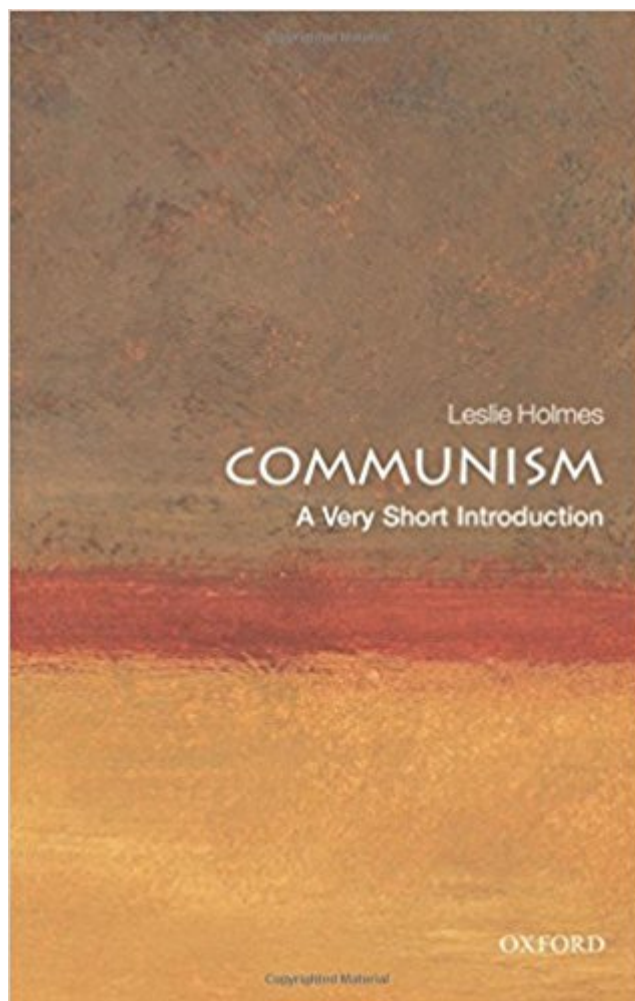


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Communism: A Very Short Introduction



Synopsis

If now in decline since the tumultuous events of 1989, communism was without doubt the great political movement of the twentieth century--at its peak, more than a third of the world's population lived under communist rule--and it is still a powerful force in many areas of the world, most notably in the People's Republic of China. What is communism? Where did the idea come from and what attracted people to it? Is there a future for communism? This Very Short Introduction considers these questions and more in the search to explore and understand this controversial political force. Explaining the theory behind its ideology, and examining the history and mindset behind its political, economic and social structures, Leslie Holmes considers the evolution of communism from Marx's time, to its practice in the Bolshevik Revolution, to its collapse in 1989-91. Holmes highlights the inner dynamics, crises, and demise of communism as a global system, and introduces the major players in the communist world, including Marx, Lenin, Stalin, and Mao. About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, Very Short Introductions offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

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Customer Reviews

Very readable and with its wealth of detail a most valuable reference book. * Gwyn Griffiths, Morning Star *

Leslie Holmes is Professor of Political Science and Deputy Director of the Contemporary Europe Research Centre at the University of Melbourne.

As a History Major, the subject of Communism has come up this semester more than one would prefer, especially in regards to Communism in China. This book is a good introduction to Communism as a whole, starting out with the theory, the history, and the various aspects, such as Political, Economic, and Social constructs of Communism as a whole. Perfect for anyone wanting to learn about what communism entails.

Very interesting.

Well done book.

somewhat useful.

just fine. good . my brother need so cool product, Great product for the price and definitely has some weight to it. I've never had a real chef product, but it cut through my pork chops like butter and potatoes too. Nice packaging also. feel very good .

Mr. Holmes' analysis is compact and informative. Without praising or demonizing the theory of communism, the author presents a level-headed history and analysis of the movement. I found the final chapter on the theories surrounding the fall of communism, and its possible future, especially interesting. An excellent introduction for someone unfamiliar with the subject.

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