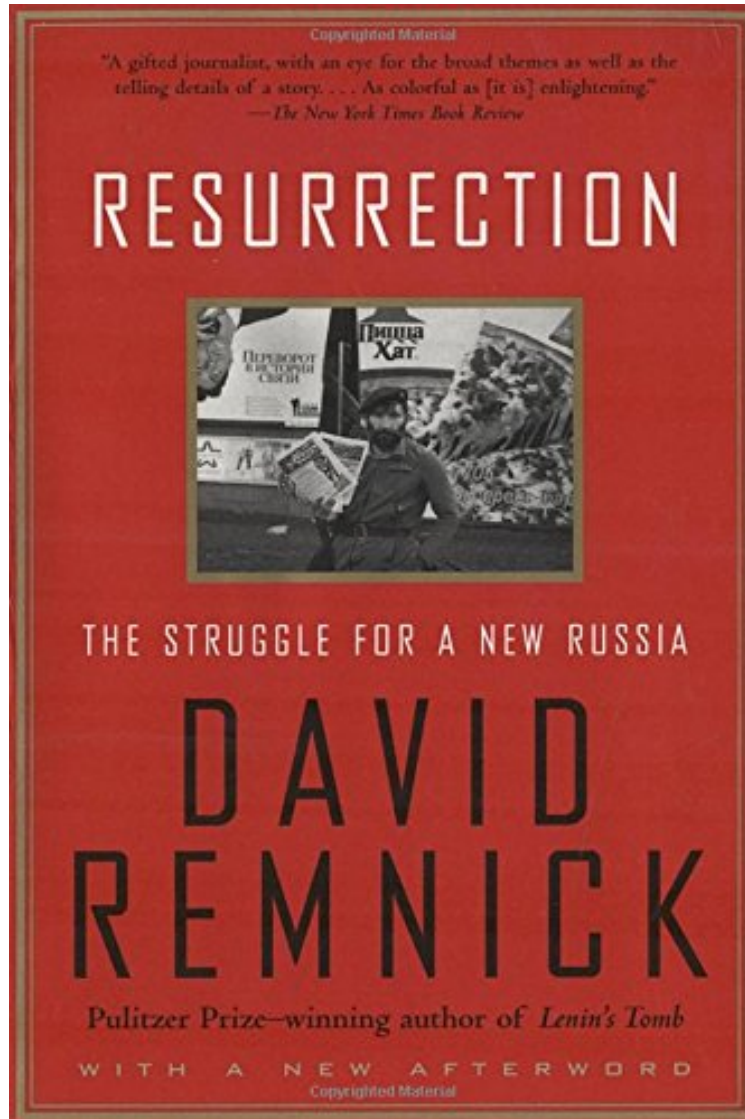


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Resurrection: The Struggle for a New Russia

David Remnick

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David Remnick : Resurrection: The Struggle for a New Russia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Resurrection: The Struggle for a New Russia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A sequel I couldnt wait for!By SandraAfter reading Lenin's Tomb, I was eager to read Remnick's follow up book about the struggle within Russia. I could not put Lenin's Tomb down - it was that compelling and absorbing. This book a bit less so, but it was still fascinating to follow the push and pull of politics and public sentiment in Russia.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A spry journey into the bleak whirlwindBy Gene ZafrinCompared to "Lenin's Tomb", this book is decidedly less thrilling. For the most part, it

is not the author's fault: in "Lenin's Tomb" he got to talk about Lenin, Stalin and Gorbachev, about Sacharov and early Solzhenitsyn, about the Bolshevik coup of 1917 and military/KGB revolt of 1991. Russian history of that period was as rich and colorful as it was bloody and tragic. "Resurrection" is concerned with a much shorter period between 1991 and 1996, and has to deal with Yeltsin, Zhirinovskiy, Zyuganov, Russian new rich and new poor, the bleak cultural scene: most subjects in focus dreadfully pathetic. On the other hand, the book itself fails to step up to the base. The numerous portraits of politicians almost completely lack any mention of their program, a surprising choice for a Washington Times correspondent. The fact that the president-parliament confrontation of 1993 was ostensibly provoked by Yeltsin, who unconstitutionally declared the dissolution of parliament, does not merit more than a mention in the book. The common perception of Yeltsin-the-hero-of-'91 is never questioned, even though after his gridlock on Chechnya his ousting of Gorbachev and ascension to Russia's throne looks more like a land grab. The book's longer chapters betray a slower pace of events. The novelty of the rising curtain was gone and everyone expected the play to begin. The action proved to be underwhelming. 1991: the country is fascinated by Yeltsin, a drinking boor; 1993: a quarter of the country votes for the dimwit Zhirinovskiy; 1996: a quarter of the country votes for the dull communist Zyuganov, a xenophobe and anti-Semite who "forgot" about the millions murdered under Stalin, and saw much positive in Stalinism. Then the leader in popularity is general Lebed, an ignorant and renegade guerrilla, and also an anti-Semite. The country is corrupt and criminal beyond belief. It is waging a bloody war in Chechnya where its army is openly murdering civilians. Its leading religious figures, such as Alexander Men, are assassinated. Its renowned writers of the second half of the century, such as Gelman and Bitov, are as lost as their poor country, while the new generation is modeling itself on beacons such as Prigov, whose projects include preparing an edition of Eugene Onegin "replacing all the original adjectives with 'insane' and 'unearthly'". Considering all this, Remnick does not seem to make a case for his hope for Russia's resurrection. Remnick's language is still as enjoyable as ever and the narrative flows. The book is very much readable and it leaves a lasting impression. 24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Well Worth It By John G. Hilliard This book bills itself as a history of the past 10 years after the fall of the Soviet Empire, and it does just that. There is no denying that the author, David Remnick is the king of current Russian society structure. The book not only focuses on who has power and what they are doing with it, but it digs deeper down to the Joe everybody and what it is like to live in a country that continues to fall into lower and lower standards of living. As far as who has the power now, that is a mix of old political cronies and new upstart organized crime figures with a few brave capitalists thrown into the mix. This is a well thought out and constructed book and keeps you interested. Just when you have had a good dose of heavy economic issues we go to the war in Chechnya, which keeps the pace up. He has peppered the book with interesting interviews and massive dose of good old fashion reporting. You can tell he worked very hard on this book, there is nothing left in the air. Each conclusion or statement is backed up in the writing. You also get the true love he has for the country and the people, the emotion comes through the writing and makes the book more than just a historical report. The writing is very good and challenging, this is not a book you can read and watch TV at the same time, you really need to and want to sink your teeth into it. If you are looking to learn something and enjoy it at the same time then this would be a very good buy.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Remnick chronicles the new Russia that emerged from the ash heap of the Soviet Union. From the siege of Parliament to the farcically tilted elections of 1996, from the rubble of Grozny to the grandiose wealth and naked corruption of today's Moscow, Remnick chronicles a society so racked by change that its citizens must daily ask themselves who they are, where they belong, and what they believe in. Remnick composes this panorama out of dozens of finely realized individual portraits. Here is Mikhail Gorbachev, his head still swimming from his plunge from reverence to ridicule. Here is Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the half-Jewish anti-Semite who conducts politics as loony performance art. And here is Boris Yeltsin, the tottering populist who is not above stealing elections. In *Resurrection*, they become the players in a drama so vast and moving that it deserves comparison with the best reportage of George Orwell and Michael Herr. "This is what happens when a good writer unleashes eye and ear on a story that moves with the speed of light. *Resurrection* has the feel of describing vast, historical change even as it is happening." --Chicago Tribune

.com In his first account of Russia, *Lenin's Tomb*, David Remnick wrote a history paced like a thriller that recast the common understanding of the last days of the Soviet Empire. While most reporters mouthed the standard lines about the "fall of communism," Remnick delivered a gripping account of how the old order in which gangsters ruled through brutal state power lost its hold on the Russian people. Remnick's stunning reportage cut away the myths of the Soviet system to provide the first account of how Eastern Europeans and former citizens of the Soviet Union had long viewed the Soviet regime. The book won the young author his first Pulitzer Prize. In his new and equally superb book *Resurrection*, Remnick offers clear-eyed commentary on how the old order of gangsters has given way to a new order. Russia's power elite, he tells us, has embraced the tools and techniques of markets and electioneering to maintain power, while organized crime is fast becoming a major force in the economy. Remnick also describes how the changes in Russia have effected the people themselves. Heart-wrenching chapters on the war in Chechnya, the health and

welfare of children (only 15 percent of school children are classified as healthy, and 50 percent are unfit for military service), and the diminished state of Russian letters and literature chronicle the suffering of a once proud nation as it attempts to rebuild itself. Resurrection makes good on Remnick's name and reputation as the best American writer on Russia today. From Library Journal In this follow-up to *Lenin's Tomb* (LJ 6/15/93), which focused on the collapse of the USSR, Remnick concentrates on the post-Soviet scene and its prospects. We meet a rich variety of personalities, some familiar—like Alexander Solzhenitsyn and "retired czar" Mikhail Gorbachev? and some largely unknown—like Vladimir Gusinsky, the most powerful member of the new emerging Muscovite elite. Boris Yeltsin figures crucially in Remnick's narrative, which paints vignettes about the "new Russia." Chaotic uncertainty, massive corruption, and crime are notoriously present, yet the possibility of a different, better life also beckons. The past is not encouraging, but Remnick ends on a tentatively hopeful note. This is an interesting, highly informative portrait of a country struggling toward a fateful future. Strongly recommended.—Robert H. Johnston, McMaster Univ., Hamilton, Ontario Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist To *Russophiles*, this sequel to Remnick's *Lenin's Tomb* (1993) is a fascinating, shrewd recounting of Russian politics since the demise of the USSR. Remnick's mode is reportorial and features interviews with prominent Russians from the Soviet period contrasted with contemporary competitors in the post-Communist scramble for money and power. Apart from the personality profiles, Remnick analyzes recent events and their portent for Russia's near-term future. The promise and tragedies of the past five years Remnick sees personified in Boris Yeltsin, who, the author argues, squandered his credit by waging war in Chechnya. Indeed, Yeltsin's ills Remnick sees paralleled in other topics he writes up, such as the giant firm Gazprom, the national television network—or even the symbol of national resurrection, the construction of Moscow's new Cathedral of Christ the Savior. Who knows who's (corruptly) financing it, but up it goes to popular acclaim. Solzhenitsyn told Remnick 75 years might pass before Russia recovers from Communism, and this marks a vivid portrait of the early steps along that road. Gilbert Taylor