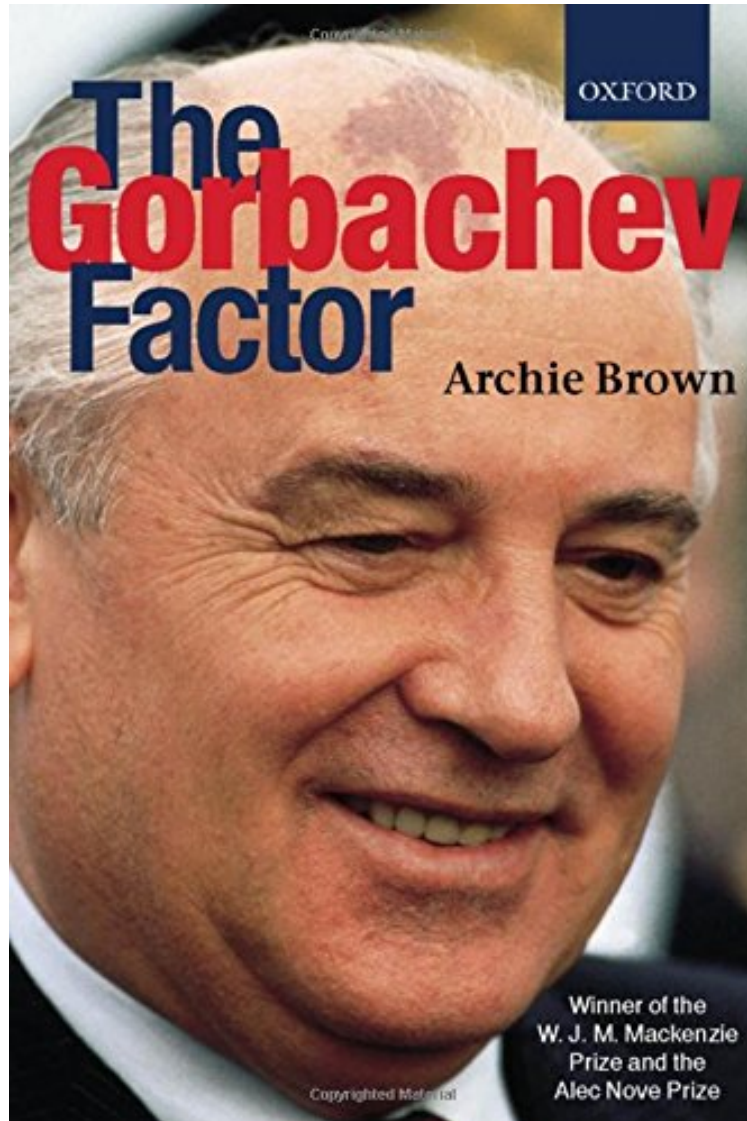


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The Gorbachev Factor

Archie Brown

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Archie Brown : The Gorbachev Factor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gorbachev Factor:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Gorbachev analyzed and dissected By Michael E. Alfes Most Russian and other people of the former Soviet Union consider Gorbachev as a Judas who betrayed the Country (USSR, that he sworn to serve and protect) for the 30 pieces of silver - Nobel Prize of Peace (1990). When Gorbachev started his reforms in 1985-1986, he could not anticipate their unintended consequences: collapse of USSR and the whole East

European Socialist system, one of the greatest Empires in the human history, within just six years (1985-1991). He deserved his place of History, as a ruler who made such collapse as bloodless as possible. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Gorbachev Factor By M. Yakiwchuk Reading The Gorbachev Factor has given me an understanding of Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Communist Party, and of the various political actors and their roles in transforming the Soviet Union between 1985 and 1991. If you've ever wondered "What did Gorbachev do? Who was he? What happened during his time as Communist Party Secretary?" then this is the book to read. Archie Brown has a singular ability to synthesize complex ideas into readable prose and that is what makes this book so enjoyable and illuminating. While reading this book I felt like I was being carried along the currents of history. The only other British historian who has had this effect on me is the late Michael Grant, whose book "History of Rome" re-kindled my lifelong interest in Roman history. The Gorbachev Factor is one book I am better off for having read. Along with Mr. Brown's "Seven Years that Changed the World: Perestroika in Perspective" I recommend The Gorbachev Factor wholeheartedly to anyone looking for a better understanding of the Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War. 5/50 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Soon By gnome d. ploom The book was in fantastic shape and fit perfectly on my "To Be Read" file.

General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and political reformer, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and the force behind perestroika, Mikhail Gorbachev was arguably the most important statesman of the twentieth century. Providing a balanced account of the complexities of politics in the U.S.S.R. during a period of remarkable change, The Gorbachev Factor tells the gripping story of Gorbachev's rise and fall, a story full of intrigue, secret meetings, and power struggles. Archie Brown, one of the world's leading authorities on Gorbachev and the first Western writer to predict his importance, sets out to comprehend the evolution of Gorbachev's thinking and to identify and evaluate his personal contribution to change in Soviet politics. He analyzes the thrust of Gorbachev's domestic and foreign policy, looks at the sources of his new ideas, and assesses his contribution to the radical changes that took place in the Soviet Union. Brown shows how Gorbachev moved beyond reform of the Soviet system to the demolition of a number of its pillars. In the process of describing Gorbachev, Brown also provides portraits of Soviet leaders through the years-- Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko, and even Lenin and Stalin--and charts the influence of such Russian luminaries as Eduard Shevardnadze and Boris Yeltsin. Perceptive and controversial, The Gorbachev Factor paints a vivid picture of a man and seven years that have changed the course of the twentieth century, offering fascinating insights into the beliefs, political style, and powers of Mikhail Gorbachev.

.com In the West, Mikhail Gorbachev is revered as a historic leader who ended the Cold War. In Russia, he is largely despised. Archie Brown, a professor of politics at Oxford and one of the first to recognize the significance of Gorbachev's rise to power in the former Soviet Union, has produced the most thorough biography to date--a meticulously written defense of Gorbachev's historic role as the last Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party. While not neglecting to note the man's mistakes and his flaws--chiefly his vanity and inconsistency--The Gorbachev Factor is a very positive portrait of a man who changed the world. From Library Journal A notable Oxford scholar focuses on Mikhail Gorbachev's role in ending the Cold War and attempting to reform the Soviet political system. Brown's thorough, well-researched study rebuts those in Russia and the West who would downplay Gorbachev's transformative role in 1985-91. Devoting separate chapters to Gorbachev's economic, political, and foreign policy reforms, Brown makes a strong case that Gorbachev's leadership was a necessary condition for sweeping change in the late 1980s. As the author points out, events like the notorious 1988 Nina Andreyevna affair (when a typically hardline letter Andreyevna wrote to a Soviet paper backfired) would probably have been enough, in Gorbachev's absence, to nip the first shoots of "civil society" in the bud. Although the author is too concerned with the unprovable issue of what Gorbachev's beliefs were at each stage of his career, he does provide a useful corrective to propaganda on behalf of Boris Yeltsin, for whom he expresses thinly veiled contempt. For highly informed readers and specialists. ?Robert Decker, Palo Alto, Cal. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. "To understand this singular man, the reader can do no better than to turn to Archie Brown's astute and lucid (if not felicitously titled) book The Gorbachev Factor.... A rich study, as impressive in its sweep as in its details."--The New York Times Book "A remarkably detailed and authoritative account of the key moments in Gorbachev's career."--The Washington Post Book World "[Professor Brown's] book is, by all odds, the most thorough exposition of Gorbachev's domestic political record yet to appear."--The New York of Books