

# The hidden story of the collapse of the Red Empire

## Introduction

The collapse of the Soviet Union was one of the most significant events of the 20th century. It marked the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a new era in global politics. But the collapse of the Soviet Union was not just a political event. It was also an economic event, a social event, and a cultural event.

In this book, Pasquale De Marco tells the story of the collapse of the Soviet Union from an economic perspective. Pasquale De Marco was a senior official in the Russian government during the 1990s, and he was intimately involved in the process of privatizing the Soviet economy.

The hidden story of the collapse of the Red Empire is a fascinating and important book that sheds new light on one of the most important events of our time. Pasquale De Marco provides a unique insider's perspective on the collapse of the Soviet Union, and he offers valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Russia today.

This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the collapse of the Soviet Union and its impact on the world. It is also a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in the history of Russia, the economics of transition, or the challenges of building a new democracy.

In The hidden story of the collapse of the Red Empire, Pasquale De Marco argues that the collapse of the Soviet Union was inevitable. The Soviet economy was inefficient and unsustainable, and the political system was repressive and corrupt. The Soviet Union was

doomed to fail, and its collapse was only a matter of time.

However, Pasquale De Marco also argues that the collapse of the Soviet Union was not a disaster. In fact, he believes that it was a necessary step in Russia's development. The Soviet Union was a failed state, and its collapse allowed Russia to start over.

Russia has made great progress since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The country has transitioned to a market economy, and it has made significant progress in building a democratic political system. However, Russia still faces many challenges. The country is struggling with corruption, inequality, and poverty.

Despite these challenges, Pasquale De Marco is optimistic about Russia's future. He believes that Russia has the potential to become a prosperous and democratic country. However, he also believes that Russia needs to learn from the mistakes of the past.

Pasquale De Marco hopes that The hidden story of the collapse of the Red Empire will help Russians to understand the collapse of the Soviet Union and its impact on the country. He also hopes that the book will help Russians to build a better future for their country.

## Book Description

The hidden story of the collapse of the Red Empire is the definitive account of the collapse of the Soviet Union from an economic perspective. Pasquale De Marco was a senior official in the Russian government during the 1990s, and he was intimately involved in the process of privatizing the Soviet economy.

In this book, Pasquale De Marco provides a unique insider's perspective on one of the most important events of our time. He offers valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Russia today.

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# Chapter 1: The Red Empire's Last Stand

## The twilight of the Soviet Union

The Soviet Union was a superpower, but it was also a country in decline. The economy was stagnant, the political system was sclerotic, and the people were increasingly disillusioned with the communist ideology.

The Soviet Union's decline was caused by a number of factors, including: - The arms race with the United States - The failure of the Soviet economic system - The rise of nationalism in the Soviet republics - The Chernobyl disaster - The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan

The arms race with the United States was a major drain on the Soviet economy. The Soviet Union spent billions of dollars on weapons, but it could not keep up with the United States. The United States had a more advanced



economy and a more efficient military-industrial complex.

The failure of the Soviet economic system was another major factor in the Soviet Union's decline. The Soviet economy was based on central planning, which was inefficient and wasteful. The Soviet government tried to reform the economy, but these reforms failed.

The rise of nationalism in the Soviet republics was another factor in the Soviet Union's decline. The Soviet Union was a multinational state, and the different nationalities had different interests and aspirations. The Soviet government tried to suppress nationalism, but these efforts failed.

The Chernobyl disaster was a major blow to the Soviet Union's prestige and to the communist ideology. The disaster showed that the Soviet government was not competent and that the communist system was not infallible.

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was another factor in the Soviet Union's decline. The Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan in 1979, but the war was a costly and unpopular failure. The Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan in 1989, and this was seen as a sign of weakness.

The Soviet Union's decline was a long and gradual process. The country did not collapse overnight, but it eventually became clear that the Soviet Union was no longer a superpower. The Soviet Union finally collapsed in 1991, and this marked the end of the Cold War.

# Chapter 1: The Red Empire's Last Stand

## The rise of Boris Yeltsin

Boris Yeltsin was a key figure in the collapse of the Soviet Union. He was the first President of the Russian Federation, and he played a leading role in the transition from communism to capitalism.

Yeltsin was born in 1931 in the Ural Mountains. He joined the Communist Party in 1961, and he quickly rose through the ranks. In 1985, he was appointed First Secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee. In this role, he became a close ally of Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev launched a series of reforms in an attempt to save the Soviet Union. However, these reforms were unpopular with many members of the Communist Party. Yeltsin was one of the most vocal critics of

Gorbachev's reforms. In 1987, he was expelled from the Communist Party.

Yeltsin then became a leader of the opposition to Gorbachev. In 1990, he was elected President of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. In this role, he challenged Gorbachev's authority and pushed for greater autonomy for Russia.

In 1991, Gorbachev resigned as General Secretary of the Communist Party. Yeltsin then became President of the Soviet Union. However, the Soviet Union was already on the brink of collapse. In December 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved, and Yeltsin became the first President of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin's presidency was a difficult one. He faced a number of challenges, including economic instability, political unrest, and separatist movements. However, he also made some progress in reforming the Russian economy and building a new democracy.

Yeltsin resigned as President in 1999. He was succeeded by Vladimir Putin. Yeltsin died in 2007.

Boris Yeltsin was a complex and controversial figure. He was a key figure in the collapse of the Soviet Union, and he played a leading role in the transition from communism to capitalism. However, his presidency was also marked by economic instability, political unrest, and separatist movements.

# Chapter 1: The Red Empire's Last Stand

## The August Coup

The August Coup was a failed attempt by hardline members of the Soviet government to overthrow Mikhail Gorbachev and prevent the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The coup began on August 19, 1991, when a group of senior military and civilian officials announced that Gorbachev was "unable to carry out his duties" and that they had formed a State Committee on the State of Emergency to govern the country.

The coup leaders quickly seized control of Moscow and other major cities. They arrested Gorbachev and his family and placed them under house arrest in Crimea. They also shut down independent media outlets and banned all opposition activity. However, the coup leaders failed to gain the support of the military and the people.

Massive demonstrations erupted in Moscow and other cities, and the military refused to obey the coup leaders' orders. The coup leaders were unable to control the situation and were forced to surrender on August 21, 1991. Gorbachev was released from house arrest and returned to Moscow.

The August Coup was a major turning point in the history of the Soviet Union. It showed that the hardline communists were no longer able to maintain control of the country. It also paved the way for the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

The August Coup was a dangerous and reckless attempt to preserve the Soviet Union. The coup leaders were willing to use violence to achieve their goals. However, the coup failed because it lacked popular support. The people of the Soviet Union were no longer willing to tolerate the rule of the hardline communists.

The August Coup was a major victory for democracy. It showed that the people of the Soviet Union were no

longer afraid to stand up for their rights. It also showed that the hardline communists were no longer able to maintain control of the country. The August Coup paved the way for the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.



**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

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