



Resurrection: The Struggle for a New Russia

David Remnick

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Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Remnick chronicles the new Russia that emerged from the ash heap of the Soviet Union. From the siege of Parliament to the farcically tilted elections of 1996, from the rubble of Grozny to the grandiose wealth and naked corruption of today's Moscow, Remnick chronicles a society so racked by change that its citizens must daily ask themselves who they are, where they belong, and what they believe in. Remnick composes this panorama out of dozens of finely realized individual portraits. Here is Mikhail Gorbachev, his head still swimming from his plunge from reverence to ridicule. Here is Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the half-Jewish anti-Semite who conducts politics as loony performance art. And here is Boris Yeltsin, the tottering populist who is not above stealing elections. In **Resurrection**, they become the players in a drama so vast and moving that it deserves comparison with the best reportage of George Orwell and Michael Herr.

"This is what happens when a good writer unleashes eye and ear on a story that moves with the speed of light. **Resurrection** has the feel of describing vast, historical change even as it is happening."--Chicago Tribune

Resurrection: The Struggle for a New Russia Details

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The Mistah says

Not a bad analysis of the early years of Russia following the fall of the Soviet gov't. He writes well, and I think I would have enjoyed this more had I not been so burned out writing my Master's Thesis.

Lenin's Tomb is much better.

Polly Callahan says

great, how a government is created
one strong AP students found it tedious

Ryan says

Good if you like Russian history. Gives a great first hand perspective of the events of the 1990's in Russia.

Cam says

Good journalistic look at mid-1990s Russia, Boris Yeltsin, and early post-Soviet events. Interesting quotes from his many interviews enliven this contemporary report and the details touched on give pause now that events have advanced for another 25 years. No mention of Putin, so interesting to see that he wasn't even on the radar yet, but plenty of headline-grabbing familiar names in the see-saw for political and economic power. Remnick's overly positive conclusion serves to highlight how much potential the Russians wasted and how Putin picked some of the least impressive options to grab and hold onto power successfully. Revisiting recent Russian history with a goal of understanding (more) what's happening today and how we got there. This is a good starting place and helps set the stage.

Audrey says

All the glowing sentiment towards Boris Yeltsin, alongside with a hope for a better, freer future after the collapse of the Soviet Union in *Lenin's Tomb* is dashed to pieces in *Resurrection*. Remnick writes a vivid account of Russia's political and cultural atmosphere during the mid-90s - corruption and the rise of the oligarchy. I particularly liked the chapter on Solzhenitsyn.

Jennifer says

Not as captivating as Lenin's Tomb, with many reiterations from chapter to chapter that seem as if each chapter was its own project and the editor just pieced them all together without much summarization.

Joel Blunt says

A fantastic book on post-soviet Russia. Must-read for any Kremlin-observer

Susan says

It had an uneven feel (style) but parts of it were very well done.

Marc94 says

This was a very good insight into 1990s Russia and helped contextualize the future that was to come.

Joeji says

It's nearly impossible to follow such a book as Lenin's Tomb but Remnick does a wonderful job at picking up where he left off. In Resurrection, Remnick focuses on how the democratic revolution contended with disillusion. Yeltsin is the perfect character in this world: democratic promise gives way to oligarchy, poor health, and flirtations with Russia's communist and czarist past.

This book definitely sets the stage for the Russia we know today. Interestingly enough, Putin does not appear on the scene...

For Remnick's take on Putin, check out his profile in Reporting.

Smg says

Remnick excellent as usual, and very good on Russia in particular given the eventful time he was there.

Patrick says

communism is like not being able to get ice cream because the truck burned down. It has nothing to do with fire though but rather a political system.

No real bears were in it either

Elinor says

I read this after reading "Lenin's Tomb," which is the precursor to this book. I have to admit, I only got halfway through "Resurrection," as I was a little burned out with the Soviet Union at that point. This book focuses on the events immediately following the fall of the USSR, namely, Boris Yeltsin's political career and the beginning of a democratic Russia. "Lenin's Tomb" was more interesting to me, as it addressed the history of the Soviet Union more generally, whereas this book was much more focused on a particular moment in Russia's political history. For those interested in that period, however, this is a great book.

Rod Zemke says

A great writer.
