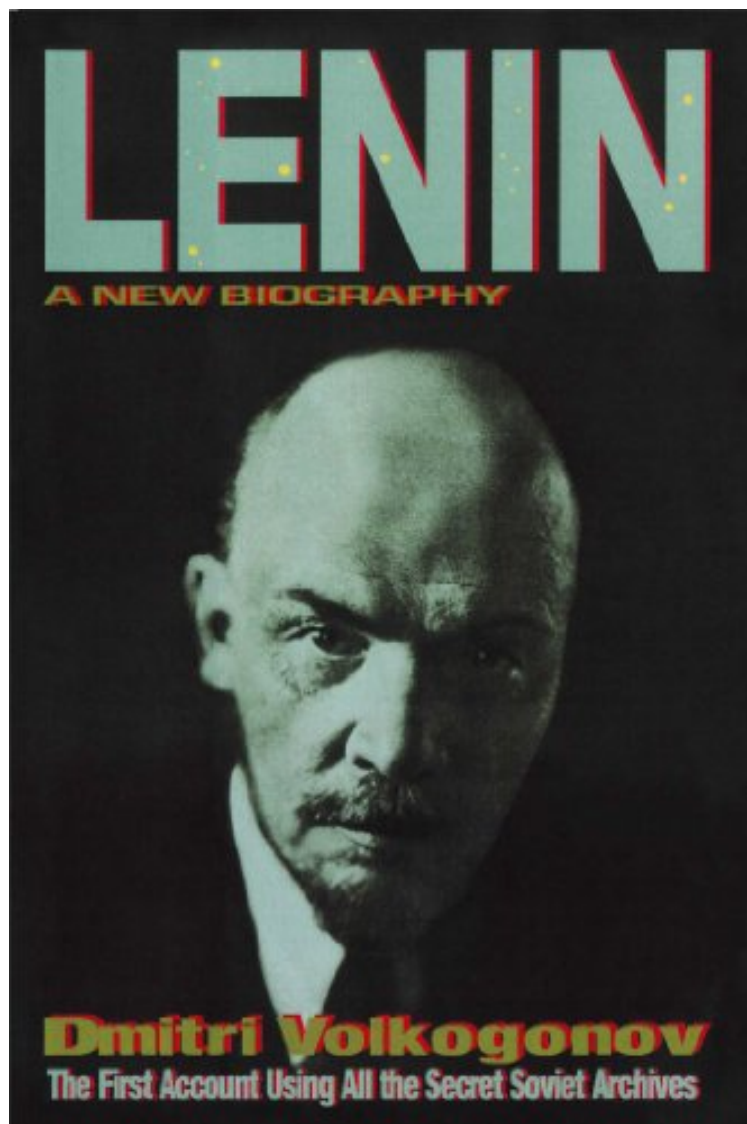


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Lenin (English Edition)

Von Dmitri Volkogonov

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Von Dmitri Volkogonov : Lenin (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lenin (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Amazing Intellectual JourneyVon Ein KundeWhat makes Dmitri Volkogonov's work so important, is not the fact that he is the first to publicize these formerly secret documents, but that as a former Leninist he made the remarkable intellectual journey to form the conclusion that the Bolshevik state was a sham from the start. This is a powerful statement coming from a man who once served the Soviet state as an Army General, a man who as a young officer

willingly drove a tank through ground zero of a nuclear blast. His informed view deserves more weight in my opinion than the smug attitudes of comfortable armchair communists in the West or unrepentant apparatchiki in Russia. Leninists will of course hate Volkogonov for this in that he has shown their bogus saint for what he was - a cynical opportunist, a close-minded dilutant, operating with but the fig leaf of a political plan. What interested Lenin most of all, as shown by the author, was not the establishment of communism, but rather the raw use of power. Thus he could write of the withering away of the state in "State and Revolution" while at the same time planning the creation a bureaucraticized police state based on mass terror. Volkogonov sheds amazing light on various aspects of Lenin which until now were little known, such as his family background, his connections with the German General Staff, his responsibility for the murder of the Czar and his family, his actions in the Kaplan affair, and his unrealistic hopes in spreading the world revolution. What was for me perhaps the most frightening aspect of Lenin is how much his style has been copied since 1917 by cynical political manipulators, especially in the West. The quest for unrestrained power is for them, as it was for Lenin, the sole reason for their political existence.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An updated biography de-mythologizing Lenin

Von Ein Kunde

Readers are now treated to an updated biography of Lenin, with a work that includes all the information about him in the once top-secret Soviet archives. The author, Dmitri Volkogonov, was a former Director of the Institute of Military History in Russia and a Colonel-General in the army. He now is a special assistant to Boris Yeltsin and chairman of the presidential commission examining Soviet archives. Volkogonov has also authored two other works on Stalin and Trotsky. In those days before perestroika, Lenin was considered by the people almost as a god and the principal architect of a communist state. He attempted to construct the praxis that Marx had thought of as an ideology. However, the secret Lenin archives have now been opened, containing many unpublished documents of Lenin. Vladimir Ilyich Lenin has been de-mythologized. He built up the dictatorship of the proletariat. Instead of a society of equals, the state now takes absolute power in an interim stage towards the communist utopia. All this was known; what was not known were the means by which Lenin tried to achieve this: violence to attain and spread communist ideology not only throughout the Soviet Union, but also to neighboring countries; his treachery towards even his once close friends and colleagues. Likewise, the author points out how communist bureaucracy started and spread through the years, breeding corruption in government institutions and structures. Unlike many biographies, the work of Volkogonov is light reading, but it is well-documented. If you wish to find out the long-hidden truth about Lenin and the genesis of the now-defunct Soviet state, this book is for you.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Lenin: A False Interpretation

Von Ein Kunde

This book offers a radical departure from the traditional view of Lenin, but an unsubstantiated one. That its author is a special aide to the ten year virtual autocrat of modern Russia comes as no surprise. Evidence for the famously modest - a characteristic not disputed even by rabid critics such as David Shub - Lenin having consciously fostered his own personality cult is weak. And how do we know that the evidence is even genuine? How can Lenin have been a power hungry dictator when he offered Trotsky the leadership of the country after the 1917 revolution? And yes, he set up concentration camps - but the only task of the incipients was to grow their own food; a vital problem in a country ravaged by a civil war and the First World War before that was lack of food and for prisoners to grow their own was reasonable enough. Not until the reign of Stalin were they converted to the hell-holes of the famous gulag. Lenin was no dictator, as was proved by the fact that his views often failed to prevail upon the party - e.g initially at Brest Litovsk 1918. When he could not convince a majority, his policies were not implemented. As for the persecution of the all-powerful Orthodox Church, the head was not a priest but a diplomat made chair of the Holy Synod by order of the Tsar and the crucifixes and other relics confiscated and sold for grain were less important than the people who would have starved had they not been sold. The efforts of modern Russia to jettison the founding father of a productive and creative society are epitomised in this book.

Kurzbeschreibung The special assistant to Boris Yeltsin radically alters the traditional image of Lenin with a biography based on secret Soviet archives, revealing the Founding Father as a cruel, totalitarian leader who was responsible for the worst excesses of the Soviet state.

From Publishers Weekly

In a notably revelatory biography, Volkogonov presents the most compelling evidence to date that Lenin, not Stalin, was the true father of Soviet totalitarianism. The author draws heavily on newly declassified KGB archives that he oversees as special assistant to President Boris Yeltsin. Quoting extensively from Lenin's once top-secret communications, Volkogonov shows that Lenin personally created a system of terror that laid the foundations for Stalin's dictatorship. We see how Lenin created the omnipotent Cheka, or political police, and immersed himself in its daily activities; launched an onslaught against religious institutions; initiated systematic extermination of the land-owning peasantry, or kulaks; and ordered the murder of Nicholas II and his family, then commended the executioners. Historian and former Soviet General Volkogonov (Stalin) provides new details on Germany's covert financing of the Bolshevik Party and, on a more personal note, of Lenin's 10-year affair with Inessa Armand, a relationship his wife, Nadezhda Krupskaya, tolerated. Volkogonov's narrative is indispensable for understanding the Bolshevik coup, their crushing of the democratic opposition and the tragic aftermath. Photos not

seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Director of the Institute of Military History until the 1988 publication of his critical Stalin (LJ 9/15/91) forced his resignation, Volkogonov is now chair of the presidential committee examining formerly classified State and Party archives. As such, he is in an excellent position to provide a revisionist view of Lenin from the inside, and he delivers. From the beginning, Volkogonov challenges the assumption that Lenin's legacy was perverted by Stalin, documenting in detail how "on every point-peace, land, liberty, Constituent Assembly, freedom of the press and all the rest-[the Bolsheviks'] promises rapidly changed into cruelty, limitation, alteration, a different 'reading' or outright denial." Accounts of Lenin's cooperation with Germany during World War I and of the new government's using funds to further revolution abroad even as millions of citizens starved are among the book's most chilling passages. Occasionally, Volkogonov hammers home a point overmuch, but that is to be expected of a disillusioned man with an important message. A sobering and authoritative book; highly recommended. Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal" Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.