies? What was the Soviet Union like immediately after the revolution and before World War 2? What led to Stalin taking control and how could it have ended differently? How did it all unravel by the end of the century and what is the political situation like today? Unlike some "Great Courses" that I've taken in the past, these lectures are very nuanced and deep (others are more like "survey" courses). If the history of Russia interests you I'd highly recommend these.

The course was interesting, but not analytical. The lecturer's delivery was flat and without affect. How can a discussion of the collapse of the Soviet Union not mention Star Wars or Reagan's "tear down this wall" speech?

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