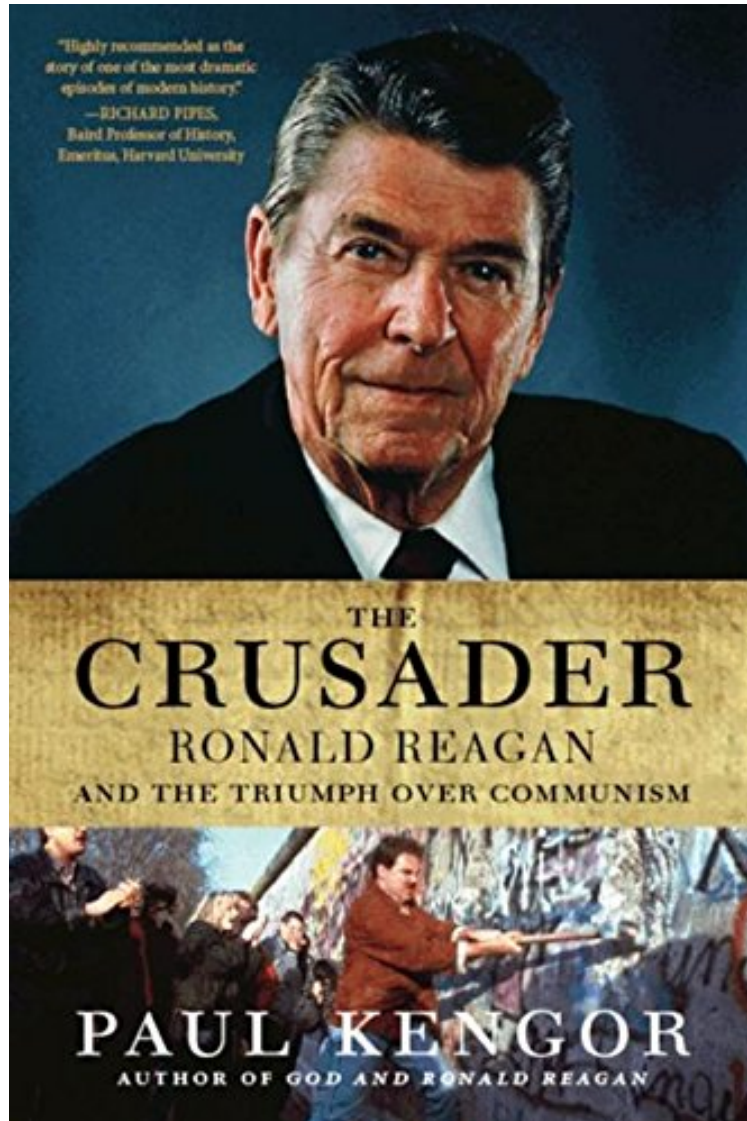


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The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism

Paul Kengor

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Paul Kengor : The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism:

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Based on extraordinary research: a major reassessment of Ronald Reagan's lifelong crusade to dismantle the Soviet Empire—including shocking revelations about the liberal American politician who tried to collude with USSR to counter Reagan's efforts Paul Kengor's *God and Ronald Reagan* made presidential historian Paul Kengor's name as one of the premier chroniclers of the life and career of the 40th president. Now, with *The Crusader*, Kengor returns with the one book about Reagan that has not been written: The story of his lifelong crusade against communism, and of his dogged—and ultimately triumphant—effort to overthrow the Soviet Union. Drawing upon reams of newly declassified presidential papers, as well as untapped Soviet media archives and new interviews with key players, Kengor traces Reagan's efforts to target the Soviet Union from his days as governor of California to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of what he famously dubbed the "Evil Empire." The result is a major revision and enhancement of what historians are only beginning to realize: That Reagan not only wished for the collapse of communism, but had a deep and specific understanding of what it would take—and effected dozens of policy shifts that brought the USSR to its heels within a decade of his presidency. *The Crusader* makes use of key sources from behind the Iron Curtain, including one key memo that implicates a major American liberal politician—still in office today—in a scheme to enlist Soviet premier Yuri Andropov to help defeat Reagan's 1984 reelection bid. Such new finds make *The Crusader* not just a work of extraordinary history, but a work of explosive revelation that will be debated as hotly in 2006 as Reagan's policies were in the 1980s.

From Publishers Weekly In this hagiographic account, political scientist Kengor (*God and Ronald Reagan*) makes the familiar case (made most recently by John Lewis Gaddis in *The Cold War*) that Reagan played a decisive role in ending the Cold War. Reagan was troubled by communism well before he arrived at the White House. As a young man in Hollywood, he railed against the red threat, and as early as 1967, he called for the destruction of the Berlin Wall. As president, Reagan engaged in "economic warfare," invaded Grenada and proved that the Soviets couldn't win an arms race against the U.S. Though "those enslaved by the Soviet Communist state" didn't find freedom until after the Reagan administration, Dutch gets the credit. And what of other major figures who contributed to the Cold War's end? Gorbachev, of course, figures prominently, and John Paul II makes significant appearances—Kengor credits the pope with helping turn Reagan's attention to Poland. Ted Kennedy, on the other hand, emerges as a sneak and a dupe, willing to undermine U.S. foreign policy and make nice with the Russians. The book's structure is somewhat stilted—each chapter is broken up into short chunks, so it feels as though one is reading not a sweeping narrative, but an annotated time line of Reagan's presidency. While the book is workmanlike, the chronology is useful and the footnotes reveal an impressive amount of research. (Oct. 17) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Praise for *God and Ronald Reagan*: "God and Ronald Reagan captures the real Ronald Reagan." (Michael Reagan) Praise for *God and Ronald Reagan*: "A profound character study, and engrossing work of history..." (Peter Robinson, author of *How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life*) Praise for *God and Ronald Reagan*: "Fascinating... This is a must-read piece of political history." (Donald M. Goldstein, coauthor of *At Dawn We Slept*) Praise for *God and George W. Bush*: "Excellent" (National) Praise for *God and George W. Bush*: "A wealth of material." (National Catholic Reporter) "Combining great story-telling with his commitment to scholarly detail, Paul Kengor has written an important and fascinating book." (Peter Schweizer, author of *Do As I Say Not As I Do and Reagan's War*) "While many have tried, few have succeeded in telling such a complete history of my dad's greatest triumph." (Michael Reagan) "Paul Kengor's latest book illuminates a side of the man evident only to those closest to him." (Bill Clark, National Security Advisor 1982-1983) About the Author Paul Kengor is the author of the New York Times extended-list bestseller *God and Ronald Reagan* as well as *God and George W. Bush* and *The Crusader*. He is a professor of political science and director of the Center for Vision and Values at Grove City College. He lives with his wife and children in Grove City, Pennsylvania.