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The Rise of the Soviet Empire

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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