



# The Red Flag: A History of Communism

By David Priestland

Download now

Read Online →

## The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland

Communism was one of the most powerful political and intellectual movements the world has ever seen. At the height of their influence, Communists controlled more than a third of the earth's surface. But perhaps more astonishing than its rapid rise and extraordinary reach was Communism's sudden, devastating collapse in November of 1989. In *The Red Flag*, Oxford professor David Priestland tells the epic story of a movement that has taken root in dozens of countries across two hundred years, from its birth after the French Revolution to its ideological maturity in nineteenth-century Germany to its rise to dominance (and subsequent fall) in the twentieth century. Beginning with the first modern Communists in the age of Robespierre, Priestland examines the motives of thinkers and leaders including Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Castro, Che Guevara, Mao, Ho Chi Minh, Gorbachev, and many others. He also asks what it was about Communism that inspired its rank and file--whether the militants of 1920s Russia, the guerrilla fighters of China, or the students of Ethiopia--and explores the experience of what it meant to live under Communism for its millions of subjects. He shows how Communism, in all its varieties, appealed to different societies for different reasons, in some as a response to inequalities and in others more out of a desire to catch up with the West. But paradoxically, while destroying one web of inequality, Communist leaders were simultaneously weaving another. It was this dynamic, together with widespread economic failure and an escalating loss of faith in the system, that ultimately destroyed Soviet Communism itself. At a time when global capitalism is in crisis and powerful new political forces have arisen to confront Western democracy, *The Red Flag* is essential reading if we are to apply the lessons of the past to navigating the future.

↓ [Download The Red Flag: A History of Communism ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Red Flag: A History of Communism ...pdf](#)

# The Red Flag: A History of Communism

*By David Priestland*

## **The Red Flag: A History of Communism** By David Priestland

Communism was one of the most powerful political and intellectual movements the world has ever seen. At the height of their influence, Communists controlled more than a third of the earth's surface. But perhaps more astonishing than its rapid rise and extraordinary reach was Communism's sudden, devastating collapse in November of 1989. In *The Red Flag*, Oxford professor David Priestland tells the epic story of a movement that has taken root in dozens of countries across two hundred years, from its birth after the French Revolution to its ideological maturity in nineteenth-century Germany to its rise to dominance (and subsequent fall) in the twentieth century. Beginning with the first modern Communists in the age of Robespierre, Priestland examines the motives of thinkers and leaders including Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Castro, Che Guevara, Mao, Ho Chi Minh, Gorbachev, and many others. He also asks what it was about Communism that inspired its rank and file--whether the militants of 1920s Russia, the guerrilla fighters of China, or the students of Ethiopia--and explores the experience of what it meant to live under Communism for its millions of subjects. He shows how Communism, in all its varieties, appealed to different societies for different reasons, in some as a response to inequalities and in others more out of a desire to catch up with the West. But paradoxically, while destroying one web of inequality, Communist leaders were simultaneously weaving another. It was this dynamic, together with widespread economic failure and an escalating loss of faith in the system, that ultimately destroyed Soviet Communism itself. At a time when global capitalism is in crisis and powerful new political forces have arisen to confront Western democracy, *The Red Flag* is essential reading if we are to apply the lessons of the past to navigating the future.

## **The Red Flag: A History of Communism** By David Priestland Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #213122 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Grove Press
- Published on: 2010-11-09
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.90" h x 1.90" w x 6.00" l, 1.70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 688 pages

 [Download The Red Flag: A History of Communism ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Red Flag: A History of Communism ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Priestland, a lecturer in modern history at Oxford, delivers almost 700 pages of stormy history, but the pace never flags. Underlying the narrative is a nuanced understanding of communism as an ideology that took on different forms (romantic, radical, modernist) depending on local and historical context. But all were inherently unstable. According to Priestland, the Jacobins of the French Revolution planted the seeds of modern communism. They claimed to be building a modern state on principles of true, universal equality while treating those who disagreed as enemies of equality. In the following century, Marx proclaimed communism's scientific basis and the inevitability of global revolution. The 1917 Russian revolution caught everyone's attention, but despite universalist rhetoric, Soviet Communism became nationalistic and technocratic. This violated Marxist principles, but appealed to poor, rural nations after WWII. From Russia, Priestland moves to Latin America, Cuba and Africa, covering Communist guerrilla uprisings and urban terror, and the eventual lagging of economic development in the Soviet empire and China. The former collapsed and the latter has discarded Marxist ideology. Detailed and scholarly but written in lively prose, this is a rich, satisfying account of the most successful utopian political movement in history. (Nov.)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

## Review

"The best and the most accessible one-volume history of communism now available . . . A far-reaching, vividly written account." —**Foreign Affairs**

"Written in lively prose, this is a rich, satisfying account of the most successful utopian political movement in history." —**Publishers Weekly**

"Hugely ambitious and boldly achieved, *The Red Flag* explores the roots, perversions, and manifold intellectual and geographic developments of the most dynamic and disruptive political movement of modern times, and David Priestland's compelling narrative explains how even in discredit and defeat it achieved a paradoxical success by forcing critical reforms in the ranks of its capitalist foes." —**Martin Walker, author of *The Cold War: A History***

"David Priestland offers a magnificent account of the rise and fall of Communism in the twentieth century on a global scale. He combines penetrating analysis with a strong sense of historical development, providing consistently sharp and original insights. He writes in a stylish and engaging fashion and in a spirit that is empathetic yet always critical. The use of cultural history is especially innovative and provides the reader with a vivid sense of everyday life in Communist societies. Altogether this is a remarkable book that challenges stale and stereotypical ways of thinking about the failed Communist experiment." —**Steve Smith, professor of history at European University Institute and author of *Revolution and the People in Russia and China***

"A mesmerizing survey of the ideological and political history of Communism. Priestland successfully crafts a global account of Communism's development and mutation across nations and generations, deftly combining academic rigor, personal histories, and an engaging narrative. Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, *The Red Flag* provides a formative account of Communism's rise and fall and its extraordinary impact on the lives of millions." —**Tristram Hunt, author of *The Frock-Coated Communist: The***

## **Revolutionary Life of Friedrich Engels**

“In place of demonologies and apologies, The Red Flag is a real history of modern Communism from the beginning to the present. It is an extraordinary story told with sympathy and with an incisive use of significant detail. This is a work of formidable scholarship but also a very readable book. David Priestland makes a remarkable use of novels, plays, and films to bring to life the events he describes and the states of mind that inspired them.” —**Gareth Stedman Jones, professor of political science at the University of Cambridge**

### **About the Author**

David Priestland is the author of the widely acclaimed book *The Red Flag: Communism and the Making of the Modern World* and teaches modern history at the University of Oxford. A fellow of St. Edmund Hall, he lives in Oxford, England.

Paul Boehmer is a seasoned actor who has appeared on Broadway, film, and television, including *The Thomas Crown Affair* and *All My Children*. Coinciding with another of his passions, sci-fi, Paul has been cast in various roles in many episodes of *Star Trek*.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Alan Torrez:**

Do you one among people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This *The Red Flag: A History of Communism* book is readable by means of you who hate those straight word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer associated with *The Red Flag: A History of Communism* content conveys the thought easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different by means of it. So , do you nevertheless thinking *The Red Flag: A History of Communism* is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

##### **Buddy Stewart:**

The book *The Red Flag: A History of Communism* has a lot info on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research previous to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after perusing this book.

##### **Flora Gordon:**

Precisely why? Because this *The Red Flag: A History of Communism* is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not

hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

**Lynn Groff:**

Reading a book to be new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to study a book. When you read a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read textbooks, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and soon. The The Red Flag: A History of Communism provide you with a new experience in reading through a book.

**Download and Read Online The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland #4NL0V6IRWUF**

## **Read The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland for online ebook**

The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland books to read online.

### **Online The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland ebook PDF download**

**The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland Doc**

**The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland Mobipocket**

**The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland EPub**

**4NL0V6IRWUF: The Red Flag: A History of Communism By David Priestland**