

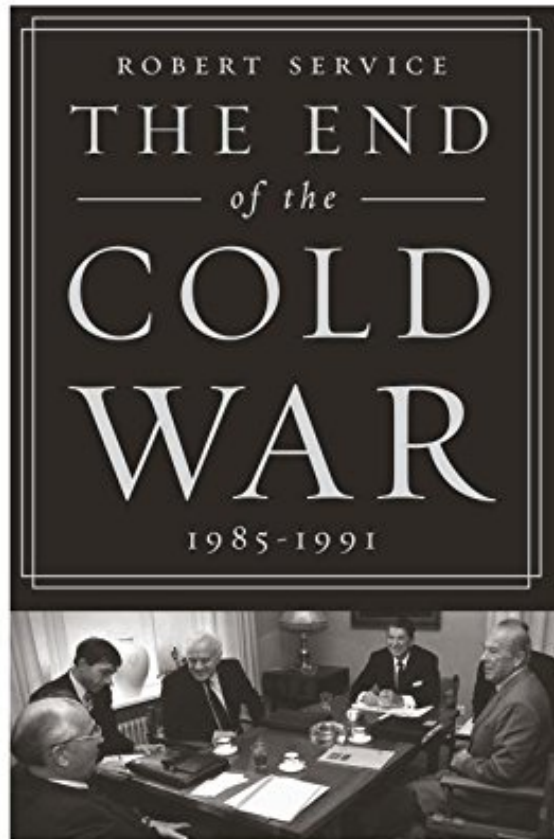
[Read free] The End of the Cold War: 1985-1991

The End of the Cold War: 1985-1991

Robert Service

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Robert Service : The End of the Cold War: 1985-1991 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of the Cold War: 1985-1991:

28 of 30 people found the following review helpful. The best summary of the End of the Cold War By William A. Thayer Robert Service is one of the best writers on Communism and their leaders. This book is about the Communist leaders ending with Gorbachev and Yeltsin. It is also about the principal American leaders, mostly Reagan and his advisors. It is also about the British, French and German leaders. The detail is terrific. This is the best summary I have seen on the end of the Cold War, and I have read a lot of them. I am very familiar with the history of the Cold War. For example, I was in Berlin in 1961 when the Wall went up. I have travelled to Russia in 1972 and 2000. I travelled through East Europe in 1972. The Poles just hated the Russians. I have travelled through the Baltic States, and they

detest the Russians also. Service did an awesome amount of research. He presents the various factions in the US and USSR that were fighting for positions on disarmament and other key issues vs. just stating a monolithic US position and monolithic USSR position. This book is primarily a political history although it does touch on some economic issues and some military issues. For a more in depth treatment of the military issues, I recommend "The Collapse of the Soviet Military" by General Odom. I have yet to find a good summary on the decline of the USSR economy. In summary, if you are interested in the end of the Cold War, this is the definitive book. Well done Mr. Service.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Cold Wars Last Breaths By Michael Griswold The End of the Cold War by Robert Service showcases the final six years or so of the Cold War 1985-1991. Much of the first part of the book covers how we got to Mikhail Gorbachev in the USSR and The Cold War broadly. Then he takes this panoramic view throughout the big players of Europe and the Soviet Satellite countries. This pattern actually occurs throughout the book as one chapter will cover some element of US-Soviet relations under Reagan and Gorbachev and their surrogates mostly Shultz and Shevardnadze, which a few other faces sprinkled in. Then the next chapter will cover Europe or Communism outside of Moscow. This snapshot format can make it hard for readers to get their bearings because once one is into a section, boom it changes. Service has clearly dug through the archives and for that I praise him, but the problem is that at times it reads like somebody dug through the archives and spewed what they learned onto the page. This is my long winded way of saying some context and exposition would be nice, otherwise you just spend your time getting run over by an interesting two pound academic door stop. Yet, if you have a lover of Russian and Eastern European History to shop for, they will love this.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Vital Story Well Told By F. W. Strong III Robert Service has written the history from credible sources of the last decade of the Cold War. It is organized by major participant and arrayed chronologically. I served as an Intelligence Director in Strategic Air Command during the last decade of the Cold War but was working at the operational level. I have been looking for a credible history of events occurring at the national strategic level. This book meets that requirement in spades. It answered many questions I had about what exactly happened in the USSR and Warsaw Pact that led to their demise. The book is so comprehensive that it is not an easy casual read. But if you want to know how the world avoided nuclear holocaust as an empire collapsed on itself this book will tell you

On 26 December, 1991, the hammer-and-sickle flag was lowered over the Kremlin for the last time. Yet, just six years earlier, when Mikhail Gorbachëv became general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and chose Eduard Shevardnadze as his foreign minister, the Cold War seemed like a permanent fixture in world politics. Until its denouement, no Western or Soviet politician foresaw that the standoff between the two superpowers—after decades of struggle over every aspect of security, politics, economics, and ideas—would end within the lifetime of the current generation. Nor was it at all obvious that the Soviet political leadership would undertake a huge internal reform of the USSR, or that the threat of a nuclear Armageddon could or would be peacefully wound down. Drawing on pioneering archival research, Robert Service's gripping investigation of the final years of the Cold War pinpoints the extraordinary relationships between Ronald Reagan, Gorbachëv, George Shultz, and Shevardnadze, who found ways to cooperate during times of exceptional change around the world. A story of American pressure and Soviet long-term decline and overstretch, *The End of the Cold War: 1985–1991* shows how a small but skillful group of statesmen grew determined to end the Cold War on their watch and transformed the global political landscape irreversibly.

A Times [UK] Book of the Year 2015 "The denouement is well known and well told in pointillist detail... [an] admirably even-handed account, which offers a compendium of the expired secrets of the White House and Kremlin." —Wall Street Journal "The End of the Cold War [is] a massive new study of the last days of the Soviet empire... British historian Robert Service examines newly released Politburo minutes, recently available unpublished diaries, and minutely detailed negotiation records." —Boston Globe "The End of the Cold War, 1985-1991 [is] a detailed, authoritative, and illuminating account of the end of the competition that defined world politics for more than four decades." —Christian Science Monitor "The End of the Cold War: 1985-1991 serves as a reminder that the hawks' memory of Reagan's Soviet diplomacy is selective and, ultimately, just plain inaccurate... Service succeed[s] in giving the reader a comprehensive account of the meetings and debates in the years leading up to the Soviet collapse." —Washington Post