

# The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union - Richard Sakwa - 9781134806010 - Routledge, 2005 - 2005 - 544 pages

There is plenty on the Soviet leaders in this book, too. No one could ignore them in so centralized and politicized a society. But I have also tried to penetrate a little more into their interaction with the various social strata, the religious and national groups, over which they rule. Fortunately, in the last ten to fifteen years, quite a large number of good monographs have been published in the West and (to a lesser extent, because of censorship) in the Soviet Union itself, which enable us to say more about the way of life of the working class, the peasantry, the professional strata, and e...Â Often in the text I refer to one or other of the main administrative divisions of the Soviet Union. These may be schematically laid out as follows: 1 Introduction. Yeltsin first rose to prominence in 1985 as an ally of Gorbachev, but he bristled at the slow pace of reform and soon found himself cast into the political wilderness. During his short time as the mayor of Moscow, however, Yeltsin won great popular acclaim as a champion of political and economic freedom.Â In September all three Baltic states formally left the Soviet Union and were admitted to the United Nations as the independent countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Georgia and Armenia each went their own way, and Kazakhstan and Kirgizia (renamed Kyrgyzstan) took control of their republicsâ€™ resources and began economic reform and privatization. However, the Soviet Union is a young state Cite this Item. 2 Yeltsin and Russia.Â The extraordinary rise of the Russian â€œdemocratsâ€ represents one of the key political developments of late-twentieth-century Russian and world politics. Nonexistent as a political force in 1985, when Gorbachev assumed power, this heterogeneous collection of activists advocating a â€œWesternâ€ course for the USSR and for the Russian Republicâ€ that is, a multiparty democracy and a market economyâ€ had by 1989 begun seriously to challenge the Communist party for power and, with the collapse of the August 1991 putsch, they unexpectedly found themselves the.