

Delve Deeper into *My Perestroika*

A film by Robin Hessman

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of the Monroe Township Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film *My Perestroika*.

My Perestroika is an intimate look at the last generation of Soviet children. Five classmates go from living sheltered childhoods to experiencing the hopes of Gorbachev's reforms and the confusion of the USSR's dissolution, to searching for their places in today's Moscow. With candor and humor, the punk rocker, single mother, entrepreneur and married teachers paint a picture of the challenges, dreams and disappointments of those raised behind the Iron Curtain. Through first-person testimony, vérité footage and vintage home movies, this beautifully crafted documentary reveals a Russia rarely seen on film.

ADULT NONFICTION

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Barrass, Gordon. *The Great Cold War: A Journey Through the Hall of Mirrors.* Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2009. Barrass presents an overview on how lessons learned from the Cold War era can affect policy making in the modern era.

Fleming, John V. *The Anti-Communist Manifestos: Four Books That Shaped the Cold War.* New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2009. Princeton University Professor of Literature John Fleming reviews four influential books authored by ex-Communist Party members and shares insights into the subversive activities of the authors. The novels reviewed include: **Darkness at Noon** (1940) by Hungarian journalist Arthur Koestler, **Out of the Night** (1941) by German sailor and labor agitator Jan Valtin, **I Chose Freedom** (1946) by Soviet Victor Kravchenko, and **Witness** (1952) by American journalist Whittaker Chambers.

Fursenko, Aleksandr, and Timothy Naftali. *Khrushchev's Cold War: The Inside Story of an American Adversary.* New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2006. This work provides insight into Khrushchev's leadership and foreign policy crises in the Middle East, Central Europe, and the Caribbean during the height of the Cold War between 1956 and 1962.

Gaddis, John Lewis. *The Cold War: A New History.* New York: Penguin, 2006. Yale History Professor and Cold War historian Gaddis provides the reader with a concise introduction about the Cold War era.

Hagenloh, Paul. *Stalin's Police: Public Order and Mass Repression in the USSR, 1926-1941.* Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009. Formerly classified documents shed light on how Soviet leaders struggled to control their population during the Stalin era.

Hixson, Walter L. *Parting the Curtain: Propaganda, Culture, and the Cold War, 1945-1961.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 1997. This book focuses on American propaganda as part of U.S. diplomacy during the Truman and Eisenhower administrations and how propaganda helped to destabilize the Communist Party in the Soviet Union and eastern bloc countries.

Kenez, Peter. *The Birth of the Propaganda State: Soviet Methods of Mass Mobilization, 1917-1929.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985. Kenez offers a detailed look into how the Bolshevik Party developed the first propaganda used by the Soviet state.

Montefiore, Simon Sebag. *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar.* New York: Vintage, 2005. Based on previously unreleased documents, Montefiore provides the reader with insight into Soviet politics at the Kremlin and the lengths Stalin went to defend his power.

Ouimet, Matthew J. *The Rise and Fall of the Brezhnev Doctrine in Soviet Foreign Policy.* Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2001. Based on previously unreleased archival documents from Moscow, Ouimet offers perspective into the collapse of the Eastern European communist system and ultimate demise of the Soviet empire.

Service, Robert. *Lenin: A Biography.* New York: Pan Macmillan, 2010. This narrative of Lenin's life provides insight into how events of his childhood shaped his vision to make Russia a communist state.

Snyder, Timothy. *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin.* New York: Perseus Book Group, 2010. This is the story of how two dictators ruthlessly killed millions of people in the name of colonization and collectivization of the land.

Taubman, William. *Khrushchev: The Man and His Era.* New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2004. Political Science Professor Taubman makes the case for how Khrushchev's acknowledgement and denouncement of Stalin's brutality towards the Russian people made way for civil society to take shape and ultimately pave the way for perestroika.

Vogtech, Mastny, and Malcolm Byrne. *A Cardboard Castle? An Inside History of the Warsaw Pact, 1955-1991.* Budapest: Central European University Press, 2006. Using alliance archives, this text investigates the Cold War-era Soviet military complex and how it was perceived by the West.

Volkogonov, Dmitri. *Autopsy for an Empire: The Seven Leaders Who Built the Soviet Regime.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999. Former Soviet Army officer and military advisor to Yeltsin provides a history of the lives of the seven men who led the Soviet Union for the seven decades of its existence, from Lenin through Gorbachev.



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Ward, Christopher J. *Brezhnev's Folly: The Building of BAM and Late Soviet Socialism*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009. This is a look into the late Soviet-era 2,000 mile railway project that was intended to unite a nation and open up trade routes for Soviet products.

Wolfe, Bertram D. *Three Who Made a Revolution: A Biographical History of Lenin, Trotsky, and Stalin*. New York: Cooper Square Press, 1991. Wolfe, an original founder of the American Communist Party and Soviet expert for the U.S. State Department, provides a biography of the personal and public lives of these three revolutionaries.

US/USSR Diplomacy

Brownlee, W. Elliot, ed., and Hugh Davis Graham, ed. *The Reagan Presidency: Pragmatic Conservatism and Its Legacies*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2003.

Brownlee and Graham give us a comprehensive collection of essays about Reagan's domestic and foreign policy. Authors include a wide array of scholars ranging in expertise from economics to history.

Schweizer, Peter, ed., and Wynton C. Hall, ed. *Landmark Speeches of the American Conservative Movement*. College Station: TAMU Press, 2007. This collection includes powerful speeches by noted modern conservative icons, such as Ronald Reagan's landmark 1983 'evil empire' speech.

Perestroika & the Disintegration of the USSR

Caldwell, Melissa L., *Not by Bread Alone: Social Support in the New Russia*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. Caldwell presents a study of social welfare in post-soviet Russia through the perspective of operations at soup kitchens across the country.

Cohen, Stephen F., and Katrina Vanden Heuvel. *Voices of Glasnost: Interviews with Gorbachev's Reformers*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1991. Cohen and Heuvel collect interviews of former Communist party officials and Gorbachev-era intellectuals.

Gibbs, Joseph. *Gorbachev's Glasnost: The Soviet Media in the First Phase of Perestroika*. College Station: TAMU Press, 1999. The evolution of the Soviet press is examined as state control loosened under Gorbachev's reforms and as glasnost evolved. Topics examined include the media's lack of coverage on the accident at Chernobyl and how media freedom provoked the discontent of the people as the Soviet economy collapsed.

Gorbachev, Mikhail. *Gorbachev*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. This trilogy of essays by the former Soviet leader covers topics ranging from the 1917 revolution to the collapse of the Soviet empire, and foreign relations.

Gorbachev, Mikhail. *August Coup the Truth and the Lessons*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1991. Gorbachev's perspective of events leading up to the August 1991 coup and his reflections on lessons learned.

Höjdestrand, Tova. *Needed by Nobody: Homelessness and Humanness in Post-Socialist Russia*. New York: Cornell University Press, 2009. Anthropological investigation into the homelessness epidemic in St. Petersburg as a result of the fall of the Soviet Union and subsequent abolishment of Soviet-era vagrancy laws.

McAuly, Mary. *Soviet Politics 1917-1991*. New York: Oxford University Press USA, 1992. Survey of Soviet politics from Lenin through the breakup of the Soviet Union and formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mlynar, Zdenek. *Conversations with Gorbachev: On Perestroika, the Prague Spring, and the Crossroads of Socialism*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003. Conversations between exiled dissident Mlynar and former Soviet leader Gorbachev in which they both reflect on their different life trajectories, their rise to power in the Communist party, and life accomplishments.

Remnick, David. *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire*. New York: Random House, 1994. Remick gives an eloquent account of the fall of the Soviet Union.

Tarsulo, Isaac J., ed. *Gorbachev and Glasnost: Viewpoints from the Soviet Press*. Wilmington: SR Books, 1989. Translated from the Soviet press, over two dozen articles provide viewpoints of the supporters and opponents of Gorbachev's perestroika.

Zubok, Vladislav M. *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2008. Zubok surveys the history and motives of Soviet foreign policy during the Cold War.

The Post-Soviet Period

Brown, Archie, ed., and Lillia Fedorovna Shevtsova, ed. *Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and Putin: Political Leadership in Russia's Transition*. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2001. Brown and Shevtsova analyze the political leadership during the collapse of the Soviet Union and give insight into the factors that influenced the leadership style of Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and Putin.

Cohen, Stephen F. *Soviet Fates and Lost Alternatives: From Stalinism to the New Cold War*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011. Reexamining leaders from Nikolai Bukharin, Stalin's preeminent opponent, to Mikhail Gorbachev and his rival Yegor Ligachev, Cohen challenges conventional wisdom about the course of Soviet and post-Soviet history.



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Colton, Timothy J. *Yeltsin: A Life*. New York: Basic Books, 2008. This is a comprehensive survey of Yeltsin's rise and fall from power.

DeSilva, Migara O., and Galina Kurllyandskaya and Elena Andreeva et al. *Intergovernmental Reforms in the Russian Federation: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back?* Washington, D.C.: World Bank Publications, 2009. This in depth overview of fiscal policy in today's Russia makes a strong case for greater decentralization.

Galeotti, Mark, ed. *The Politics of Security in Modern Russia*. Farnham (UK): Ashgate, 2010. This is an objective and balanced examination of the ways in which security has played and continues to play a central role in contemporary Russian politics

Orlov, Dmitry. *Reinventing Collapse: The Soviet Example and American Prospects*. Gabriola Is. (BC): New Society Publishers, 2008. The author chronicles the Soviet collapse as experienced through visits to his Russian homeland during the 80's and mid 1990's.

Pearson, Landon. *Children of Glasnost: Growing Up Soviet*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991. Pearson shares his experience growing up in the Soviet Union during Gorbachev's reforms. Topics include child development, education, juvenile justice and entertainment.

Wegren, Stephen K., ed., and Dale R. Herspring, ed. *After Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009. This compilation of analyses by leading scholars covers a wide range of topics of contemporary Russian social, political, and security issues facing President Dmitry Medvedev.

Yeltsin, Boris. *Midnight Diaries*. London: The Orion Publishing Group, 2001. In this memoir, Yeltsin reflects on his leadership and the search for his successor, Vladimir Putin.

Yurchak, Alexei. *Everything Was Forever Until It Was No More*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005. Yurchak asks the question: what was it about life during the period of "late socialism" (1950s-1980s) that made the collapse of the Soviet Union so unexpected to most insiders and outsiders?

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Dunn, John. *The Russian Revolution*. Farmington Hills: Gale, 1994. For the more mature middle school student, Dunn gives stark insights into the lives and ruthless regimes of Czar Nicholas, Rasputin, Lenin, Trotsky, and Stalin accompanied by photo reproductions.

Matthews, John R. *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union*. Farmington Hills: Gale, 1999. This survey of the rise and fall of the Soviet Union is perfect for the junior high and high school reader.

Sis, Peter. *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. Sis' autobiographical Caldecott Honor Book for young readers is filled with illustrations and journal entries about the author's childhood in Cold War-era Prague.

O'Neill, Joseph R. *The Bolshevik Revolution*. Edina: Abdo Publishing, 2009. This concise history for the middle school student covers events from the Romanov dynasty to the repressive regime under Stalin and the ultimate demise of the Soviet Union.

US/USSR Diplomacy

Smith, Samantha. *Journey to the Soviet Union*. Santa Fe: Ocean Tree Books, 2005. This is a ten-year-old author's account of her 1982 letter to Soviet President Yuri Andropov, his response, and her subsequent journey to the Soviet Union.

