Stalin's Cold War

Soviet Foreign Policy, Democracy and Communism in Bulgaria, 1941-48

Vesselin Dimitrov

Series: Global Conflict and Security since 1945

Stalin's Cold War breaks new ground by exploring the emergence of the global conflict from the perspective of the Soviet Union's secretive leader. Drawing on rich new evidence from Soviet, East European and British archives, the book offers fresh and illuminating insights into the evolution of Stalin's strategy in the transition from cooperation with the United States and Britain during the Second World War to ideological and geopolitical confrontation. The book reveals Stalin's efforts to grapple with the dynamic interaction between democratic and communist parties in the domestic politics of European countries in the aftermath of the Second World War, and his key role in the gradual but inexorable shift towards communist monopoly of power in the countries of Eastern Europe.

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Introduction: Casting a New Look at the Origins of the Cold War
Prelude: Stalin, Dimitrov and the Nazi Threat (1933–41)
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Conclusion: Reinterpreting the Origins of the Cold War

Reviews:

'This book gives us a textured and incisive analysis of Stalin's policies and actions in Eastern Europe. Using the newest archival materials in Moscow and Sofia, Dimitrov portrays Stalin's ambivalence, equivocation, and inconsistencies as well as his paranoia and brutality. He captures the competing strains of thinking in Moscow and vividly portrays how local dynamics in Bulgaria and the Balkans helped shape the diplomacy of the Great Powers. Stalin had no master plan; his actions were contingent, but they were also determinative. Dimitrov paints a complex and vivid picture of local circumstances that enables us to see why the grand alliance of World War II collapsed. This book is indispensable for understanding the origins of the Cold War and the division of Europe.' - Melvyn P. Leffler, Stettinius Professor of American History, University of Virginia

'This book is a magisterial work of scholarship. Based on a thorough reading of Soviet, Bulgarian and other archives it provides an abundance of new information and intelligent analysis. It shows Stalin's policies in an entirely new light, and at the same time it gives mastery insights into the evolution of politics within Bulgaria. It disposes of old myths that matters evolved in a straight trajectory in the Kremlin or in Bulgaria. This is essential reading for anyone who wishes to understand the post-second world war era.' - Richard J Crampton, formerly Professor of East European History, University of Oxford, and Emeritus of St Edmund Hall, Oxford
Stalin's contributions cold war? His biggest contribution was being a dictator that had effectively closed the borders of his sphere of influence The USSR to the rest of the world. The complete lack of communication brought about a situation where paranoia reigned and those that saw an advantage in the massive production of weapons did what they could to exacerbate the situation. Stalin's role in the cold war? Leader of the Soviet Union. share: What were Ronald Reagan's biggest contributions? He helped end cold war. share
Commentary: By the time of Stalin's death in March 1953 the Soviet Union was an established superpower and the Cold War with America had been launched. Stalin had ensured that the Soviets now had their own nuclear weapons and the uneasy stand off with the West would now last until the fall of the Soviet Union nearly forty years later. Maybe Stalin had never willed the Cold War, but his actions had played a decisive part in bringing it about. Previous Video. Next Video.