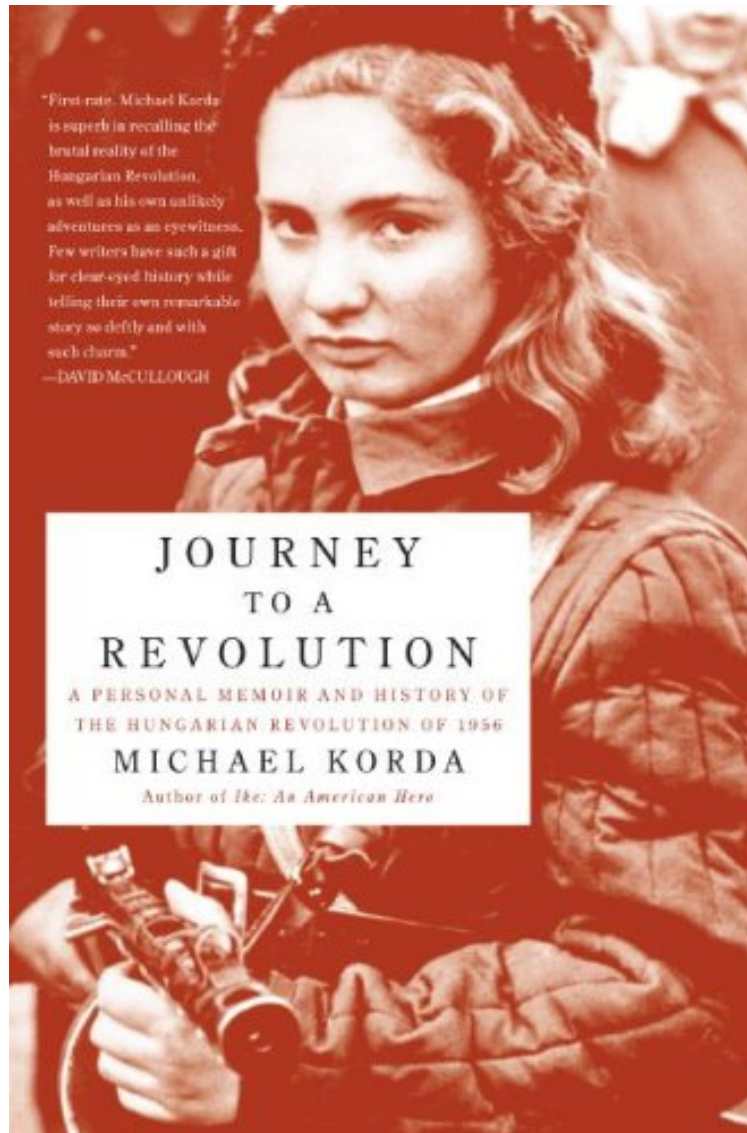


[Free pdf] Journey to a Revolution: A Personal Memoir and History of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956

## Journey to a Revolution: A Personal Memoir and History of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956

Von Michael Korda

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Von Michael Korda : Journey to a Revolution: A Personal Memoir and History of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Journey to a

## Revolution: A Personal Memoir and History of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956:

**Kurzbeschreibung**The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was perhaps the most dramatic single event of the Cold War and a major turning point in history. Though it ended unsuccessfully, the spontaneous uprising of Hungarians against their country's Communist party and the Soviet occupation forces in the wake of Stalin's death demonstrated to the world at large the failure of Communism. In full view of the Western media and therefore the world the Russians were obliged to use force on a vast scale to subdue armed students, factory workers, and intellectuals in the streets of a major European capital. In October 1956, Michael Korda and three fellow Oxford undergraduates traveled to Budapest in a beat-up Volkswagen to bring badly needed medicine to the hospitals and to participate, at street level, in one of the great battles of the postwar era. *Journey to a Revolution* is at once history and a compelling memoir the author's riveting account of the course of the revolution, from its heroic beginnings to the sad martyrdom of its end. From Publishers Weekly In October 1956 the Hungarian people spontaneously rose up against an oppressive Soviet-imposed Communist regime and basked briefly in the light of freedom. In this history lesson cum memoir, Korda (*Another Life*) stitches an appealing retelling of his journey of discovery into the larger context of the desperate, short-lived Hungarian revolt. Part hard-nosed history lesson, part affectionate celebration of Hungary and Hungarian culture, and part sepia-tinged memoir, the book attempts to pull back the veil on the post-WWII machinations of the victorious Allies and expose how such diplomatic wheeling and dealing can devastate an entire nation. The first two-thirds are strong, with both a comprehensive overview of the postwar geopolitical scene and a finely tuned take on the specifics of the Hungarian situation. Korda's account of his own journey there during the revolution at age 24 is strangely flat. Along the way from the pastoral comfort of his native England to the rubble and corpse-strewn streets of Budapest, he has some near misses with life-threatening danger. At the border between Austria and Hungary, Korda and his mates encounter a machine gun-toting guard who offers them barack, homemade peach brandy, and a warning about the invading Russians: "there are some very bad guys in Gyr." While the tale at times has difficulty rising from the page, Korda's story is a worthy read. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In 1956 Budapest was the site of a 12-day revolution that marked the beginning of the end of Communism in Eastern Europe. In his latest offering, novelist and former Simon Schuster editor-in-chief Korda turns his shrewd gaze on the land of his ancestors (his Hungarian-born father, Vincent, was an esteemed film production designer; his uncle, movie magnate Sir Alexander Korda, won the first Best Motion Picture Academy Award ever given to a foreign film). Part history lesson, part personal memoir, *Journey to a Revolution* is perhaps more successful as the latter, providing Korda's perspective as one of four Oxford students who traveled to Hungary in the wake of the conflict to deliver desperately needed medical supplies. The book begins with a condensed version of the country's tumultuous history, including a portrait of popular prime minister Imre Nagy, who ultimately broke with the Communist Party, led the Hungarian Revolution, and sealed his doom by withdrawing Hungary from the Warsaw Pact. Hungarians have long been revered for their charisma and charm, qualities Korda displays in this compelling account. Allison Block Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved