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Inside the Soviet Alternate Universe: The Cold War's End and the Soviet Union's Fall Reappraised (Paperback)

By Dick Combs

Pennsylvania State University Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Much ink has been spilled by scholars, journalists, and former government officials from both the United States and the Soviet Union in efforts to explain how the Cold War came to an end and the Soviet system collapsed. Yet little consensus has emerged regarding these historic events. In this unique contribution to the debate, Dick Combs brings his many years of experience as an academic researcher, policy analyst, and government insider to bear on these questions and finds the answer primarily in the destabilizing impact of Mikhail Gorbachev's effort to modernize the Kremlin's Stalinist mind-set. Part I of the book sets the stage by affording the reader an existential feel for the reality, including the psychological atmosphere, of Soviet communism in everyday life as the author himself experienced it while serving as a young diplomat in the U.S. legation in Sofia, Bulgaria, in the late 1960s and later during eight years of diplomatic service at the U.S. embassy in Moscow. Part II then builds on this direct exposure to the Soviet mind-set to develop an analytical perspective on...



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