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## World Communism, the Disintegration of a Secular Faith

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## BOOKS

Librach, Jan. *The Rise of the Soviet Empire*. New York: Praeger, 1964. 382 p.

For nearly five decades Soviet Russia has been the subject of countless studies and research projects by Western scholars. As the studies continue, new discoveries are made and new light is constantly being thrown on old perplexities. Varying degrees of confusion still abound, however, not the least of which is in the area of Soviet foreign policy. In this book Jan Librach attempts to reveal the true nature of Soviet foreign policy by examining Soviet *action* as distinguished from announced intentions and proclaimed principles of ideology. His task is compounded not only by the fact that he is dealing with masters of confused polemics whose actions are often psychological gambits smothered in propaganda, but also by the theoretical nature of communism itself. Rather than treating the Soviet claim of scientific truth in support of an unshakable theory, the author attempts to sort out political reality based on accomplished fact. The result is a very readable contribution to the study of Soviet communism. Starting with a brief discussion on communist doctrine applied to foreign relations, including an examination of cold war *peaceful co-existence*, the text evolves into a history of Soviet action in international affairs from the time of the Bolshevik Revolution. Written in part as a diplomatic history, much of the discussion deals with Soviet style diplomacy in pursuit of policy. Although it is not a stated purpose of the author, it is interesting to note that he reveals Soviet diplomacy as an effective instrument of cold war aggression. The aims of this aggression are laid bare in Part Three, 'Imperialism,' and Part Four, 'The Cold War Era.' This discussion is followed by an apt analysis of possible Soviet adversity in Part Five, entitled 'Rents in the Monolith.' The text is highly documented, offers guidance and insight into further areas of study, and is recommended for use by students of Soviet communism.

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Lowenthal, Richard. *World Communism, the Disintegration of a Secular Faith*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1964. 296 p.

Richard Lowenthal, former German Marxist and now prolific anticommunist writer, has put together in this volume a number

of essays which have previously appeared in *Problems of Communism*, *Encounter*, *The China Quarterly*, and various German magazines and journals. It is the general thesis of the author that world communism has disintegrated greatly in recent years. Commencing his discussion with the unsuccessful Soviet attempt to return Tito to the communist fold and ending with an epilogue on the events in the summer of 1963 on the Sino-Soviet split, Lowenthal takes the reader through a fascinating chain of events plaguing the communist bloc. The author analyzes the significant XX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union of February 1956, which might be regarded as the beginning of the split in the bloc under Khrushchev. By admitting separate roads to 'socialism,' the Soviet leader took the lid off of Pandora's box. The Soviet bloc has not been a monolith since then. Khrushchev had hoped that this new freer discussion would usher in an ideological rebirth of Soviet and international communism. It did the opposite. Chaos, insubordination, and ideological warfare have followed. The book is especially good on the 1959, 1960, and 1961 period of the breakup of world communism.

W.B. BALLIS

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Political Philosophy

Powers, Patrick W. *A Guide to National Defense*. New York: Praeger, 1964. 286 p.

Lieutenant Colonel Patrick W. Powers, U.S. Army, has compiled a detailed and comprehensive book on every aspect of our increasingly complicated United States national defense structure. The book fills a very practical need. It easily combines the qualities of a superb textbook for the uninitiated with all the virtues of a detailed reference handbook for the DOD professional. Any individual, military or newly appointed civilian, reporting to Joint, high staff, or government duty would profit by reading the book and then maintaining it near his desk for reference. Colonel Powers has achieved the purpose of his book, which is to place defense in its proper perspective and to provide a comprehensive coverage of the defense program as an aid to a more complete understanding of the broad and complex scope of national defense. The bulk of the text is centered upon the end product of the United States military establishment—the combatant forces—and how they are directed, employed, provided, and supported. The discussion concentrates on the fighting forces and their capability to react to national