



Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944-1956

Anne Applebaum

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National Book Award Finalist

TIME Magazine's #1 Nonfiction Book of 2012

A New York Times Notable Book

A Washington Post Top Ten Book of 2012

Best Nonfiction of 2012: *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Plain Dealer*

In the much-anticipated follow-up to her Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gulag*, acclaimed journalist Anne Applebaum delivers a groundbreaking history of how Communism took over Eastern Europe after World War II and transformed in frightening fashion the individuals who came under its sway. *Iron Curtain* describes how, spurred by Stalin and his secret police, the Communist regimes of Eastern Europe were created and what daily life was like once they were complete. Drawing on newly opened East European archives, interviews, and personal accounts translated for the first time, Applebaum portrays in chilling detail the dilemmas faced by millions of individuals trying to adjust to a way of life that challenged their every belief and took away everything they had accumulated. As a result the Soviet Bloc became a lost civilization, one whose cruelty, paranoia, bizarre morality, and strange aesthetics Applebaum captures in these electrifying pages.

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