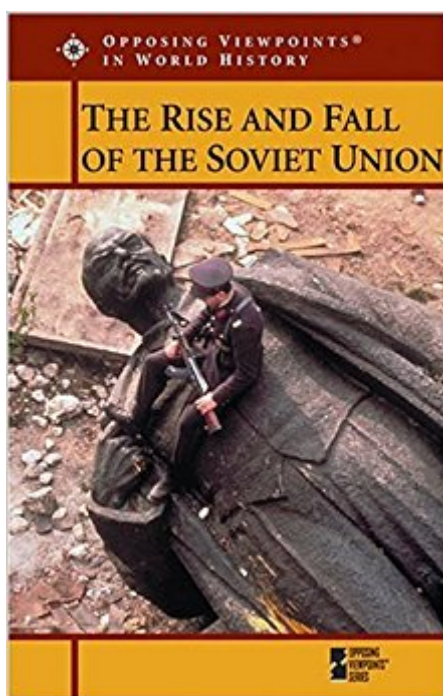


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The Rise And Fall Of The Soviet Union (Opposing Viewpoints In World History)



Synopsis

Book by Laurie Stoff

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 10 Up – A 12-page introduction to the history of the Soviet Union is followed by four chapters on topics relating to different chronological periods. Each one includes from four to six viewpoints preceded by a summary of background information and a specific introduction to each piece. The first chapter focuses on the pros and cons of overthrowing the tsarist regime. In the next, differing views on the nature of Soviet foreign policy in the 1940s are presented. Chapter three offers arguments on how citizens were treated by their government, and the final chapter includes clashing views on why the Soviet Union collapsed. Oddly, the chronology ends in 1989 even though the last chapter covers the dissolution of the USSR in the following two years. A very few, very small black-and-white photos are included. The introductions are good but assume a more complex understanding of Soviet history than they can offer in such a limited space. Analyses by scholars or journalists are usually well written and clear, but the bombastic, or, in a few cases, the turgid prose of political figures may be difficult for some readers to handle. The latter is especially true in the first two chapters. The book will be a useful source for teachers who like the format of the series and can expand on the historical context. – Elizabeth Talbot, University of Illinois, Champaign
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