

1989 events in history

1989: A Year of Revolution and Change - A Comprehensive Guide

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Summary: 1989 was a pivotal year in global history, witnessing the dramatic collapse of communist regimes across Eastern Europe and significant geopolitical shifts. This guide explores the key events of 1989, analyzing their causes, consequences, and lasting impact. We examine the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, the Romanian Revolution, and other significant uprisings, while also considering the broader context of the Cold War and Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union. The guide emphasizes best practices for researching and understanding this complex period, highlighting common pitfalls to avoid when interpreting these events.

Keywords: 1989 events in history, Fall of the Berlin Wall, Velvet Revolution, Romanian Revolution, Tiananmen Square protests, Revolutions of 1989, Cold War, Gorbachev, Eastern European revolutions, 1989 global politics.

The Seismic Shifts of 1989: A Year That Changed the World

1989 stands as a watershed moment in modern history, a year etched in memory for the dramatic collapse of communist regimes across Eastern Europe and the subsequent reshaping of the global political landscape. Understanding the events of 1989 requires examining a confluence of factors – the internal weaknesses of communist systems, the burgeoning desire for freedom and democracy among citizens, and the evolving geopolitical strategies of superpowers.

The Fall of the Berlin Wall: A Symbol of Liberation

The fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9th, 1989, remains arguably the most iconic image of the 1989 events in history. This event, initially unintended, symbolized the crumbling of the Iron Curtain and the end of the division of Germany. The pressure from burgeoning pro-democracy movements within East Germany, coupled with the increasingly porous border, led to the unexpected

announcement that allowed East Germans to cross into West Berlin freely. This act unleashed a torrent of people, forever altering the political geography of Europe.

The Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia: A Peaceful Transition

In contrast to the more violent upheavals in other Eastern European nations, Czechoslovakia witnessed the "Velvet Revolution," a largely peaceful and non-violent transition from communist rule. Led by playwright Václav Havel, the revolution leveraged widespread civil disobedience and peaceful protests to force the resignation of the communist government and pave the way for democratic reforms. The 1989 events in history demonstrated the power of non-violent resistance in achieving significant political change.

The Romanian Revolution: A Violent Struggle for Freedom

Romania experienced a far more violent revolution. The brutal regime of Nicolae Ceaușescu faced widespread popular dissent, leading to armed clashes between security forces and protesters. The revolution was characterized by chaotic street fighting and resulted in significant loss of life. The 1989 events in history in Romania highlight the diverse nature of the transitions, demonstrating that the path to democracy was not uniformly peaceful.

The Tiananmen Square Protests: A Brutal Crackdown

While the revolutions in Eastern Europe dominated headlines, the Tiananmen Square protests in China also marked a significant event in 1989. Students and citizens demanding greater democracy and freedom faced a brutal crackdown by the Chinese government, resulting in a tragic loss of life and a suppression of dissent. This event serves as a stark reminder of the potential consequences of challenging authoritarian regimes.

Gorbachev's Perestroika and Glasnost: Enabling Factors

The reforms initiated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Perestroika (restructuring) and Glasnost (openness), played a crucial role in the 1989 events in history. While intended to revitalize the Soviet Union, these reforms inadvertently weakened the communist party's control over its satellite states, creating an opening for pro-democracy movements to flourish. Gorbachev's policy of non-intervention in the affairs of Eastern European nations further facilitated the collapse of communist rule.

Best Practices and Common Pitfalls in Studying the Revolutions of 1989

When researching the 1989 events in history, it's crucial to utilize diverse primary and secondary sources. This includes official documents, personal accounts, media reports (being mindful of potential bias), and academic analyses. A common pitfall is relying solely on narratives that simplify complex historical processes. It's important to consider the varied experiences and perspectives of individuals across different countries and social groups. Oversimplifying the causes as solely the result of Gorbachev's policies ignores the crucial role of domestic factors and popular mobilization.

Conclusion

The 1989 events in history represent a pivotal turning point in the 20th century. The collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe reshaped the global political map, marking the end of the Cold War and ushering in an era of increased democratization. However, the year also highlighted the complex and often violent nature of revolutionary transitions and the enduring challenges of building stable democracies in post-communist societies. Understanding these events requires a nuanced and critical approach, avoiding simplistic narratives and acknowledging the diverse experiences and perspectives of those who lived through them.

FAQs

1. What was the main cause of the fall of the Berlin Wall? The fall was a culmination of factors, including growing dissatisfaction within East Germany, Gorbachev's policy of non-intervention, and the increasing pressure from pro-democracy movements.
1. Were the revolutions of 1989 peaceful everywhere? No, while some revolutions like the Velvet Revolution were largely peaceful, others, such as the Romanian Revolution, were marked by significant violence and bloodshed.
1. What role did Gorbachev play in the events of 1989? Gorbachev's policies of Perestroika and Glasnost inadvertently weakened the Soviet Union's control over Eastern Europe, creating an opportunity for pro-democracy movements.
1. What was the impact of the Tiananmen Square protests? The brutal crackdown resulted in significant loss of life and a suppression of dissent, setting the stage for continued authoritarian rule in China.
1. How did the fall of communism affect Eastern Europe? The collapse led to the establishment of democratic governments, market economies, and integration into Western institutions, though the transition was not without challenges.
1. What is the long-term legacy of the 1989 events? The events fundamentally reshaped the geopolitical landscape, ended the Cold War, and inspired pro-democracy movements globally. The legacy continues to shape contemporary geopolitics.

1. How did the media portray the 1989 events? Media coverage varied widely across countries and ideologies, often reflecting pre-existing biases and political agendas.
1. What were some of the key figures of the 1989 revolutions? Key figures include Václav Havel (Czechoslovakia), Lech Wałęsa (Poland), and Mikhail Gorbachev (Soviet Union).
1. What are some common misconceptions about the 1989 revolutions? Common misconceptions include the idea that the revolutions were all spontaneous and non-violent, or that they were solely the result of external pressure from the West.

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1989 events in history: *Berkeley at War : The 1960s* W.J. Rorabaugh Professor of History University of Washington, 1989-05-04 Berkeley, California, was the bellwether of the political, social, and cultural upheaval that made the 1960s a unique period of American history--a time when the top-down methods of a conservative establishment collided head-on with the bottom-up, grass-roots ethos of the civil rights movement and an increasingly well-educated and individualistic middle class. W.J. Rorabaugh, who attended the graduate school of the University of California at Berkeley in the early 1970s, presents a lively and informative account of the events that overtook and changed forever what had once been a quiet, conservative white suburb. The rise of the Free Speech Movement, which gave a voice to disfranchised students; the growth and increasing militance of a black community struggling to end segregation; the emergence of radicalism and the anti-war movement; the blossoming of hippie culture, with its scorn for materialism and enthusiasm for experimentation with everything from sex and drugs to Eastern philosophies; the beginnings of modern-day feminism and environmentalism--and how all of these coalesced in the explosive conflict over People's Park--are traced in a meticulously researched and authoritative narrative. At issue was the question of power, and the struggle between the establishment and the powerless led to developments that the advocates of a freer society could scarcely have foreseen: Ronald Reagan, elected governor of California in reaction to the events at Berkeley, and Edwin H. Meese III, who

battled against the student movement and People's Park, rose to national power in the 1980s (without, however, gaining any popularity in Berkeley, where Walter Mondale won 83 percent of the vote in 1984). An invaluable account of its time and place, this book anchors the '60s in American history, both before and since that colorful decade.

1989 events in history: Robert Mapplethorpe Janet Kardon, Robert Mapplethorpe, David Joselit, Kay Larson, 1989

1989 events in history: *June Fourth* Jeremy Brown, 2021-04 In this vivid new social history of the Tiananmen protests, Beijing massacre, and nationwide crackdown of 1989, Jeremy Brown explores the key turning points of the crisis in China and shows how the massacre and its aftermath were far from inevitable.

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1989 events in history: *Global Events and Event Stratigraphy in the Phanerozoic* Otto H. Walliser, 2012-12-06 The existence of rapid and even catastrophic turnovers within the Phanerozoic ecosystems has been discussed controversially for more than 170 years. Since 1980 this discussion has become even more intensive after the hypothesis of Alvarez, explaining the end-Cretaceous mass extinction as the result of a huge asteroid impact on the Earth. This theory stimulated several thousand papers and is still controversial. The international research programme on Global Biological Events in Earth History attempts to bring the discussion back to the facts by using multidisciplinary investigations of the major Phanerozoic events. The results of an international group of experts are presented giving a wealth of information and a thorough discussion of the causes of the various global events.

1989 events in history: *We Are Worth Fighting For* Joshua M. Myers, 2019-12-24 The Howard University protests from the perspective and worldview of its participants *We Are Worth Fighting For* is the first history of the 1989 Howard University protest. The three-day occupation of the university's Administration Building was a continuation of the student movements of the sixties and a unique challenge to the politics of the eighties. Upset at the university's appointment of the Republican strategist Lee Atwater to the Board of Trustees, students forced the issue by shutting down the operations of the university. The protest, inspired in part by the emergence of "conscious" hip hop, helped to build support for the idea of student governance and drew upon a resurgent black nationalist ethos. At the center of this story is a student organization known as Black Nia F.O.R.C.E. Co-founded by Ras Baraka, the group was at the forefront of organizing the student mobilization at Howard during the spring of 1989 and thereafter. *We Are Worth Fighting For* explores how black student activists—young men and women—helped shape and resist the rightward shift and neoliberal foundations of American politics. This history adds to the literature on Black campus activism, Black Power studies, and the emerging histories of African American life in the 1980s.

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1989 events in history: Masterpieces of History Svetlana Savranskaya, Thomas S. Blanton, Vladislav Zubok, 2011-08-20 Twenty years in the making, this collection presents 122 top-level Soviet, European and American records on the superpowers' role in the annus mirabilis of 1989. Consisting of Politburo minutes; diary entries from Gorbachev's senior aide, Anatoly Chernyaev; meeting notes and private communications of Gorbachev with George H.W. Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand; and high-level CIA analyses, this volume offers a rare insider's look at the historic, world-transforming events that culminated in the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the end of the Cold War. Most of these records have never been published before.

1989 events in history: Permanent Supportive Housing National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Policy and Global Affairs, Science and Technology for Sustainability Program, Committee on an Evaluation of Permanent Supportive Housing Programs for Homeless Individuals, 2018-08-11 Chronic homelessness is a highly complex social problem of national importance. The problem has elicited a variety of societal and public policy responses over the years, concomitant with fluctuations in the economy and changes in the demographics of and attitudes toward poor and disenfranchised citizens. In recent decades, federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the philanthropic community have worked hard to develop and implement programs to solve the challenges of homelessness, and progress has been made. However, much more remains to be done. Importantly, the results of various efforts, and especially the efforts to reduce homelessness among veterans in recent years, have shown that the problem of homelessness can be successfully addressed. Although a number of programs have been developed to meet the needs of persons experiencing homelessness, this report focuses on one particular type of intervention: permanent supportive housing (PSH). Permanent Supportive Housing focuses on the impact of PSH on health care outcomes and its cost-effectiveness. The report also addresses policy and program barriers that affect the ability to bring the PSH and other housing models to scale to address housing and health care needs.

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1989 events in history: *Nineteen eighty-four* George Orwell, 2022-11-22 This is a dystopian social science fiction novel and morality tale. The novel is set in the year 1984, a fictional future in which most of the world has been destroyed by unending war, constant government monitoring, historical revisionism, and propaganda. The totalitarian superstate Oceania, ruled by the Party and known as Airstrip One, now includes Great Britain as a province. The Party uses the Thought Police to repress individuality and critical thought. Big Brother, the tyrannical ruler of Oceania, enjoys a strong personality cult that was created by the party's overzealous brainwashing methods. Winston Smith, the main character, is a hard-working and skilled member of the Ministry of Truth's Outer Party who secretly despises the Party and harbors rebellious fantasies.

1989 events in history: *The Revolutions of 1989* Vladimir Tismaneanu, 2005-07-28 *The Revolutions of 1989* is a collection of both classic and recent articles examining the causes and consequences of the collapse of communism in East and Central Europe, the most important event in recent world history. It includes discussion of: * the economic, political and social nature of revolutions * the role of dissidents and civil society in encouraging the breakdown of eastern * European communist regimes * comparisons with other revolutions * the extent of the collapse of Leninist regimes in East-Central Europe. European historians, scholars and students will want to make this an integral part of their studies.

1989 events in history: *The Revelation of God And/as Human Reception* Dan Otto Via, 1997-10-01 A resourceful and thorough study of an important issue in New Testament and systematic theology, this book is one that takes human action and reception into full account. Where does God's revelation reside--in the event or in the interpretation? If history is about the creation of meaning, what does it mean to say that God reveals God's self in history? Dan Via addresses these and related issues in this original volume.

1989 events in history: *The Development of Capitalism in Russia* Vladimir I. Lenin, 2004
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1989 events in history: *North Dakota Blue Book* , 1973

1989 events in history: *The Truth of History* C. Behan McCullagh, 2002-11 Modern relativism and postmodern thought in culture and language challenge the 'truth' of history. This book considers how historians, confined by argument of their own cultures, can still discover truths

about the past.

1989 events in history: Health in Humanitarian Emergencies David Townes, Mike Gerber, Mark Anderson (Physician), 2018-05-31 A comprehensive, best practices resource for public health and healthcare practitioners and students interested in humanitarian emergencies.

1989 events in history: Socialism After Communism Christopher Pierson, 1995 Christopher Pierson assesses the evidence of terminal decline, but finds rather a whole series of deep-seated challenges to traditional forms of socialist and social democratic thinking. Above all, these problems are to be found in the political economy of social democracy and its commitment to incremental change in the context of an increasingly globalized market economy. The latter chapters of the book are devoted to an assessment of market socialism, one of the most vigorous and innovative attempts to seek to recast socialist aspirations under these quite changed circumstances. In essence, market socialism represents an attempt to reconcile new forms of social ownership with the seeming ubiquity of the market. Having outlined this position, Pierson carefully and systematically critiques it and, in the process, develops a set of distinctive arguments about the nature of social ownership, the potential of the labor-managed economy, and the appropriate forms for an extension of economic democracy.

1989 events in history: Adverse Events Associated with Childhood Vaccines Institute of Medicine, Vaccine Safety Committee, 1993-01-01 Childhood immunization is one of the major public health measures of the 20th century and is now receiving special attention from the Clinton administration. At the same time, some parents and health professionals are questioning the safety of vaccines because of the occurrence of rare adverse events after immunization. This volume provides the most thorough literature review available about links between common childhood vaccines—tetanus, diphtheria, measles, mumps, polio, Haemophilus influenzae b, and hepatitis B—and specific types of disorders or death. The authors discuss approaches to evidence and causality and examine the consequences—neurologic and immunologic disorders and death—linked with immunization. Discussion also includes background information on the development of the vaccines and details about the case reports, clinical trials, and other evidence associating each vaccine with specific disorders. This comprehensive volume will be an important resource to anyone concerned about the immunization controversy: public health officials, pediatricians, attorneys, researchers, and parents.

1989 events in history: Generations and Collective Memory Amy Corning, Howard Schuman, 2015-08-31 When discussing large social trends or experiences, we tend to group people into generations. But what does it mean to be part of a generation, and what gives that group meaning and coherence? It's collective memory, say Amy Corning and Howard Schuman, and in *Generations and Collective Memory*, they draw on an impressive range of research to show how generations share memories of formative experiences, and how understanding the way those memories form and change can help us understand society and history. Their key finding—built on historical research and interviews in the United States and seven other countries (including China, Japan, Germany, Lithuania, Russia, Israel, and Ukraine)—is that our most powerful generational memories are of shared experiences in adolescence and early adulthood, like the 1963 Kennedy assassination for those born in the 1950s or the fall of the Berlin Wall for young people in 1989. But there are exceptions to that rule, and they're significant: Corning and Schuman find that epochal events in a country, like revolutions, override the expected effects of age, affecting citizens of all ages with a similar power and lasting intensity. The picture Corning and Schuman paint of collective memory and its formation is fascinating on its face, but it also offers intriguing new ways to think about the rise and fall of historical reputations and attitudes toward political issues.

1989 events in history: White Love and Other Events in Filipino History Vicente L. Rafael, 2014-06-18 In this wide-ranging cultural and political history of Filipinos and the Philippines, Vicente L. Rafael examines the period from the onset of U.S. colonialism in 1898 to the emergence of a Filipino diaspora in the 1990s. Self-consciously adopting the essay form as a method with which to disrupt epic conceptions of Filipino history, Rafael treats in a condensed and concise manner

clusters of historical detail and reflections that do not easily fit into a larger whole. *White Love and Other Events in Filipino History* is thus a view of nationalism as an unstable production, as Rafael reveals how, under what circumstances, and with what effects the concept of the nation has been produced and deployed in the Philippines. With a focus on the contradictions and ironies that suffuse Filipino history, Rafael delineates the multiple ways that colonialism has both inhabited and enabled the nationalist discourse of the present. His topics range from the colonial census of 1903-1905, in which a racialized imperial order imposed by the United States came into contact with an emergent revolutionary nationalism, to the pleasures and anxieties of nationalist identification as evinced in the rise of the Marcos regime. Other essays examine aspects of colonial domesticity through the writings of white women during the first decade of U.S. rule; the uses of photography in ethnology, war, and portraiture; the circulation of rumor during the Japanese occupation of Manila; the reproduction of a hierarchy of languages in popular culture; and the spectral presence of diasporic Filipino communities within the nation-state. A critique of both U.S. imperialism and Filipino nationalism, *White Love and Other Events in Filipino History* creates a sense of epistemological vertigo in the face of former attempts to comprehend and master Filipino identity. This volume should become a valuable work for those interested in Southeast Asian studies, Asian-American studies, postcolonial studies, and cultural studies.

1989 events in history: *The Penguin History of Modern China* Jonathan Fenby, 2008-05-29 'China's reemergence as a global economic powerhouse has compressed into a single generation an industrial and urban revolution on a scale the world has never seen. Its transformation looks to many foreigners, and to millions of newly prosperous Chinese, like a near-miraculous escape from the agonies of its recent history - late imperial, warlord-republican and Maoist. The great merit of Jonathan Fenby's vivid account of the years since 1850 is to underline how heavily that history still weighs on the present' Rosemary Righter, *The Times*

1989 events in history: *Art and China After 1989* Alexandra Munroe, Hou Hanru, Philip Tinari, 2017 Twenty years of experimental art from a globalized China Published on the occasion of the largest exhibition of contemporary art from China ever mounted in North America, organized by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, *Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World* explores recent experimental art from 1989 to 2008, arguably the most transformative period of modern Chinese and recent world history. Featuring over 150 iconic and lesser-known artworks by more than 70 artists and collectives, this catalog offers an interpretative survey of Chinese experimental art framed by the geopolitical dynamics attending the end of the Cold War, the spread of globalization and the rise of China. Critical essays explore how Chinese artists have been both agents and skeptics of China's arrival as a global presence, while an extensive entry section offers detailed analysis on works made in a broad range of experimental mediums, including film and video, ink, installation, land art and performance, as well as painting and photography. Featured artists include Ai Weiwei, Big Tail Elephant Group, Cai Guo-Qiang, Cao Fei, Chen Zhen, Chen Chieh-jen, Ding Yi, Geng Jianyi, Huang Yong Ping, Kan Xuan, Rem Koolhaas/OMA, Libreria Borges, Liu Wei, Liu Xiaodong, New Measurement Group, Ou Ning, Ellen Pau, Qiu Zhijie, Shen Yuan, Song Dong, Wang Guangyi, Wang Jianwei, Yan Lei, Yang Jiechang, Yu Hong, Xijing Men, Xu Bing, Zeng Fanzhi, Zhang Peili, Zhang Hongtu, Zhang Xiaogang and Zhou Tiehai. An appendix includes a selected history of contemporary art exhibitions in China, artist biographies and a bibliography.

1989 events in history: *100 Events That Made History* DK, 2016-02-01 From the Silk Road to the Space Race and beyond, this illustrated book for kids captures key turning points in human history. Every page of this book brings history alive, exploring major moments of the past in an unforgettable way. You will find out how the Indus Valley civilization came up with the world's first sewage system, the ideals behind the ancient Olympics Games, and what led to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Pioneering activists are also featured, such as Dr Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, and Rosa Parks - incredible people who bravely fought for equality in the society. Adorned with iconic images and beautiful illustrations, the book details the deadliest wars, including Roman conquests and World War II. It also follows the story of human exploration and some of the greatest scientific

discoveries, such as Newton's laws of motion. Also included are some of the terrible events of human history, such as the sinking of the Titanic, the partition of India, South African Apartheid, and 9/11. Packed with all the key social, political, economical, and technological events that have shaped our modern world, 100 Events That Made History is the book for young history buffs everywhere.

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1989 events in history: Dr. Livingstone I Presume David Livingstone, Independent Consultant and Visiting Professor at the Center for Molecular Design David Livingstone, 2012-04-01 A Story of Dr. Livingstone's Travels in Africa in search of the Source of the Nile. The Zambesi and its Tributaries were explored by this intrepid Adventurer.

1989 events in history: Oxford English Dictionary John A. Simpson, 2002-04-18 The Oxford English Dictionary is the internationally recognized authority on the evolution of the English language from 1150 to the present day. The Dictionary defines over 500,000 words, making it an unsurpassed guide to the meaning, pronunciation, and history of the English language. This new upgrade version of The Oxford English Dictionary Second Edition on CD-ROM offers unparalleled access to the world's most important reference work for the English language. The text of this version has been augmented with the inclusion of the Oxford English Dictionary Additions Series (Volumes 1-3), published in 1993 and 1997, the Bibliography to the Second Edition, and other ancillary material. System requirements: PC with minimum 200 MHz Pentium-class processor; 32 MB RAM (64 MB recommended); 16-speed CD-ROM drive (32-speed recommended); Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 200, or XP (Local administrator rights are required to install and open the OED for the first time on a PC running Windows NT 4 and to install and run the OED on Windows 2000 and XP); 1.1 GB hard disk space to run the OED from the CD-ROM and 1.7 GB to install the CD-ROM to the hard disk: SVGA monitor: 800 x 600 pixels: 16-bit (64k, high color) setting recommended. Please note: for the upgrade, installation requires the use of the OED CD-ROM v2.0.

1989 events in history: The Collapse Mary Elise Sarotte, 2014-10-07 On the night of November 9, 1989, massive crowds surged toward the Berlin Wall, drawn by an announcement that caught the world by surprise: East Germans could now move freely to the West. The Wall -- infamous symbol of divided Cold War Europe -- seemed to be falling. But the opening of the gates that night was not planned by the East German ruling regime -- nor was it the result of a bargain between either Ronald Reagan or George H.W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. It was an accident. In *The Collapse*, prize-winning historian Mary Elise Sarotte reveals how a perfect storm of decisions made by daring underground revolutionaries, disgruntled Stasi officers, and dictatorial party bosses sparked an unexpected series of events culminating in the chaotic fall of the Wall. With a novelist's eye for character and detail, she brings to vivid life a story that sweeps across Budapest, Prague, Dresden, and Leipzig and up to the armed checkpoints in Berlin. We meet the revolutionaries Roland Jahn, Aram Radomski, and Siggie Schefke, risking it all to smuggle the truth across the Iron Curtain; the hapless Politburo member GüSchabowski, mistakenly suggesting that the Wall is open to a press conference full of foreign journalists, including NBC's Tom Brokaw; and Stasi officer Harald Jär, holding the fort at the crucial border crossing that night. Soon, Brokaw starts broadcasting live from Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, where the crowds are exulting in the euphoria of newfound freedom -- and the dictators are plotting to restore control. Drawing on new archival sources and dozens of interviews, *The Collapse* offers the definitive account of the night that brought down the Berlin Wall.

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